

BUNKER PROGRAMME 2009/10

Following a few comments regarding the new bunkers planned for this winter I thought it appropriate that you are all aware of why this work is being carried out.

This is the final phase of a three year bunker upgrade programme which started in 2007.

When the 2007 proposals were being put together, Vic French then Chairman of Greens Committee, took as the basis of the plan the recommendations contained in the Hawtree Golf Course Architects Report 2001 and then quite rightly involved several top class golfers from the club in the formulation of the proposals. Following this the Green Committee finally agreed the proposals which were subsequently approved by the Board and put forward in a detailed plan which had been available in the clubhouse for six months prior to the 2007AGM where they were endorsed by the membership.

I have detailed below the planning rationale for this year's programme.

HOLE 1

Hawtree recommended the strengthening of the left hand bunker by giving visibility from the tee, ideally a little right of the current position.

2007 AGM Paper

Re-profile this bunker to provide visibility from the tee and a subtle right hand extension which will encourage play to the right. This change will provide a visual carry for the longer hitters.

Current Action : Left hand bunker being re-profiled as planned. Although the right hand bunker was not mentioned in the paper it was felt that having upgraded the left hand side it was appropriate to re-profile what was a poorly shaped and badly positioned bunker. This has been achieved by moving it slightly further forward and in a better position for future maintenance.

HOLE 5

This re-profiling is for maintenance purposes to overcome a major problem with tree roots and poor sand quality.

HOLE 6

Hawtree recommended the removal of the right hand bunker as he felt that this big American style bunker was de trop,(incorrect) in style and function, since the group of pines already mask the shot to the green. He recommended is removal and a new smallish bunker be built out on the left of fairway at 250yds.

2007 AGM Paper

Hawtree is undoubtedly technically correct here, but members may not want to see the right hand fairway bunker removed, as it is such a feature of the hole. Therefore retain bunker, but fill in portion at the tee end, as tree roots have caused green staff

maintenance problems in this area. Move left hand fairway forward by some 20-30yds. to about 210yds. just short of the big oak. Rationale : Left hand bunker at 210yds would provide a visual carry bunker for long hitters and would provide a hazard for medium hitters off line tee shots. Existing left hand bunker is on an awkward slope for maintenance and suffers surface water ingress off the hills above.

Current Action : We have actually done what we said on the right and on the left at 210yds PLUS what Hawtree recommended at 250yds - this is to provide the same challenge for medium and long hitters. I believe the Suffolk Amateur Championship played here this year confirmed we are absolutely correct to do both on the left, as the hole was completely outgunned by long hitters that day.

The placing and design of the new bunkers is to make playing driver a higher risk strategy for both medium and long hitters. Playing shorter off the tee will make the hole play more like it did when 220yds was considered a good drive, the second shot being a good pitch to the green. I believe in many ways this hole is our "signature" hole and it might well be that its stroke index will need altering in future.

HOLE 8

Hawtree :“The drive is slightly dull because of the up hill and there is no hint of the big right hand dog leg to come. A far bunker at the top left of the turn would point up the dog leg as a visual feature”.

2007 AGM Paper

Carry out Hawtree proposal. Bunker to have grass mounding at the back so as to be seen from tee, but shallow entrance from the tee direction and shallow exit to the green direction. Rationale : Improved visual from tee, plus a drive off line long to the left would be rightly penalised.

Current Action: What we are doing is exactly as per the proposal. We have also opened up the right hand fairway by a few yards to give a little more room at the corner of the dogleg.

HOLE 17

Was not mentioned in the 2007 AGM Paper. This is really just re-profiling under general maintenance because of poor shaping and eroded edges. Also we have provided a lay up area left of fairway at this point for shorter hitters - we can probably improve the shaping there next spring to harmonise with the bunker position a bit more

Pat Jacklin
Chairman of Greens