



Course Management Policy

Background

This Policy document for the Management of the Course at Milnathort Golf Club has been prepared on behalf of the Management Team as a framework for the on-going Management of our course.

It is subject to review by the Management Team and will be made available to members on the website and in the Society, in perpetuity. Members may make suggestions which may be incorporated in the document at the discretion of the Management Team

Milnathort Golf Club - Course Policy Document

Contents

1. Introduction.
2. Aims and Objectives
3. Roles and Responsibilities.
4. Resources.
5. Timing of Work.
6. The Course.
 - (a) Tees.
 - (b) Fairways.
 - (c) Surrounds and Approaches.
 - (d) Rough and Semi-Rough.
 - (e) Greens.
 - (f) Fertilisation.
 - (g) Top Dressing.
 - (h) Temporary Green.
 - (i) Bunkers.
 - (j) Practice Areas.
7. Woodland Management
8. Landscape Policy
9. Closing the Course.
10. Green Staff and Members.

- (a) Work on the Course
- (b) Complaints

- 11. Machinery.
- 12. Irrigation.
- 13. Financial Controls
- 14. Ecology.
- 15. Professional Advice.
- 16. Amendments.

Appendices

- A. Restrictions on the use of ride-on buggies
- B. Reasons for Course Closure.
- C. Code of Conduct - Members, Visitors and Staff.
- D. Woodland – Work programme to support Society Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy document has been approved and its publication authorised by the Management Team (MT) of Milnathort Golf Club. The policy may be amended by the MT as required and they may rescind any aspect deemed to be no longer appropriate. Any such amendments will be logged in the document and reasons for the change(s) provided.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective is that the Golf Course will be maintained to the highest standard and for this standard to be achieved consistently and for the major part of the year. The Course is to be maintained in excellent condition primarily for the enjoyment of Members, their guests and visitors.

The Course can be prepared and set-up for selected events with a 6 week period of notice.

A pro-active and long-term programme for Tree and Woodland management will form an integral part of this policy (refer Section 7).

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Management Team (MT)

The MT is responsible for the overall Management of Milnathort Golf Club in all its aspects.

The MT is responsible for the policy in respect of the Course, including financial, personnel and equipment.

The MT will ensure that adequate financial management controls are implemented and applied.

The MT will ensure that the Clubs obligations in respect of Health & Safety are satisfied.

Course Management - Head Greenkeeper

The responsibility for day-to-day management of the golf course rests with the Head Greenkeeper operating to agreed policies.

The Head Greenkeeper should be involved in all matters relating to equipment, machinery, budgets and course maintenance practices.

He should ensure that the Management Team obligations in respect of Health & Safety are satisfied in relation to greenstaff and the tasks they are required to perform.

The Head Greenkeeper is responsible for the implementation of Management Team policy regarding Course in all aspects, and to ensure that work is properly scheduled and co-ordinated with the MT. Their primary responsibilities are:

- To communicate to Greenstaff on a daily basis and all information from monthly management meetings
- Planning maintenance schedules in relation to fixture lists and other Society commitments in conjunction with the MT.
- Planning the regular maintenance of all course machinery
- Short and long term budget management as set and agreed by the MT.
- Maintain schedules and records of plant and machinery maintenance, including breakdown details for each item of critical equipment; maintain stock records of fertilisers, chemicals etc.
- Staff education, training and discipline
- Allocation of daily tasks on each course
- Compliance with the Society and legislative Health and Safety Policy.
- Compliance with current legislative requirements regarding the handling and storage of fertilisers, chemicals, oils and fuels
- Compliance with UK and EU regulations regarding ecology

Potential variations from budget will be notified in advance to ensure financial compliance or agreement to variation. This must **not** be done after the event.

Any work affecting the “playability” of any of the Course – i.e. aeration, temporary play areas etc., must be co-ordinated between the MT and Head Greenkeeper, so as not to affect competitions, or visiting parties.

The MT will oversee the entire Greens operation to maintain and develop the golf Course to the satisfaction of the club membership.

General Duties

- To liaise, with the Operations Director on all matters relating to management, maintenance and development of the Course.
- To oversee the maintenance and presentation of the Course to ensure that the expected standards are achieved and agreed policy implemented.
- To meet and communicate with Greenstaff at appropriate intervals.
- To report to the Operations Director and wider MT at regular intervals on matters affecting the Course and its management.
- To monitor green spend against budget and investigate any variances.

