



Greens Digest

Winter 2009

Welcome to the latest edition of the greens digest.

It has been another difficult year for Fulford Heath Golf Course with worse than normal (whatever that is !!) weather during the main playing season. Hopefully you all managed to play some enjoyable dry golf sometime throughout the Summer.

The Graden work to the Greens in September was undertaken earlier this year and has benefited from better growth and recovery than last year, we were very lucky that September and October were good dry months. It is very likely that next year the Graden works will be undertaken even earlier to ensure even better recovery. Exact dates will depend on when it can be fitted into the diary.

This year has seen various staff come and go, as I am sure you are aware. We sadly see Karl (1st assistant), Aaron (apprentice) and Mitchell (Trainee) all leave and we wish them every success in their chosen future careers and thank them for the time they spent with FHGC. We have welcomed 1 member of staff during the year, Paul Dunstan as 1st assistant. Paul has come from Gay Hill GC and is settling in very well and I am sure he will be a tremendous asset to our golf club. I hope you will all make him feel very welcome. I would also like to thank Paul Whitten for his assistance throughout the year. This is also an opportune time to thank the other hardworking and dedicated staff of Bill, Simon and Toney plus the part-time assistance of John. Their hard work and effort is often taken for granted but without their continuing support Fulford Heath would not be the envy of all visiting golfers.

As with all similar golf clubs at the moment budgets are stretched and priorities have to be set. It is for this reason that the course throughout the summer may have, at times, looked a little scruffy around the edges. Unfortunately with the excessive rain and very warm conditions the grass has been growing throughout the whole of the summer and keeping this in check has had to take priority.

The drainage problems persist throughout the course; a 5-10 year plan is in hand but is dependent on monies available. However, the serious problem to the rear of the 14th green will be resolved this winter. My thanks to the treasurer for making the finance available

Course Development

Many of you will have heard rumours / stories / fairytales about lengthening the course. Unfortunately due to the better drivers, straighter balls everyone is hitting the golf ball longer and straighter.... Well that is what we are told!!! Due to new legislation in place it is likely that all golf courses will be re-measured in the near future and have their standard scratch score adjusted taking into account new criteria. Having reviewed these criteria Fulford Heath GC will have a par 70, CSS 69 (currently CSS 70) because we are 87yards too short for a CSS 70. Whilst it is possible to play with the course as it is and have the CSS at 69 it would mean that most individuals' handicaps would increase by 1 shot. It would also not be as attractive a golf course to prospective members looking for a competitive golf club. It has therefore been decided (after much lengthy debate) to increase the golf course by 87 yards. It is proposed to achieve this extra distance by moving the tees back on four holes, 6th, 7th, 13th and 18th.

The yellow tees will remain as they are to ensure that should members prefer the shorter course then they can still play as they do at present.

I am sure that many members will have various views on these plans and I can assure all that many hours of deliberations have been spent poring over the 'fors and againsts' arguments.

Please note: It is planned to ensure that the fairways will be extended in equal proportions with the tee movements. Unfortunately, in creating the new tees it shall be necessary to remove a few native trees, it is therefore our plan to replant some new trees around the course in an attempt to achieve our 'green' course philosophy.

Should anyone wish to donate a tree then do please contact me or Kim and we shall co-ordinate it accordingly.

It is not planned for the costs for these works to be taken out of the Greens budgets but it is proposed to finance these improvements to the course via alternative methods.

Many other projects are planned over the winter which will include repair, renewal and new developments. The extent of these works will depend on final budgets available and suitable weather. Should anyone like a more detailed list of these projects then do please come and speak to me when I'm in the clubhouse, drop me an email at johnd@lockersolutions.co.uk or leave me a note in my pigeon hole.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank Kim for his unwavering support and true dedication during some very difficult times this year particularly when fellow staff were away or ill, Kim was often seen preparing the course for the following day by mowing at 9.00pm in the evening having started the day at 6.00am. Thank you Kim

I hope he can see the positive light at the end of the tunnel that we all believe we are working towards.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who have provided many positive comments on the works and efforts that the green staff is undertaking.

John Dibble
Greens Chairman