

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this Course Policy Document (CPD) is to set out the policy of the Club with regard to all matters impacting on course preparation. It establishes a clear and consistent approach to course management to fulfil the potential of the course for the benefit of members, their guests, and visitors. The Course Director and Course Manager will conduct an annual review of the CPD and make any recommendations for changes for approval by the Board.

## **Course History**

The Vale of Llangollen Golf Club was founded in 1908 by a few early enthusiasts. After prospecting the whole valley, the present excellent site at Llangollen Fechan, one mile from the town was selected for an ideal nine-hole course.

In November 1906 John (Jack) Morris visited Llangollen to advise on the suitability for the formation of a golf course and suitable layouts for the holes. The first round of golf was played over the Llangollen Course during Easter 1908. The total length of the nine-hole course was 2,940 yards.

During the 1950's and 1960's the Llangollen and District Golf Club continued to be a nine-hole course, with an interesting 1<sup>st</sup> hole which ran in front of the old club house, it's green being the current practice green by the 13<sup>th</sup> tee.

February 1967 was a major milestone for the Club when instruction was given for negotiations to proceed on acquisition of Bryn Dethol Farm and to provide an eighteen-hole golf course. It was decided to construct 18 holes on the newly acquired land and relinquish the old course.

Mr Hawtree of Hawtree and Son, golf architects, designed the 18 holes but when the course was almost complete to the great annoyance of Hawtree it was decided to keep the old course and play some of the holes as they are today. When the course was given a trial run, it was soon agreed that the holes were too tightly packed together and the Fechan land was utilised. Numerous alterations have been made to the 18-hole layout since then.

The Vale of Llangollen Golf Course is managed by a Course Manager and a team of 4 Greens Staff.

The Course measures 6624 yards from the White blocks, with a par of 72, course rating of 72.6 and a slope of 122.

The terrain is mostly flat, so to walk the course is not a hardship but there is enough gentle contouring so that every shot requires your full attention.

In design, the course does play as it looks. There are no hidden traps. Its defences are the length of shot required, strategically placed hazards, and whatever direction the prevailing wind is blowing down the valley. You can play almost a completely different course from one day to the next.

The makeup of the greens is traditional push up, which, over the years have been ameliorated with sand dressings to provide a relatively free draining and firm surface all year round.

The makeup of the ground is a mixture of clay and alluvial soils which have formed over the centuries. With good aeration and other green-keeping practices the course is usually playable at any point in the calendar year.

VLGC Scorecard

69043  
 01883 344244

COMPETITION										Date:		
Player		H'Cap Index	Course H'Cap	Playing H'Cap	Player				H'Cap Index	Course H'Cap	Playing H'Cap	
A:					C:							
B:					D:							

Marker's Score		Hole	White Yards	Par	Stroke Index	Yellow Yards	Par	Score				Nett/Points	Red Yards	Par	Stroke Index
A	B							A	B	C	D				
		1	467	5	8	466	5					370	5	14	
		2	285	4	17	272	4					263	4	13	
		3	509	5	13	492	5					426	5	6	
		4	422	4	2	411	4					406	5	17	
		5	385	4	9	365	4					290	4	11	
		6	187	3	15	172	3					171	3	10	
		7	391	4	11	378	4					312	4	9	
		8	401	4	5	394	4					357	4	2	
		9	436	4	1	423	4					418	5	5	
TOTAL			3483	37		3373	37					3013	39		

DISTANCE MARKERS ARE IN YARDS TO THE CENTRE OF EACH GREEN

		10	427	4	4	412	4					317	4	12
		11	330	4	16	326	4					322	4	7
		12	410	4	7	401	4					374	4	3
		13	399	4	6	386	4					298	4	15
		14	167	3	18	155	3					146	3	18
		15	486	5	14	481	5					469	5	8
		16	397	4	3	387	4					387	4	1
		17	360	4	10	348	4					343	4	4
		18	165	3	12	153	3					115 145	3	16
		IN	3141	35		3049	35					2771 2801	35	
		OUT	3483	37		3373	37					3013	39	
		TOTAL	6624	72		6422	72					5784 5814	74	

