

Greens Committee Meeting Held at Warkworth Golf Club 19th October 2016 at 9.00am

Present:-

J A Gray Chair, GV Douglas, Mrs P Lewis, Mr A Mackay, AP Dalby (Green keeper).

General Course Maintenance

Long discussion was held on the pros and cons of fairway slitting. It is the opinion of the Green keeper that fairway slitting is essential. He states that the course drains well but not properly without slitting the rain water and moisture drains through the hollows and the mounds become bare. Water drains through the slits made and these open up the earth to capture the rain in the high areas thus allowing it to drain into the lower areas. The Green keeper said that the fescue forms a thatch which water finds very difficult to penetrate.

The committee has agreed that the course can be slit no more than twice during the winter

Comments from members about the slitting are that it is very disruptive to the course especially when pieces of turf are pulled up. He feels that doing the slitting now would be less disruptive than at a later time in the year and the machine owned by our club is a good machine capable of doing the job.

APD feels that slitting is critical and that we cannot compromise on this activity

Further wire netting has been purchased to cover rabbit holes.

It was agreed that gorse will be purchased and planted on the course in areas that would not disrupt the green keeping tasks and penalise the ordinary golfer. The green keeper pointed out that gorse was a haven for rabbits.

Greens

It was agreed that when the tee boxes are cut the same machine will cut the aprons and these will be made approximately 40 feet in front of the greens for next season. The height of the cut will be reduced from 13mm to 10mm.

The fifth green is recovering

Penny Lewis said that the greens were lovely!

Machinery

A list of possible purchases in the New Year would be:-

Gang mower

Hay topper

Bunker tiller

Bridge

The Chairman established a schedule for the Green Keeper to complete prior to asking for members help. The Green Keeper now estimates that he will be able to commence work on the bridge week beginning 14th November 2016. By the end of October the Green Keeper will be on his own as Ian Bruce has other commitments. However he is hoping that by the beginning of December Ian hopes he will be able to return to the club to help Alan with the bridge.

The green keeper that a strict winter programme is unachievable and the club must be realistic in their expectations. The utility work on the course will still be carried out at the same time as he works on the bridge.

Half the bridge is ready to be erected. All A frames are made and in construction work will start on the north end towards the south end

Half the decking panels are complete. On A frame 4 half the base work is to be completed

The majority of the preservative work has been done

Fence life preservative has been ordered from Young's.

JAG and A McKay agreed to trim the bridge site on Tuesday 25th October 2016

There needs to be total commitment by the committee and the members in respect of the bridge

It was agreed to stay on the summer tees until the end of the Turkey Trot competitions

Next Greens Committee Meeting to be confirmed in November 2016

JAG