

SGCC GOLF COURSE GREENS COMMITTEE **NEWS UPDATE FOR OWNERS**

To Fellow Owners:

Hello, my name is Tony Jones, Lodge 60, Les Genevriers. I've written this article in order to inform you of the formation of the new Greens Committee (GC), what it has attempted to achieve with the golf course during the Spring & Summer months and what it hopes to achieve in the future.

Formation Of The GC.

Last April John Evans initiated a meeting to bring together members of the Golf Club Sport Committee, The Professional, The Acting Head Green Keeper, Ludo Hanks and 3 golfing lodge owners – himself, Bob Wilkinson and me.

From this meeting an 'official' GC was formed, comprising of David Cowie, an English member of the club, Joel Escudie and Jean-Claude Le Goff, both French members of the club, and John Evans, Bob Wilkinson & myself, lodge owners.

It was also agreed that from then on any instruction to the Green Staff had to be directed through the GC, via Ludo to Jerome, the Acting Head Green keeper. Prior to this any number of people were exerting pressure on green staff, all with different objectives.

Following the meeting John persuaded me to become the Committee Chairman, his reasoning being that I've worked on Greens & Links Supervisory Committees previously in the UK, I'm a fairly low handicap golfer, but most importantly my wife and I were planning to live at Souillac for most of the year this year! I must say that I was reluctant at first because, being a newish owner, I did not have any historical knowledge that most of you have experienced. However, I was persuaded, and already now feel that I've been here as long as everyone else!

Priorities.

The GC set itself the task of identifying how it could make quality improvements to the course without spending money. The key agreements were to:

- Work closely with the 3 green staff, and attempt to motivate them to achieve their maximum potential.
- Work closely with Ludo to whom the green staff report.
- Work closely with the Course Consultant, ensuring that we agree a strategy of improvement, and within budgetary constraints, ensure the implementation of his recommendations.
- Carry out some 'one off' tasks on the course ourselves to supplement the green staff workload.

What Have We Achieved?

The single most important plus for us is that Jerome, Julien and Jean Francois have all responded very positively to the new relationship developed, they seem highly motivated, they are taking pride in their performance and genuinely look happy in

their work. The GC for their part have been delighted with the response.

In addition to the daily grass cutting workload they are now:

- Divoting teeing grounds 2/3 times weekly and moving the tee markers regularly.
- Regularly strimming around the edges of bunkers and some of the rougher areas of the course.
- Raking bunkers on a daily basis.

These tasks all contribute to more enjoyable golf for players as well as enhancing the general look of the course. They are all being achieved with one fewer staff than was the case a year ago..

With the help of the GC we have also been roping off certain areas in order to minimise the damage being caused by heavy buggy traffic close to greens and tees. We intend to supplement this work with a number of signs to direct buggies onto a sensible route around the course, creating as little damage as possible without adding much distance.

We have reduced the amount of sand in most of the bunkers on holes 11-18. This is a relatively short term measure to make them more 'playable'. Ultimately we will need to change the type used, the present sand is far too fine for bunkers.

Course Consultant.

The Course Consultant is proving to be an excellent investment for the club. During his visits he spends the majority of his time coaching Jerome, and assisting with the planning of his work programme. He then meets with the GC to update us on his recommendations. We are following these so far as costs allow, and strongly believe that the greens in particular are benefiting enormously.

His next visit is planned for October when, together we will finalise the programme of winter work that we intend to implement 'in house'. This is likely to include:

- Moving a number of sprinklers on the tees 11-18, this is to direct the spray more effectively and therefore reduce the amount of water used.
- Replace about 20 sprinkler heads in order to be able to control them individually, thus saving more water.
- Removing some trees from the left hand dog leg on the 11th hole, to make the hole slightly more playable! The Consultant's view is that if a ball lies on the fairway, the golfer should have a shot towards the green. This could be either over, under or round the trees. As most of us know this is not the case at the present time!

Summary.

I hope that this gives you some insight into what is going on here with the golf course. I also hope that it gives you an understanding of both lodge owner and non lodge owner members' commitment and responsibility to achieving the 'quality' golf course that we hope will attract more members, visitors, and importantly, repeat visitors to the club.

I am always available via email, or personal calls to lodge 60 (when in residence) for any comments and constructive criticisms that anyone wishes to make.
I will endeavour to provide further updates as appropriate.

Tony Jones

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