

# **PROPOSED WINTER WORKS**

## **2018/2019**



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### **Introduction**

The proposed schedules of works are designed to make long term improvements to the golf course. All of the proposed work is linked to the Course Management Plan and within the allocated budget for course new work.

It is important to consider that all of the proposed work has to be fitted in and around all of the maintenance team's daily tasks. The climate of recent years has been warmer and wetter throughout the winter months. This means that we are cutting grass further into the year and often do not see the slow down until late in December. With this in mind, it is likely that the majority of the tasks will be carried out from December to the start of March. It is important that we have the proposed work completed by March so that we can focus on the golf course for the coming season.

## **General Winter Work**

### **Leaf Blowing/collection:**

As the leaves start to fall in October, the Green staff become very busy with the laborious task of leaf blowing and collection. Some people ask 'why do we spend so much time blowing leaves'? There are several reasons for this! Firstly, it is paramount that we keep the course looking tidy and playable. For obvious reasons the greens must be kept clear from debris. Excessive leaf or twig coverage will affect the quality of the cutting units. Leaf build up on fairways or rough can make it very difficult for golfers to find their ball. This is obviously frustrating and adds to the pressures of slow play. Leafy surfaces also encourage unwanted worm activity. Worms will come to the surface and feed on leaf matter, thus encouraging casting worms. This will be discussed further in the next section. Leaves that are trodden or driven into the ground will gradually thin the turf and result in some muddy patches around the course.

***This work is ongoing from October through to approximately mid-December. Fortunately, Hugh Turley has kindly offered to lend us his trailer again for the collection of the leaves.***

Once we have blown the leaves into piles we then factor in the collection. It is not always possible to do this on a daily basis. This is typically carried out once or twice a week.

### **Worm Control:**

As I previously mentioned, leaf clearance plays a part in the reduction of the casting worms. Unfortunately, this is only a small part of the battle. The usual control for casting worms would be the use of chemicals that irritate the skin of the worm. This usually sends them deeper into the ground or into areas that are out of play. Due to recent changes in legislation we do not have such chemicals at our disposal, in fact there is very little on the market that has any control. The main method of control must now fall back to cultural methods such as area specific hollow coring and top dressing. It is widely known that sand and gravels are abrasive and can help to discourage the worms from coming to the surface. Unfortunately, this has limited success, however, it is vital that we adopt such practices rather than doing nothing!

### **Log splitting and selling:**

The selling of the logs has proven to be a success. There has been much interest from the members and the money accumulated has enabled the maintenance department to purchase a modern weather station. If we continue with this process, it may be possible to use the funds to further enhance the department's capabilities by the purchasing of small powered tools or the replacement of failed items.

We plan to spend a week in November splitting the logs so that they are ready to sell during the colder spells. This comes at no cost as John Thorogood has kindly offered to lend us his mechanical splitter. I advise that increase the cost of delivered logs to incorporate the cost of the fuel in the truck.

### **Toro Sidewinder:**

As mentioned in a previous management meeting, the Toro Sidewinder has become redundant. It is therefore sensible to sell the machine rather than it sitting around collecting dust and losing value. In order to sell the machine, we need to spend some time and a little money before we can advertise the machine. We will be looking at approximately three days to bring the machine up to speed and approximately £400 to restore. I would like to carry out this work during the winter with a view to selling the machine in the early part of the New Year. We would hope to generate £5,000 – 6000 for the machine. This sum would be of great benefit to us as we have some important machinery replacement considerations in the not too distant future. This will be discussed further in a separate document.

### **Winter Servicing:**

Another important winter task is the upkeep of our existing fleet. Annual servicing is usually carried out during the winter months (rainy days). These tasks are not carried out all in one hit and are usually spread out throughout the winter period of the New Year. It is important to mention as it is time consuming and takes away a member of staff on the course.