- To advise the MT of any playing or course conditions that might warrant protection by Local Rule or otherwise.

- To oversee the implementation of the Winter Programme and any other alterations to the course authorised by the MT.
- To ensure that the policies in regard to course closure and the use of winter greens and other protective measures are consistently applied.

Obligation to Health & Safety

The MT should delegate to relevant club staff to ensure that the Club:-

- Displays a current copy of the Certificate of Employers Liability Insurance.
- Displays a 'Health & Safety Law – What You Should Know' poster.
- Has an Accident Book or file.
- Has First-Aider staff able to deal with emergencies.
- Provides and maintains an adequate number of first-aid kits.
- Provides and maintains adequate fire extinguishers
- Provides adequate facilities for the welfare of the greenstaff.
- Has a store for the safe storage of chemicals.
- Has a store for the safe storage of fuel.
- Has an emergency procedure.
- Has a procedure for disposing of hazardous waste and controlling spillage/leakage.
- Provides personal protective equipment where necessary.
- Carries out Risk Assessments for all relevant greenkeeping activities.
- Keeps records of the following:-
 - Staff training and competency
 - Risk Assessments
 - COSHH, Noise and Manual Handling Assessments where appropriate
 - Inventory of greenkeeping equipment and machinery.
 - Pesticide stocklist and usage

The above list is not exhaustive and it is the responsibility of the club to keep abreast of changes in legislation and to make adequate provision to comply with Health & Safety requirements.

4. RESOURCES

(a) Staff

The full time staffing level will be 1 Head Greenkeeper, 1 Assistant Greenkeeper, Summer assistance via Castle Huntly programme.

There is a commitment to training and education of staff who are all encouraged to obtain the appropriate qualifications in Green-keeping to the maximum of their individual abilities. Staff are also encouraged to become members of BIGGA and to attend discussion groups organised by this association.

All staff must be trained and be competent for the tasks they are required to perform. Records of training and competency must be kept. Training needs should be reviewed at least annually.

There is a full commitment to Health & Safety at work and appropriate training will be provided in support of this. It is incumbent on all staff to wear relevant safety apparel and to use all equipment responsibly.

Apprentices will be recruited if finances allow and there is an operation need.

(b) Financial

The MT is committed to the allocation of sufficient funds to achieve the policies set out in this document, consistent with prudent management of club resources.

5. TIMING OF WORK ON THE COURSE

Much of the essential work on the Course is time critical. It is essential for the Head Greenkeeper in regular discussion with the MT, to plan and schedule this work well in advance so that the periods in which time critical work has to be done can be agreed, thus avoiding club competition rounds, communicated to Members where appropriate, and to visiting parties to avoid unnecessary embarrassment.

6. THE COURSE

The soil profile at MGC is mainly red clay/gravel. Moreover, where compacted, these soil conditions tend to lose the ability to stand up to heavy rainfall, and are prone to water-logging etc.

Tees

(a) Tees

Objectives

- **Tidy level surfaces with uniform cover of fine grasses**
- **Divot marks repaired regularly**
- **Well drained surfaces that remain firm and mud free**

The maintenance of teeing grounds has priority. Cutting to a height no lower than 8mm with collection of cuttings, tining, scarifying and fertilising are all practised on a programmed basis.

Tee positions should be changed each time the tee is mowed, and this should be accompanied by seeding, dressing and levelling so that the tees are maintained regularly and kept even.

The use of temporary grass tees throughout the winter will be continued and, where possible, will be at the front area of the tees.

Greenstaff should be made aware that in compliance with the SSS & Handicapping requirements, no tee marker should be more than 10 yards in

front of the ***Distance Point*** and the total reduction in playing length must not exceed 100 yards.

(b) *Fairways*

Objectives

- **Uniform grass cover**
- **Firm and well drained**
- **Divot marks repaired regularly**
- **Free from weeds and old divot scars**
- **Holes/depressions to be filled**

Fairways are to be cut to a height no lower than 12mm. In the growing season, fairways are to be cut at least once per week and twice weekly at the Head Greenkeeper discretion. Fairways are to be verti-drained, deep tined, slit tined, scarified and swept in order to improve the quality of the grass, discourage course grasses such as perennial rye grass, pou annua and encourage bent and fescue. There will be an active “protection and repair” programme to identify any areas becoming unduly worn, these areas to be shielded and re-turfed or over-seeded.

