

Greens Winter Update – February 2012

First of all I hope you are all keeping well.

The purpose of this note is to give you an update on what we in “Greens” get up to in the winter and how you can help us.

The key thing to looking after any golf course is the environment, not just the course but more importantly the weather. Unfortunately, we are not situated in the Med or in Florida and we have to cope with the constraints that the weather in our region imposes on us. So sometimes you may notice that whilst you are out on the course you do not see the green staff out on machines undertaking work. I will explain why.

The staff have a list of projects to do during the winter (indeed all year round) however there are times when ground conditions mean that we would cause significant damage to the course by even attempting to do the work and therefore we have to wait until the conditions are more suitable. In an ideal world we would actually like to do the majority of this work during the summer when the conditions are ideal (the only jobs that are really best suited to winter are planting shrubs and felling trees). We realise however that the main aim must be to get the course in the best condition possible for the start of and during the main playing season since it is this which will generate the majority of our income. We therefore need to compromise.

In turn I would like to ask all members and their guests to also consider compromising particularly when the ground conditions are at their poorest. I know we have all paid our subscriptions but in certain conditions any players being on the course does causes considerable damage especially due to the use of buggies and trolleys.

Therefore, before you go out to play please consider these options:-

- Could you carry your bag instead ?
- Could you walk a little further to go around that wet and muddy patch ?
- Could you play off a personal mat in a social game ?

Little changes to your playing habits would make a huge difference to the amount of damage on the course.

Our projects over this winter and in the coming months are about improving the course and one of these is the introduction of pathways in areas of concentrated foot traffic. Therefore where we have installed a path please keep to it. There are also some things that really do frustrate us. Please do not get offended if we seem to take you to task on these – not attending to them really is appalling etiquette and it is our own members that are to blame as much as visitors so:

- Please repair your pitch marks
- Please replace your divots
- The space between a greenside bunker and the green is not a path for you or your trolleys as a short cut (you will be amazed how many people do this especially on the first, tenth and seventeenth greens)

Be considerate towards the course. As a member it is your biggest asset and the reason why we play golf at Sale so if you do see another member being inconsiderate then please do politely take them to task.

One final thing, please do not practice on the course. We have two practice facilities so please use them.

Thank you for your future consideration

John Dixon
Greens Chairman

February 2012