

Bunker Project –Hole by Hole Recommendations

16th September 2017

Dear Member

One of the major complaints about our golf course, for many years, has centred on our bunkers. The survey of members in 2014, confirmed that our bunkers were a major area of dissatisfaction and fell well below the standard expected by members. Negative comments ranged from the quality of the sand, stones in bunkers, inconsistency, general condition, drainage and inappropriate positioning of many of our bunkers.

Council therefore reconstituted the Course Development Committee (CDC), to investigate how to remedy the situation. The CDC is composed of the Green and G & H Convenors, the immediate past Green Convenor Iain Liddle, Past G & H Convener Carol Fulton, David Fraser, Grant Moran, Malcolm Leighton, Bernadette Giefer, the Vice Captain Ken McKinlay and myself.

It was felt that an architectural review of the course was essential. Many of our bunkers have been in place for decades without consideration of their appropriateness for the present game. This review would cover amongst other things, bunker position, style, drainage, linings and sand.

Our 5-year strategy plan recommended completing the architectural review of the course and implementing a phased programme of investment, to deliver the plan, subject to available budget.

We appointed Tom Mackenzie of world-renowned golf course architects, Mackenzie and Ebert to carry out this review.

Tom's Historical Review of the Course, and the Design Audit Study, which embraces the golf course strengths and weaknesses, bunker positions, style and condition have been available to members to view for some months. Although the focus of the project has been on bunkers, there are other aspects of the course which will receive attention, such as a full tree management plan and consideration of forward tees.

Tom presented his draft proposals at a members' meeting in the Clubhouse on the 20th April 2017. There was a very positive response about the proposals from those in attendance. The CDC suggested one or two minor changes to his plan, which have now been incorporated into his recommendations.

These "Hole by Hole Recommendations" are now available to view on line along with the "Design Audit Study" for the Course. The link to these is <http://mbf.co/Slidee> or can be found in Members' News on the Mortonhall Golf Club website.

We already have hard copies of the "Design Audit Study" and the "Historical Report", available for members to view in the lounge. Hard copies of the "Hole by Hole Recommendations" have been ordered and will also be available to view in the lounge.

Our financial team feel that we will be able to fund the project out of revenue and no levy on members is proposed.

The CDC recommends that the work will be carried out in three phases over three years and should commence in September 2018. The first phase will consist of approximately six holes and it is hoped to keep disruption to a minimum. By commencing the work in September, it is anticipated that significant progress will be made before the winter sets in. It is expected that these holes will be back in play at the start of the following playing season.

The fixture programme will require to be modified to allow work to commence in September.

Further information will be relayed to members when available.

Council feels very strongly that we need to continue to invest in the course to maintain the high reputation that Mortonhall Golf Club has amongst its members and visitors.

Kerr Fraser
Captain