Seeding of divot holes will be regularly pursued to maintain the appearance and playability of each hole.

(c) *Green Surrounds and Approaches*

Objectives

- **Surrounds to be kept short and well defined**
- **Approaches to facilitate a “chip and run” shot**
- **To be capable of re-definition within 6 weeks for a major competition**

Normal cutting heights will be first cut height of 30mm to banks and 12mm to aprons and approaches. These heights will also receive special attention to improve the grass species.

(d) *Rough and Semi-Rough*

Objectives

- **Semi rough to be of consistent height**
- **Rough to be regularly cut in areas of frequent play**

Semi-rough will normally be cut to a height of 30mm and rough to a height of 40mm. Extreme weather patterns may determine where the height of cut differs from the norm.

The semi-rough may be contoured to enhance appearance providing it is managed to the agreed length.

(e) Greens

Objectives

- **Uniform and even surfaces providing a true ball roll**
- **Firm and free draining surfaces throughout the year**
- **Disease free**
- **Consistent surfaces for greens**
- **Green aprons to be clearly defined**

The policy is to reduce the annual meadow grasses gradually, and slowly introduce and encourage bents and fescues. Long term, the objectives can be achieved by continuing programmes of aeration to create conditions for healthy deep rooting species of grasses.

The height of cut on greens is the responsibility of the Head Greenkeeper and depends on their reading of future weather conditions, upcoming competitions, the state of the soil, etc. During spells of good growing weather the normal height of cut will be 4mm.

Grooming and verti-cutting will be applied throughout the summer and also the use of solid tines to encourage moisture penetration and the deeper rooting grasses.

A policy of minimum irrigation is being followed and any dry patches which develop will be treated with wetting agents and hand watering.

The autumn and winter treatment of greens includes hollow tining, deep tining, verti-draining, and scarifying, subject to weather and timing. It will also be prudent to seek advice on this matter where necessary

Hollow tining will not be done without consultation, as regards timing, with the Operations Director and, if necessary, with the MT.

(f) Fertilisation

Objectives

- **Use to be kept to a minimum – not to be used in rough**
- **To be environmentally friendly and conform to SEPA legislation**

The policy is to use nitrogen based fertilisers with quantities of sulphate of iron, potash and phosphates when necessary.

Society policy with regard chemical usage will be fully compliant with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

(g) Top Dressings

Objectives

- **To provide consistent and even putting surfaces**

Top dressings are applied to greens at the rate of approximately 2 or 3 pounds per square yard every 5 weeks during the playing season, and approximately 3 or 4 pounds square yard per 3 weeks in the spring following verti-draining. For hollow tining, the requirement is much greater to fill the holes using up to 8 or 10 pounds per square yard.

Top dressing not only assists the creation of freely draining vertical channels through the soil profile but also smoothes the putting surface and gradually builds up a superior root zone.

Top dressings on greens will be approximately 60 tonnes per year.

(h) Temporary Greens

Objectives

- **To relieve play on full greens when conditions or course maintenance dictates (at discretion of Head Greenkeeper)**

- **To provide a putting surface for winter play on Course**

On-going work to relieve compaction and reduce that on greens will make the use of temporary greens necessary at times. It is the intention of the Board to prepare and produce better winter greens in permanent areas that can be top dressed monthly during the summer, ready for full use during the long winter months at the Club.

It is the responsibility of the greenkeeper on duty on duty to decide on a day-to-day basis the need for temporary greens to be brought in to use. Considerations are:

- (i) Is the normal green too soft to take foot traffic?
- (ii) In frosty weather would footmarks damage the top crusty surface?
- (iii) If the normal green is being worked on intensively, a temporary green may be brought into use in order that the work may proceed more quickly and with greater productivity.
- (iv) Vary routes of temporary paths from green to tee where possible

(i) Bunkers

Objectives

- **All bunkers to be free draining**
- **Neatly trimmed edges**
- **Stone and weed free**
- **Loose sand on a firm base**

Bunkers will be raked daily by staff and forked when required.

They will be examined regularly and continually renovated, including the replacement of sand. Any weeds should be removed and any worn areas on bunker faces or surrounds should be protected (if appropriate) and repaired. Stone and weed clearing should be carried out when necessary. Approaches to bunkers should not be hindered by second cut grass.

