

# **MAPPERLEY GOLF CLUB**

## **GOLF COURSE POLICY DOCUMENT**

**REVISED**

**February 2024**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document is a statement of policy adopted by the Board of Directors for the purpose of defining the procedures and standards to be set for the short and long-term running of the course.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To maintain and improve the golf course to the best possible standards.
- To make it a fair challenge.
- To be of interest to golfers of all standards.

## **TIMING**

- To achieve the objectives work must be completed at various times of the year. It is the responsibility of the Course Director (and Head Green Keeper (HGK) to liaise with other sub-committees in planning this work. The professional and members should also be made aware.
- A winter programme of work should be available from mid-October, all works are weather dependant.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- They are to be found in the Safety policy document for the Golf Club.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Organisational**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ↔ COURSE DIRECTOR ↔

HEAD GREENKEEPER ↔ DEPUTY GREEN KEEPER ↔ GREENKEEPERS (2 Full time)

- Also, Liaison by CD with Treasurer and Secretary
- There is a commitment to training and education of the staff. They are to be encouraged to obtain recognised qualifications in Green keeping and any other related activities. The staff are also to be encouraged to become members of BIGGA and participate in its activities

### **Financial**

- The Board of Directors are committed to allocating sufficient funds to achieve the policies set out in this document whenever possible.

## THE GOLF COURSE

### General

- The golf course was founded in 1907 and was a 9-hole course until 1983.
- The only feature remaining of the old course is the 9<sup>th</sup> green.
- The area occupied is @110 acres and the land was originally farmed.
- The soil consists of heavy sub-clay with underlying grey marl and a 12-inch overlay of medium clay.
- The highest point of the course is 120 metres above sea level on the west side, dropping to 60 metres on the east side. Here the main open drainage channel exits the course into a culvert; this channel also carries surface water from several tarmac roads to the west of the course. This water channel is bounded by the regulation of the Severn Trent Water Authority and the environmental agency.
- The land is owned by Nottingham City Council and leased to Gedling Borough Council who in turn lease it to Mapperley Golf Club Ltd.
- The land is covered by a covenant and designated as recreational land.
- The course is within a built-up area with adjacent housing and public footpaths.

### Greens

- The height of cut is normally 3 to 4mm in summer and 7 to 8 in winter, but is always at the discretion of the HGK.
- Annual meadow grass is the predominant species on all greens; however, the long-term objective is to reduce this and encourage finer grasses with over-seeding.
- Irrigation should be kept to a minimum and dry patch treated with wetting agents and hand watered.
- Hollow coring, tinning and Verti-draining will be a continuing process according to winter and summer planning and is always weather dependant.

### Tees

- The height of cut is normally 8mm.
- Maintenance of tees to a high standard is a priority and a programme of hollow coring, tinning, scarifying, fertilising and top dressing is to be continued.
- In the winter 2011/12 a number of new artificial mats were put down on over half of the tees. All of these matts will require replacing at various times over the coming years
- Positioning of some winter tees will change owing to course conditions

### Fairways

- The height of cut is normally 14mm in the summer and 18mm in winter, but is always at the discretion of the HGK.
- The shaping and size of the fairway may be altered by the HGK after consultation with the course Director.
- Fairways suffer from compaction, the course Director and HGK will agree a programme for Verti-draining during both winter and summer.
- Autumn leaves will be mulched by the mowers as they cut the fairways and semi rough.

### **Green surrounds and approaches**

- These will be cut at the same height as tees and be maintained to improve ball reception and grass species by grooming and diamond cutting.
- The HG may leave certain areas of grass longer at times due to course conditions.

### **Semi Rough**

- The height of cut is at 37mm.
- The height and frequency of cut is to be the responsibility of the HGK.
- Bunkers will be cut into the semi rough where possible.

### **Rough**

- The height of cut is normally 75mm.
- The height and frequency of cut is to be the responsibility of the HGK.

### **Deep Rough**

- To be left where possible to encourage wild life. Any cutting necessary to be done before April and after August.

### **Fertilisers & Pesticides**

**All data sheets for fertilisers and pesticides will be kept by the HGK**

- All must be approved by COSHH and MAFF.
- Mostly slow-release fertilisers will be used.
- Fire Risk assessments must be carried out on a quarterly basis.

## Drainage and Ditches

- The main drainage ditches suffer from erosion and silting.
- We suffer from top water being directed on to the course by properties on Digby Avenue ,Hill Side Avenue,80 & 82 Mapperley Plains & Bailey Drive (new housing next to 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway).
- Work carried out on the Gedling By Pass road has caused further issues on holes 5 & 6.
- Where areas of concern exist, relating to excessive standing water/flooding the Course Director will forward costings to the Board of Directors for approval to carry out the required work.

## Trees

- MGC will continue to use a specialist for maintenance.
- Any future planting will be with native trees using specialist advice.
- Pruning of existing trees and dangerous trees /branches will be the responsibility of the HGK.
- Thinning of existing conifers will continue as they interfere with the canopies of native trees .

## Snow strategy

- The green staff are responsible for the clearing of snow from the drive and the car park
- This should be done while the snow is still fresh and not compacted.
- Equipment should always be left in the Car park shed in case the barn is not accessible
- Grit/salt should always be topped up during the winter months
- *If the snow falls during the week - all green staff should be prepared to come in next day and clear the snow*
- *If the snow falls at the weekend the member of the green staff on duty will ask for assistance from the professional and kitchen staff.*
- At the same time the Professional/secretary should put a note out on BRS asking for volunteers to help clear the snow

## Temporary Greens\*\*\*\*

***It is the policy of MGC not to use temporary greens.*** Although in adverse weather, when the greens would be damaged, temporary holes can be situated in front or to the side of the existing green. This decision will be made on a day-by-day basis and will only be made if the (CD) or (HGK) believe long term damage to the greens will be caused.

