

Course Committee

Course Maintenance and Development

At a recent meeting the Committee considered the effects of the bad weather and the need to maintain and improve the appearance of aspects of the course.

The following list indicates the thinking of the committee and we invite comments from members and any further suggestions regarding the routine upkeep of the course.

- 1. Paths:** Many of the existing paths are worn and poorly defined. The committee is interested in defining and improving the existing pathways where they have become overgrown or are in need of repair.
- 2. Tee Boxes:** Rabbit damage is a problem but there are others associated with the tee boxes. In some cases the surface is uneven and this needs to be restored. There is also the issue of the structures themselves – steps can be dangerous and need repair, where there are stone walls some of these have collapsed and need pointing or perhaps replacing with more natural products such as railway sleepers etc.
- 3. Trees:** Some trees need removing – sally trees on second and sixteenth are a case in point. In this context too it is believed that hole thirteen could be improved by removing trees on the right below the old mature plantation to extend the fairway to the right. This would afford better lies for second shots and provide a fairer landing area. It is also suggested that where there are existing hardwoods – evergreens should be removed to encourage growth.
- 4. The 14th Hole:** The Causeway is in need of major repair and the slope on the left side to the grass path is ugly and constitutes a danger to golfers looking for balls caught up on the high grass on the slope. It is proposed to kill off the grass to the level of the grass pathway at the lower level and deem the area GUR with a drop zone marked on the area to the right hand side of the pathway itself. In the meantime, the area could be reclaimed by encouraging natural grasses such as heath and heather.
- 5. Tasks:** The Course Committee is interested in liaising with the voluntary groups to undertake much of the work outlined above. It would like to co-ordinate the work by establishing a number of groups and each to take on a specific task. It is hoped to meet with the President and Denis Crowley in the near future to establish these groups and direct the work. All those who are interested in getting involved in the work are encouraged to contact Denis or Tim or any member of the Course Committee (Vera Santry, John Murphy, Nicky O Sullivan, Peter Brady).
- 6. Bad Weather and Course Maintenance:** It is clear that the unprecedented spell of bad weather coupled with staff on a three day week has affected the course maintenance regime very badly. Disease has again manifested itself but the greens have been sprayed to

counteract this and that explains why some of the greens are displaying brown patches – this is the effect of the fungicide on the turf itself (17 in particular). It has also been a very difficult time for cutting and the rough grass has toughened as a result. The growth on the course over the last few weeks has been extraordinary and it is proving difficult to manage given the bad weather and short time working. Every effort is being made to maintain the course in peak condition and we are sure that members do appreciate that when the conditions are as bad as they have been for the last number of weeks, it is not always easy to have the course as we all would wish. We are not exceptional in this respect.