At least one rake will be provided in each bunker and all players will be expected to rake their pitch marks and footprints. The rake will be replaced head in and handle out.

(i) Practice Area

Objectives

- **Should be maintained in similar condition to course fairways, bunkers, and greens**

The practice areas will be maintained as per the other areas of the Course on a daily basis. This includes the practice putting green.

7. Woodland Management

True Woodland management should be viewed as a continuous journey, and should be planned with a 25 year rolling horizon.

The Woodland section of this document should be reviewed on a professional basis at 10 year intervals.

The long term proposal is to provide a Woodland Estate such as would be found on a natural parkland site. The composition of the Woodland will include a diversity of species, both Broad-leaved and Coniferous, incorporating a wide range of age classes from newly planted to mature specimens. This would include good quality trees and a range of feature trees of character.

Feature trees and opportunities to establish (and to re-establish) feature trees will be actively pursued.

In woodland management, it is essential to have a long-term strategy to plan for the optimum result for whatever purpose the woodland estate is to be used for, in our case, recreation and the visual environment which would include enhancing the wildlife aspect.

As will be appreciated, a well-managed woodland estate adds considerably to the visual and aesthetic appearance which, in turn, adds benefit and enjoyment to Members, their Guests and Visitors to our Golf Course, and adds value to the club.

The whole spectrum of wildlife will be enhanced through a wider variety of food sources and a managed habitat.

Principles

The main points are summarised as follows:

- Manage visible tree boundaries alongside fairways to maintain a visual, aesthetic, environmental, diverse edge (undulating boundaries with variable spacing and tree species). This will also give Spring/Autumn colour highlights.
- Maintain and actively encourage wildlife habitats to improve and increase diversification of birds and animals within the complex.
- Thinning policy to favour best stems.
- Use variable spacing to achieve natural look.
- Reduce speed of height growth through concentrating on tree crown development.
- Encourage the right trees in the right places with a wide variety of species best suited to the acidic soils of the parkland landform.
- It is essential to have a wide range of age classes which, when established, will require very little maintenance
- Enhance wildlife benefits.
- Weather conditions will dictate when work on the Course could be carried out over the winter months.
- Woodland Management policy will consider and include sufficient funds to maintain the woodland estate in line with Woodland management policy.
- Fixed-point photography should be used on a five-year time scale to monitor the vegetation changes.

General Woodland Policy

- Feature Trees – There should be continuous monitoring of tree health. The approximate life span of Birch feature trees is 68-80 years on sands/gravels, longer otherwise. Replacement feature trees should be planted (in threes, fives and sevens preferably) 4-5 years before the demise of the feature tree.

Replacement trees can then be thinned out to leave best stem.

- Young trees/Natural Regeneration (NR) – trees under 1.0 metres high, within areas liable to receive golf shots, should be staked to identify their presence and, if feature specimen, suitably protected.
- Gradually remove poor quality NR trees to favour better stems.

- Newly planted trees require 4-5 years intensive management until they are established. A success rate of 85 – 90% is achievable.
- Weed control as required until young crop established.
- Good quality/ well-crowned trees - these trees throughout the woodland should have competing poor quality trees/scrub removed.
- Thinning should be carried out to favour best stems and to reduce shade and increase light and air movement where necessary. Where possible, the outside edges of crops requiring thinning should remain un-thinned to provide a natural edge with deep tree crowns and left unbrushed.
- Select fell in specified areas to provide wide spacing of quality/scenic trees and underplant to give diverse undercrop with mature trees over storey.
- Selective removal of shade-bearing trees from affected green surrounds and teeing areas. Replace by lighter foliaged, lower canopy broad leaved trees to enable more air movement and light to improve grass growth quality.
- Dead/dying trees-- should be removed along woodland edges. Dead/dying trees within the depths of the woodland should be retained as food sources for birds/ insects.
- Renew dying feature trees with instant trees as necessary.
- Use fixed point photography to monitor growth/environment changes and as a reference point for the Course Management document

8. LANDSCAPE POLICY

The definition of a Landscape is that it is an ecologically healthy environment enhancing the visual and hence the recreational value of the landscape. All component parts of the landscape should be planned in relation one to the other, both functionally and visually within a comprehensive plan. No one use will conflict with another and to bring all uses together into a landscape which will both function well and look well.