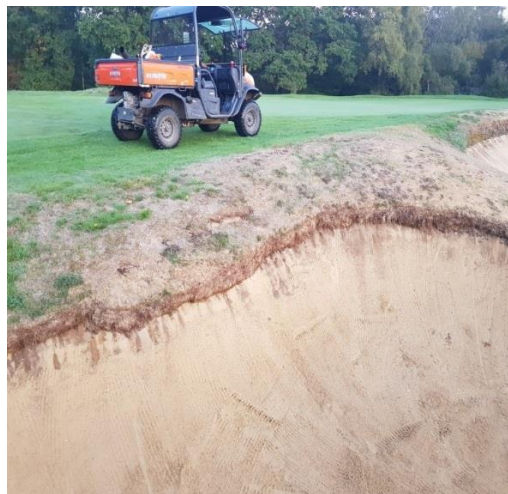
## General Repairs:

The extreme conditions that we have experienced this summer have led to the need for some repair work. This is in main around bunker edges. We have already carried out a small turfing repair job to a bunker on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole. There are several bunkers that require further attention. The lips on some bunkers on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> require some maintenance. The rebuilding of some entrance points and the re-turfing of some banks will need to be carried out. The cost associated with this is in main the turf; however, the replacement of the steps leading into the bunkers on 15 and the introduction of new steps into the bunkers on 14 is also a requirement.

It is also suggested that we re-construct the face on the greenside bunker on 15. This would be a revetment construction.

You may note that an area on the bank of the 11<sup>th</sup> bunker is G.U.R. This is due to the bank collapsing and is in need of urgent repair.

***The left photo is the 14<sup>th</sup> bunker, steps will be introduced. The right photo is the 11<sup>th</sup> with collapsed face.***



***The 15<sup>th</sup> bunker will be revetted and the steps re-constructed.***



## Woodland Management:

Woodland management is ongoing. There are several areas that require attention. Much pruning and general tidying is required. The trees and scrub on both sides of the path leading from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> will be managed.

Pole saw pruning and thinning of overhanging branches around the 13<sup>th</sup> hut.



The area of woodland to the right of the 3<sup>rd</sup> green has been targeted for selective thinning. This is not on the golf clubs land; however, the owner has given us permission to carry out the work. This is extremely important as the air flow and light to the 3<sup>rd</sup> green will be dramatically increased, therefore directing benefitting the health and playability of the 3<sup>rd</sup> green. This will also be visually impressive and certainly add to the beauty of the hole.



The area of woodland to the right of the 6<sup>th</sup> tee is now encroaching into play. Some selective thinning to eliminate further encroachment is required. I would also like to open up the woodland floor and create views to the 7<sup>th</sup> hole. I believe that this would look visually stunning and massively enhance the aesthetics of the area.



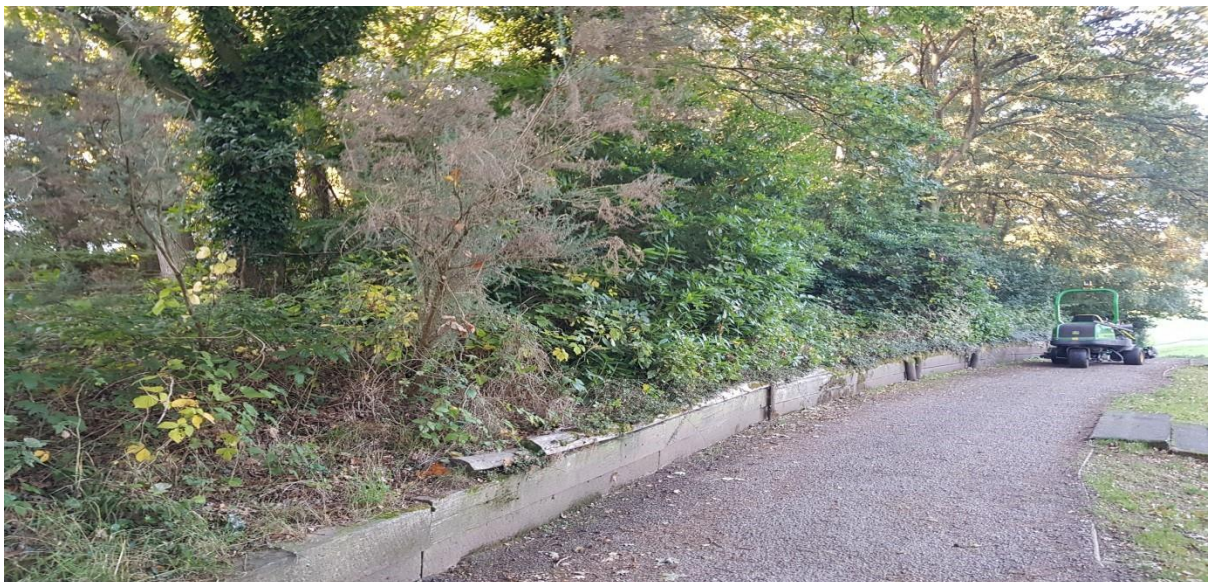
In early 2018 there had been some work carried out to the woodland adjacent to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee. Although only small this was a huge success as the bluebells came out for all to see. I therefore propose that we continue in that area and coppice all the hazel leading back to the 7<sup>th</sup> green. This area has an abundance of natural wildflowers in May. The work that I am proposing would greatly enhance the area and further add to the beauty of the two golf holes.



