

## **The Downs Bunker Renovations work – the next phase**

We can confirm that the next phase of bunker work will commence the week starting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. I am sure you will agree that the work carried out so far has made a dramatic impact on the course. The architect, Tom Mackenzie from Mackenzie and Ebert is delighted how the bunkers have ‘grown in’ and we feel our objectives set out at the beginning of the programme have been achieved. There has been quite some debate about the long grasses around the bunkers especially at holes 11, 14 and 15 that were renovated this spring. It is a feature we want to be part of the course but will be working on ensuring these areas are ‘thinner’ to enable a fairer challenge.

The schedule of works will be as follows:

### **17**

- We will start at 17 and 18 to ensure we have favourable ground conditions for the contractor to work with.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> will see the front right of the green lifted and raised. This area has historically remained very wet and soft over the winter and doing this work will rectify this.
- The right hand back bunker will be filled and a run off area created here.
- The left hand bunker complex will be changed and a single bunker will be created that will be visible from the tee.
- During the recovery of the green there will be need for use of a temporary green which has been marked out. Weather conditions will determine how long this needs to remain in play and we shall keep you updated on this.

**Existing view**



**Post work**



## 18

- The first fairway bunker on the right will be filled in.
- The remaining bunkers on the hole will be renovated as per the other holes.
- We are confident that the changes will significantly improve the visual impact of the hole and as a result an even more impressive finishing hole will be created.

**Existing view**



**Post work**



## 2

- The left hand fairway bunker will be filled in and this area levelled.
- The right hand fairway bunker will be renovated and will be more visible from the tee.
- The bunker at the back, right of the green will be filled in and swale around the green continued into this area.
- Both the front greenside bunkers will be renovated in a similar style to those at the 9<sup>th</sup>

## 3

- The bunker short of the green will be moved approximately 5 yards to the left which will open up the right hand side which will enable shots to be played into the green along the ground. This will make the approach to the green easier.
- The right hand bunker on the bank will be filled and the bank softened to be more consistent with the movement of the land coming off the right hand side of the valley.

- The left hand greenside bunker will be renovated and will be more visible from the fairway.



## 13

- Both greenside bunkers will be renovated and visually, the approach to the green will be greatly enhanced with the bunkers really looking like they are guarding the green on this excellent short par 4.

## 14

- The new tees will be in play over the winter and have grown in well. We are awaiting confirmation of adjusted Standard Scratch rating and once this is confirmed the hole will be played as a Par 5 from all the tees.
- At the green the bunker 60 yards short of the green will be moved approximately 5 yards left and the fairway will move further left as it nears the green. This is to allow a landing area for the second shot giving a good approach angle to the green.
- The front bunker will be renovated and the 'shoulder' between the existing bunker and the green 'softened' off.
- The back bunker will be reshaped to provide a much more consistent hazard.

Once this work has been completed the only work remaining will be the 12<sup>th</sup> hole which will be planned for either the Spring or Autumn of 2017. The work planned here is to reduce the number of bunkers on the hole to 3 and create a much larger approach area to the green to the front right of the green.