The area contained within the Golf Course complex is generally flat to gently undulating and is underlain by clay based soil.

The Tree species found on site are those usually associated with parkland sites.

Tree quality, in the past, has been moderate, but with selective thinning to best stems and opening out feature trees, the visual impact of the woodland is improving. Open feature trees on woodland edges and on fairways are monitored and if the tree health appears to be suspect, a group of replacement trees should be planted 4/5yrs before the removal of the feature tree. Selection within the replacement group will identify best stem for retention as required.

Thinning policy should be to thin every 12/15yrs in selected areas with wider spacing in places. As a result of the wider spacing, more light and air gets to the forest floor encouraging Natural Regeneration and ground vegetation backed up by Restocking to give and enhance the lower tree canopy and a wider choice of trees.

Maintenance of the woodland strips would be minimal once the lower canopy meshes into the upper canopy in that thinning would be discrete and hidden within the centre of the strip. Continuous, varied, predominantly native tree cover would be maintained in perpetuity and visually and aesthetically acceptable, and at the same time, provide a wildlife corridor, shelter, feeding for birds, wildlife, all of which are essential components within the landscape design.

Edge tree/ vegetation barriers on outside edges of the complex, adjacent to main roads would be thinned, managed lightly to provide dust/noise barrier from main road traffic. Open areas within the depths of the woodland would be left free for wildlife to feed, rest in quiet areas away from public viewing.

Insects - Individual blown trees within the depth of the woodland will be left for insects and natural decay. Other discrete thinning produce will be stacked into piles and left for insects and by association, the varied birdlife.

Shading - Excess shading adjacent to greens and tees will continue to be monitored and removed as necessary.

Fairway edge trees - The trees that line the fairways, should have their crowns and canopies retained to ground level as this is more acceptable visually rather than the semi-manicured brushed stems that look out of place in a natural environment. Broadleaved trees could have their lower branches trimmed as this would fit into the natural landscape.

Recreation - The area of the golf complex is for Members, Guests and Visitors enjoyment in an acceptable, peaceful, aesthetic environment, pleasing to the eye at all times and at various seasons of the year, especially in Spring and Autumn.

Once all the elements of landscape design are in place, it should be a relatively simple exercise to maintain on a regular basis with small discrete areas being worked on at any one time to maintain the status quo. Inevitably there will be

occasions when natural disasters occur, like a windblow, taking out a proportion of trees in an area. Using the comments earlier in this Report as a reference point, and the remedial work required to repair the damage, within a short period of time, 3/4yrs, the damage would hardly be noticed within the landscape.

With this active management in place, the area will be maintained in perpetuity and be a credit to Milnathort Golf Club.

9. CLOSING THE COURSE

The Course may be closed at any time on the authority of the Head Greenkeeper, in whos absence then members of the MT, but only when there is a risk of excessive damage to the Course or injury to golfers would result, if play were permitted.

In winter months, if weather conditions dictate, the use of full or temporary greens, will be reviewed at stated times, and any decisions relayed to the MT at the earliest opportunity.

The use of Fairway Mats from the fairways will be mandatory during the winter months. Winter months can be defined as 'from a date in November to a date in March'.

Some examples for such closures are shown in Appendix 'B'.

10. GREEN STAFF AND MEMBERS

(a) *Work on the Course*

The staff will be vigilant so that they do not delay play unreasonably. However, work has always to be productive and this is especially important at the beginning of the day.

Members cutting in to complete a quick round in the morning can disrupt planned work. In these circumstances, members are requested to give due consideration to staff to enable their work to continue. This etiquette will be to the benefit of all members.

A Code of Conduct at Appendix 'C' has been established to cover the subject and is displayed on the Notice Board.

(b) *Complaints*

Members and Visitors must not complain about the Conduct of a Member of Staff nor about the state of the Course directly to any member of the staff. Any complaint must be made, in writing, to the club administrator, who will investigate the matter together with the Head Greenkeeper. If they cannot deal with the complaint themselves, the matter will be referred to the MT.

11. MACHINERY

The Head Greenkeeper will produce and maintain a rolling 5 year plan of machinery replacements, additions, repairs and renewals for consideration, amendment and approval by the MT, for incorporation into the clubs financial plan as may be agreed and amended, any such amendments being fed back in to the 5 year plan. This plan is not rigid and will reflect retention beyond anticipated timescales where equipment is still in good working order and where the specification meets the club requirement.