Much work has been carried out to the woodland left of the 8<sup>th</sup> green. We require one more season to complete the work. Again, this woodland management will not only be visually impressive but will have important agronomic advantages to the playing surfaces.



The woodland to the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> tee, above the wall is fast becoming a problem as it encroaches out onto the path. Some light thinning and selective tree removal is required.



The overhanging branches to the left of the 11<sup>th</sup> fairway are now problematic for us. They are hanging too low and we are unable to get our machines under the canopy. Some pole saw pruning and also removal of dead stems is required.



#### **Ecology & Conservation:**

Some stunning results from the wildflowers have been very pleasing this year. It is our intention to carry on with this work and introduce further areas of wild flowers. The main area would be left of the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway close to the bee hives. This would become our ecological area. There are also many other areas that I would like to discuss. To carry out this work we would require a digger for turf stripping. As we do not own a digger, we will have to hire one. There are also other tasks that require a digger so it would be cost effective to block hire a digger and carry out all the digger work in one go to save on cost.





## Drainage:

The ditch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of the ladies tee needs to be dug out again. This is a relatively small but important task. The persistent wet area on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole needs to be dug and connected into existing drainage. This is not a guaranteed fix but must be tried.

*The photo on the left shows a drainage line running towards the wet area on 4. The photo on the right shows the overgrown ditch and also an area of marsh grass. We would like to create a small wetland wildlife habitat.*



## Replacement Storm Shelter 5<sup>th</sup>:

With the money donated from the seniors, a new storm shelter be placed next to the 5<sup>th</sup> tee. Some additional work will need to be carried out, such as tree removal, base construction, and turfing.

*The surrounding woodland will be thinned and the new shelter positioned further back nearer to the stream. Some turfing and wild flower establishment will enhance the area.*



### **Yard & Maintenance Facility:**

When we have a digger on hire, I would like to demolish two of our dilapidated out buildings. This would give us more room in the yard to store equipment safely and securely.

It is vital that we spend some time each year clearing out waste and carrying out tasks that are important for the general upkeep of our facilities.



### **Heather Establishment:**

The introduction of heather to select areas around the course is something that I feel is of high importance. With the possibility of a new clubhouse situated amongst the visually appealing heathland, I feel that it would be of great benefit to Newbury & Crookham to continue to extend the pockets of heath. This is a very gradual process and success will not be achieved in all areas as Heather can be notoriously difficult to grow. Unfortunately, due to the extreme heat of the recent summer we have seen a little die back. I propose that we purchase 20sm<sup>2</sup> of heather turf to continue with the project.

**Greens Renovations:**

Historically our greens renovations have always taken place in March. In recent years temperatures in January have been relatively mild, conducive enough for renovations to take place. If this is the case, it would be possible for us to hollow core and dress the greens in January. This I hope would go some way to keeping the membership even happier as the bulk of the disruption would be January when the course is quiet rather than March when the season is beginning. We cannot guarantee that the work will take place in January; we will have to wait to nearer the time to assess the weather, therefore the renovations entry into the diary will not change. With all this said. If we are indeed lucky enough to be able to carry out this work in January, I further propose that in March we use our Dyna-Core machine to micro core the greens. This added aeration would greatly benefit the playing surfaces and would recover in far quicker time than the usual hollow coring system.

*Please note that there will always be further tasks that present themselves throughout the period.*