## **Bunkers**

- Only specified Bunker sand to be used.
- All bunkers and surrounds will be maintained on a regular basis, weather dependant.

***Some bunkers may need redesigning or filling in completely.*** The Course Director and HGK will advise the Board of Directors of associated costs.

## **Golf Course Closure**

- From November 2012 the GC decided that the course would remain open at all times weather permitting.
- Should the CD or HGK feel that excessive damage could be caused by keeping the course open they will close the course immediately.
- Parts of the course may be closed on the authority of the HGK or the senior member of the staff on duty when adverse weather has occurred and damage to the course would result. The Course Director or HGK may suspend play at any time if they in their opinion deem the course unplayable.
- The (CD), professional and/or competition secretary will decide if the course is fit enough for competition play to take place.

*NB Suspension of play is the responsibility of the HG, professional, his assistant or a member of the General Committee.*

## **Trolleys and Buggies**

*Are split into three categories*

1. *Manual or Electric trolleys*
  2. *Privately owned ride on buggies*
  3. *MGC owned buggies,*
- Trolleys and or buggies are allowed when the (HGK) deems the course able, members are asked carry where possible when the weather is bad.
  - The senior member of green staff on duty will decide if there is to be a ban on the use of trollies and or buggies.
  - Buggies will not be used if it would be dangerous to the members using them and/or result in damage to the course.
  - Such a ban will be determined on a day-to-day basis by the Greens Staff.

## Paths

It is the policy to maintain and develop pathways in certain areas on the recommendation of the CD and HGK. If applicable this will be included into the winter programme.

## Green Staff and Members

There are four permanent members or staff and a limited number of volunteers.  
The staff have priority on the golf course at ALL times.

- The staff will be aware of members playing and will aim not to delay play.
- Members should not play if a member of staff is within reach.
- Any complaints regarding staff or the course should be made in writing to the club secretary and/or CD.
- Under no circumstances should members approach the staff directly with their concerns.

## Staff Hours

### WINTER

1<sup>st</sup> November to the last day in February

Work is 28.3 hours a week over 4 days and everyone is in on Friday.

- A rota is used for Sat and Sunday mornings - 1 week in 4. One person on Sat & Sun for up to 2 hours
- Hours of work are 7.30 – 14.30
- 7.75 hours per day, include 1 x 40 minutes break & 1 10-minute break. To be taken as directed by the HG

### SUMMER

1<sup>st</sup> March to the last day of October

- Work is 45 hours over 5 days
- 6am to 15.30pm Monday to Wednesday
- 6am to 15.00pm on Thursday
- 6am to 13.30
- 1x30 minute break & 1 10-minute break. To be taken as directed by the HG.
- A rota is used for the weekend working. 2 people are in for 2 hours on Saturday to prepare the course and one on Sunday for up to 2 hours

NOTE No two members of staff will be off at the same time unless agreed with the CD.

### Course Director's note

- There has to be flexibility in the hours worked each day due to weather conditions and work being undertaken.
- The CD should encourage the staff to be flexible



## Irrigation

- The policy of MGC is to use as little water as possible to encourage development of deep rooting grasses. In conditions of little or no rainfall and for the washing of fertiliser and top dressing an irrigation system is necessary.
- The existing system consists of storage for 118,000 litres of water, which is more than sufficient for one complete watering cycle of greens and tees.
- The supply is provided Severn Trent.
- To prevent frost damage the system will be drained in the winter and recommissioned by the (HGK) or a member of his staff.

## Machinery

- It is the responsibility of the HG to ensure all machinery is maintained to the highest standards and repairs/replacements are kept to a minimum.
- There is a maintenance document which is reviewed in spring & autumn.
- There is also a service manual where work done and costs involved are recorded
- The HGK is responsible for keeping abreast of latest developments and to bring recommendations to the CD.

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## Financial control

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- ***The CD, HGK and Treasurer will discuss expenditure and planned investment in March each year. This will contain replacements, repairs, major projects and materials required for the general upkeep of the course.***
- ***They will produce an annual report for discussion at March/April greens meetings and subsequent Board meetings if required.***

## Ecology

- It is the club policy to enhance the golfing environment, wild life and landscape for the benefit of the members and visitors, without compromising the golf course.
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## **Professional Advice**

- Professional advice will be taken on all major projects where required.
- Any major alterations/additions to the layout of the course will not be done without prior consultation and agreement with the Board of Directors.
- The (CD), (HGK) and professional will review the course annually and put forward any ideas they have on improving the course.
- The members will be informed of such alterations/additions via the notice board and BRS.

## **Health & Safety**

- Health and Safety is the responsibility of the Chairman of the Directors, via the Company Secretary, CD to the Head Green keeper or a nominated member of the Greens staff who will have day to day responsibility for the implementation of the policy and work in conjunction with an appointed external Health and Safety contractor – currently Safety Measures. To ensure that safe working practices are adhered to at all times.
- All club volunteers will be shown the MGC RAMS. (Risk Assessment & Method Statement) and issued with the appropriate safety equipment.

## **NOTE**

This document is for guidance only, weather conditions and financial constraints should be taken into account at all times.