The Head Greenkeeper will recognise the financial investment which Milnathort Golf Club has made and will prudently preserve this investment, both by careful use, regular and prudent maintenance, and by security of storage of equipment.

The Course Manager has responsibility to keep up to date with developments in golf course machinery, and to bring recommendations to the notice of the MT.

12. IRRIGATION

The overall policy is to use as little water as possible to encourage deeper rooting grasses to predominate. However, in almost every season there are times when rainfall is insufficient to sustain grass growth and needs to be supplemented. Free draining greens may be given relatively heavy infrequent watering. Less free draining greens need more frequent light irrigation, but the new computerised system can cope with these requirements.

Some watering of “high spots” will be necessary by hand as and when dry conditions require.

Water is also needed on demand to wash in fertilisers and other treatments. Therefore a guaranteed water source is essential for the maintenance of the golf Course.

Natural untreated water is also regarded as the most appropriate for irrigation of the greens, tees and approaches.

13. FINANCIAL CONTROLS

Each year the Head Greenkeeper will produce a list of machinery showing performance and a summary of any problems which have occurred during the year (individual problems will have been reported and actioned during the course of the year).

This will form the basis of a definitive budget for the next financial year for replacements and repairs which should then be in line with the 5 year rolling plan. This will then be discussed with the Operations Director and submitted to the MT for approval.

Additionally, the Head Greenkeeper will produce a budget for purchase of fertilisers, chemicals, dressing and course materials for the next year.

Quarterly reviews of expenditure will be undertaken involving the Operations Director, Head Greenkeeper and MT. Prudent budget management will dictate that there should be no surprises, as any need for unbudgeted expenditure or threatened overspend should have been raised as an issue as soon as it becomes apparent.

14. ECOLOGY

MGC has an abundance of natural woodland within the perimeter of the Course; it is an important part of the Policy to preserve the natural habitat of birds, animals and flora on the Course.

Enshrined within the Woodland Management section is our policy to retain dead/dying trees within the depths of the woodland as food sources for birds and insects.

15. PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

It is the policy of MGC to seek opinions and audits from professional bodies as may be required to provide independent and objective advice.

The club is not duty bound to accept any such advice from the advisors.

The Head Greenkeeper is authorised to seek assistance from independent advisors for the purposes of soil and water analysis, or any other questions he may have of any abnormal happenings such as invasion of unusual fungi or pests.

16. AMENDMENTS

The Management Team reserve the right to amend this Policy Document from time to time as circumstances require.

Appendix 'A'

RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF RIDE-ON BUGGIES

1. Members are advised of the probability of a restriction on the use of ride-on buggies becoming necessary in the winter months. This may be partial, e.g. until frost clears, or totally if prevalent conditions are unlikely to change during the day, e.g. wet on top of frost.
2. If course conditions warrant, a total ban on the use of buggies may be imposed. When the relevant notice is displayed, there will be no exceptions to the rule and all dispensations suspended.

Appendix 'B'

REASONS FOR COURSE CLOSURES

WINTER PLAY ON THE COURSE

Winter weather has a tremendous affect on the condition of the Course. It is inevitable that during adverse weather conditions, temporary greens on the Course will require to be used in order to achieve the best possible playing surfaces, not only during or immediately after this period but for the entire golfing year. It is therefore important to understand the reasons behind the decision to transfer play to temporary greens.

The general conditions associated with the use of temporary greens are described below followed by a brief summary of the damage these conditions can cause:

1. Flooding

Turf that is saturated allows the particles of soil to move around. The movement of the soil will squeeze the oxygen out (oxygen is necessary for the survival of the grass) and compress the particles of soil together. The topsoil becomes churned up and unattractive and the subsoil becomes so compacted that the root zone of the grass becomes damaged to the extent that the roots may die or are not allowed to penetrate deep enough into the ground to give the grass a good foundation for protection against disease or drought. These conditions will also encourage a build up of thatch.

