



NORMANTON GOLF CLUB

Greens Director Report September 2021

Dear Members,

This month the Greens committee have made some big decisions, I commend you to read the minutes of the last meeting for a detailed outline of plans for the rest of this year into 2022. These can be found on the members section of the web site, under Management / Greens.

Golf and the club have begun to stabilise since the reopening of business fully, we are receiving large numbers of paying guests and societies and our business is at a turning point. Reports from visitors, visiting societies and sections are positive, a recent members survey has given us plenty of feedback to address areas you feel need most attention. I appreciate not all members agree on certain aspects of what we are doing, not all are completely happy but a majority are, and that is always a good position to be in.

We recently reviewed the survey from a course point of view and have attempted to address many of your concerns, these include bunkers, tees and yes the long grass. Plans for winter work this year into 2022 is fixed, we just hope the weather allows us to complete the very busy schedule. This includes, drainage, irrigation, tees restoration, bunker work and paths. Detail is a small thing with big rewards, were planning to attend to many of the small areas you are concerned about.

We are investing your money in essential machinery to do specialist tasks, I've mentioned the Pro-core machine already, this will keep our greens healthy and give us great quality surfaces. Where there is some damage we have plans to deal with it. For the tees we hope to acquire a device known as a splitter, it does what it says on the tin. This will open up the tees to enable better growing mediums, recommended by our recent agronomy report. We have fitted a brush to the greens mower, just like when you go to the barber, they use a comb to lift the hair before cutting it, this device does the same, giving better cutting qualities to the mower and truer surfaces. These machines can be used elsewhere on the course, multi-purpose a great investment.

I have asked the HGK to place extra rakes in the large bunkers, ask yourself if you're raking every time you exit the sand, if the cap fits as they say. I play often, and I'm asked by members why the sand isn't being raked, please do your bit and rake the sand to the same standard as you would like to find it. Same with divots on the fairways and on greens.

One of the comments made in the report, identifies greens pitch marks as the catalyst for moss growth. We should walk on a green and try to repair our own and at least two other pitch marks, if we all do this then finding two extra should become a challenge. Please carry sand bags and repair fairway divots, its standard practice, I can't believe I'm asking you but some of us just aren't repairing our damage as we play. We will continue to inform visitors of their responsibilities to keep the course tidy after use, I do when I play away.

I'm determined to improve practice facilities, our small area is shrinking as the years go by. Members will recall it as being much larger, the trees have grown so much over the years with no reduction they now encroach and limit the light, air and of course space. These will be cut back this winter, along with trees that are dying all around the course. We have far too many trees it's a fact, and many are larger than required in some locations.

I intend to locate a reports book in the clubhouse, I often speak with members, they email me or I get rumours from a member that says, 'I've heard so and so' when in fact they only need email and I always respond. The location is likely to be either in the locker room or possibly in the pool room so visitors can use it. Communication is key, if we know what you like or dislike, we can answer and raise it at committee. This book will be in place very soon, an email to announce the use of it will be sent out.

Finally I would ask all members to respect everyone they encounter on the course, a polite word is all that is required, not discourteous or vulgar language. Let's set a standard, appreciate our club and its surroundings, be firm if that's required especially if safety is a factor. Shouting or swearing at the public or other players is definitely to be avoided, the club will not tolerate deliberate intemperate attacks on fellow players or members of visiting public while walking on the course.

Let's cap off a great year, support the club. Congratulations to sections and especially the Tigers for a league win and the ladies, in promoting the club in ladies golf. Our juniors section is growing giving us good golfers of the future. And a state of the art facility will soon be up and running, I can't wait to play Pebble Beach.

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