

Course News



Course News September

It has reached that time of year again where our thoughts are turning towards the winter and we have another busy schedule of work planned for the course.

During this season we have published several Newsletters describing work that has taken place and also up and coming projects. This newsletter is intended to summarise many of those points that are still on our list to do, as well as point out some additional information.

The subject of course design came up in one of the earlier newsletters this year and we stated that all of the changes over the last few years are under observation by the Committee. Now that they have settled down, the Club invited Ken Moodie back to play the course last month so that we could discuss his thoughts of how he feels the course is maturing and plays. We also took this opportunity to convey some of the more regular feedback we receive from the membership. Further details will follow in the next newsletter, once a full report has been received.

We thought it might be prudent to give details of all the intended work this winter, without any time frames or order of work, as the weather plays such a big part in when certain tasks can be completed.

Rear of 15th Green, 9th Tee and 16th Tee

The rear of the 15th green will have the remainder of trees removed so that we can create mounding and plant gorse to emulate the backdrop to the 18th green. We will also plant a selection of pines (4-6ft tall) next to the lone pine by the water fountain to create a nice copse. The telegraph pole has been re-located and rather than build a wall to replace the silver birch by the 9th tees as previously suggested, we intend to use the mound and gorse theme here as well for continuity as we feel it may be more natural. The dry stone wall by the 16th tees/shelter will be re-instated and the shelter painted.

We already have plans to buy several fledgling pines from a nursery which come in pots, rather than try to transplant again. This will also give them their best chance of survival. These will be strategically placed on holes 5, 6 and 7 to replace those that we have lost this year. We will also position a few others in weaker areas around the course.

Heather Regeneration

The heather regeneration scrape on holes 6 and 7 is showing the first signs of juvenile heather coming through which is very encouraging. We are going to continue with this style of management over the next few years, in line with our

agreement with Natural England. This winter we intend to tackle the 5th carry. This area is a particular bone of contention with several members struggling to find and play their ball in this area. It will also help with line of sight from the tee.



Improved Drainage

We intend to make a start this year with the massive task of making the course as playable as we can even if we experience a very wet winter, or indeed an exceptionally wet summer, neither of which seem to be uncommon anymore! We are going to re-grade all of our ditches over the next few years (which total over a mile) starting this winter with the stretch through the 16th, 2nd, 3rd and 5th holes.

On top of this, contractors will verti-drain (1" solid tines down several inches) all of the fairways like we do every year and then trial a sand dressing on the two worst holes, those being the 2nd and 9th. This process will involve the application of around 100 tonnes of sand to each fairway, which will then be brushed down into the holes so that there is a connection through the thatch (that stays open) from the surface to the peat below. On top of the drainage work we will be building 2 new pathways on holes 2 and 3 to bypass some of the problems of the wet and uneven carries.

Woodland Management

The final instalment of the tree work is taking place this autumn in line with the felling licence and the requirements of Natural England. We will be tackling the left hand side of the 1st, the bridleway, left of the 4th hole and the area between holes 3,4,5.

They will all be retained as woodland but will be managed to give space to the better specimens, whilst improving the natural conditions for plant and wildlife. This will comprise of general thinning, but not to the extent of returning to how the woodland looked in the 1940s! (Below right)



The trees around the bridleway were a particular concern to Leeds City Council during the application phase of the licence and we will be addressing the dead, dying and diseased trees to ensure the pathway remains safe for users.



Finally the fence that has been exposed along the bridleway up to the rear of the 4th tees will be removed and then replaced with a dry stone wall as a main feature (all of the stone will be recycled from the wall in disrepair to the left of the 14th hole.



Previous editions of the Greens Newsletter can be found on the club website, or in the Newsletter folder which can be found in the MacKenzie Bar.



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