2. Snow and Frost

Players may find it impossible to play while the Course is covered in snow or a heavy covering of frost has fallen, but the main reason for moving on to temporary (Winter) greens is once again to protect the grass surface and subsoil. The damage done to the grass surface itself is to weaken the stems by "bruising" them. i.e. dark green areas where the greens will be damaged or killed above surface level. Although this sounds quite dramatic (and is certainly undesirable), the grass will grow back within a fairly short period of time provided the subsoil remains undamaged. Damage to the subsoil usually occurs once the snow/frost has begun to melt. Once the topsoil covering has melted the problems listed under flooding are usually encountered, however, much more serious is the damage that can occur in the root zone if play is allowed to commence while the root zone is still frozen. That would result in the shearing of roots and the grass sustaining

damage which would affect play well into the Spring/Summer season and beyond. The grass sward would thin out in areas and affect the speed of the greens and the quality of the grass would deteriorate by allowing annual meadow grass to replace bent/fescue grasses.

Compaction and drainage are problems that are closely related. The most comprehensive drainage network in the world could not operate unless the problems of compaction are addressed. Quite simply, if the water cannot filter through it will stand on the surface. Work is carried out throughout the year to combat compaction by verti-draining, hollow coring, slit tining, scarifying etc. All this work can count for nothing if play is allowed to continue unchecked during the vulnerable winter months.

3. Fog

If the second bunker on the right on the 1st hole, is not visible from the clubhouse, and this applies across the course, the course will be closed for play and the horn sounded to alert those on the course to leave. This may require a quick buggy trip as occasionally the top or bottom half of the course will differ.

Course Closure

The course may be closed at any time on the authority of the MT o but only when there is a risk of excessive damage to the Course or injury to golfers would result, if play were permitted.

SUMMARY

MGC exists so that Members have access to an attractive and quality Course to play at their leisure. It is open all the year round and attracts visitors and Members' guests. It will be the policy to keep the Course open for play at all times possible but, when weather conditions dictate, the closure of the Course or the transfer to temporary greens may be required.

Appendix 'C'

CODE OF CONDUCT - MEMBERS, VISITORS AND STAFF

1. DAILY COURSE PREPARATION

This includes work on Tees, Bunkers, Aprons, Greens, Putting Greens and practice facilities. Work in the Summer months starts no later than 6.00am.

2. NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND VISITORS

The following information will be shown on the sign board at the clubhouse.

- (a) When Chemicals are being used on the Course.
- (b) When abnormal work is in progress.
- (c) When temporary (Winter) greens are in use.
- (d) Reasons for closure of the Course.
- (e) Buggy restrictions

3. PLAYERS AND STAFF

Players must ensure that it is appropriate for them to play without endangering the staff and should not play to a green if work is in progress on that green. Staff will, when working stand aside when appropriate and signal when they are ready for a ball to be played In both circumstances, players and staff must adopt a 'common sense' approach to giving priority.

Players should wait until staff have completed whatever tasks they may be engaged on before safely continuing play.

4. CARE OF THE COURSE

Players are to repair all pitch marks on the greens, rake bunkers after use and replace divots. Rakes are to be left in bunkers (or in accordance with current Society policy).

Appendix 'D'

Woodland Management Proposals for the Future

The primary object of management will be the preservation of typical woodland cover for a parkland site.

A secondary object, but not less important, will be to continue to create the environment best suited to the variety of flora and fauna over the course. The creation of the structural diversity of the vegetation species is very important, e.g. Low canopy trees - Birch/Alder/Holly/Aspen/Rowan.
High canopy trees- Scots Pine (SP)/Larch/oak.

Visual enhancement is also a very important issue when tied into species choice.

The encouragement of wildlife, by providing cover and variety of feeding by retaining dead/dying trees within the inner woodland, and removal of dead/dying/dangerous trees from the woodland edges for safety reasons, is critical.

By diversifying the species and the age classes, this would visually enhance the environment and create a partial visual barrier between individual holes.

Feature trees within the woodland will be identified with competing poor quality trees removed from around them to enhance the visual effect. Birch feature trees on fairways and along edges of the wood have a life of only 60-80 years on sand and gravel, longer otherwise. They will appear to be losing their vigour 4-5 years before they die. It is at this time they should have replacement trees planted adjacent to take over when the main tree is felled. This can be considered as a plan of action as necessary by the Board of the day.

In areas around tees/greens, as trees grow denser, it will become necessary to remove a portion of those trees to enhance light and air movement for the benefit of grass quality and green playability.

Following the above observations, the woodland estate should be well managed for the future with minimum disruption to the enjoyment of members, Guests and Visitors.

Update History

Date	Update	By
Feb 23	Introduction of document	M Scott