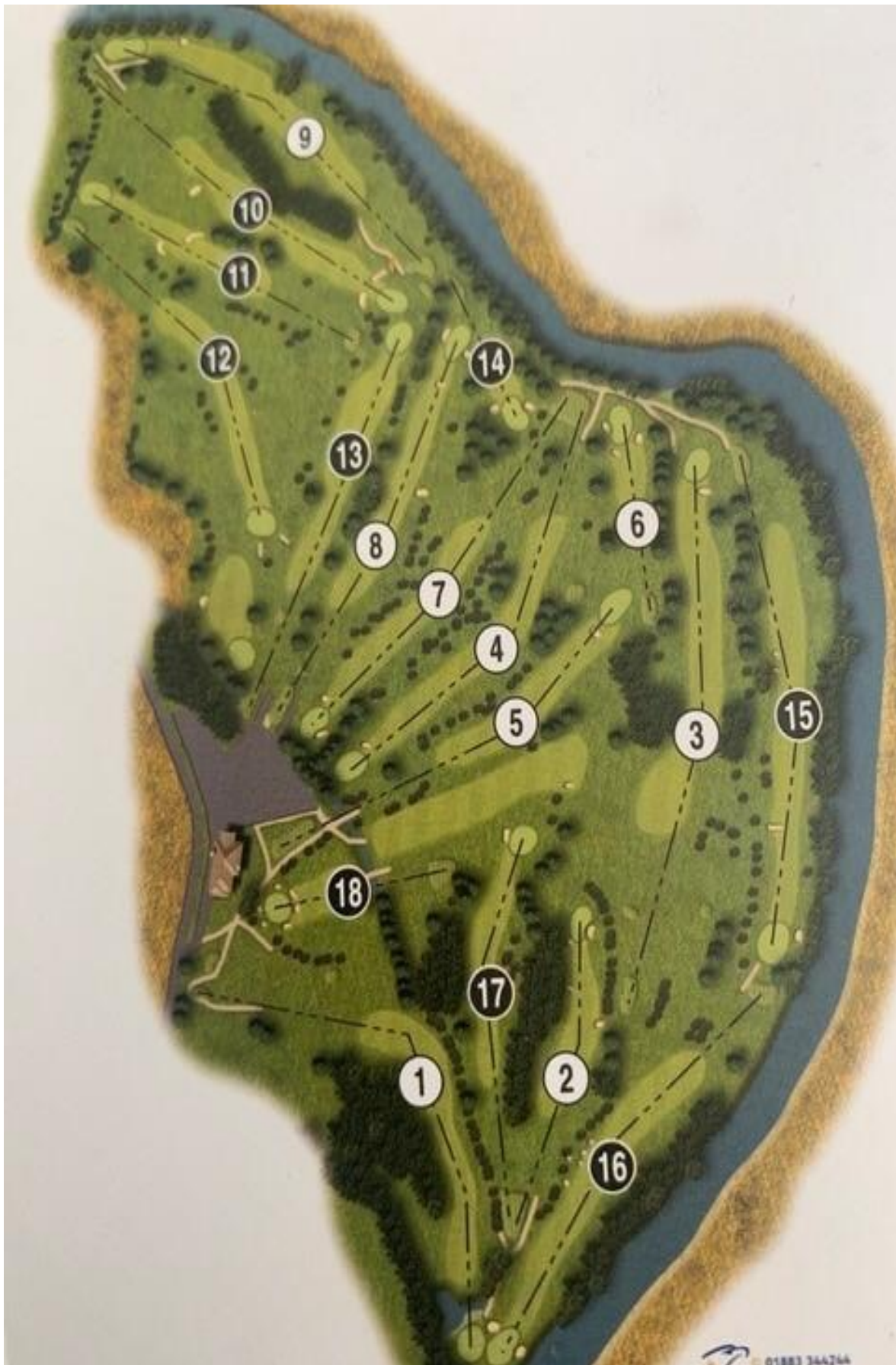
NETT SCORE/POINTS	TICK FOR 2s	HANDICAP	
		NETT	

Summer Flags: RED - Front YELLOW - Centre WHITE - Back

	Course	Slope
Blue (M)	72.6	123
White (M)	72.6	122
Yellow (M)	71.2	119
Yellow (W)	77.1	132
Red (M)	68.5	113
Red (W)	74.0	125

Marker's Signature	Player's Signature
--------------------	--------------------

## The Layout of the Course





## **Geology of the Course**

The bedrock geology of the course is the Dinas Bran Formation, of Silurian age, which consists of interbedded mudstone and sandstone. This is overlain by unconsolidated alluvial sediments.

## **The Climate and Weather Patterns Experienced**

The climate is typically Temperate but now modified by climate change, making Summers increasingly hotter and drier, and Winters warmer and wetter. The prevailing wind is typically from the west.

## **The Course Manager**

The Course manager is responsible along with the Course Director for the implementation of the Course Policy Document, which includes but is not limited to:

- Deploying green-keeping resources efficiently (including staff).
- Liaising with the Fixtures Committee to plan course maintenance schedules in order to dovetail with course usage.
- Communicating with the Board and Course Committee.
- Machinery maintenance and repair.
- Planning and preparation of annual and long-term budgets with the Finance Director.
- Attending Course Committee meetings.
- Maintenance of schedules and records relating to machinery.
- Staff training, discipline, work schedules, and appraisals.
- Implementation of the Club's Health and Safety policy.
- Purchase, secure storage, and safe usage of fertilizers, dressings, pesticides, fungicides, and chemicals.
- Monitoring expenditure against budget.
- Secure storage of all machinery and equipment.

## **Staff Resources**

The agreed staffing level is:

- Course Manager
- 3 Assistant Green-keepers
- 1 Apprentice Green-keeper

The Course Manager, in conjunction with the Course Director, will undertake an annual review to ensure staffing levels are correct. Any changes will be recommended to the Board for approval.

### **Hours of Work**

The Greens Staff work a flexible shift pattern between the hours of 05:00 and 14:30 depending upon: the time of year; the available light; and the needs of the competition schedule. Each member of staff works a 39-hour week which is annualised, with longer hours in the Summer than in Winter. All Greens Staff are required to do a fair share of weekend overtime of up to 3 hours per day. We offer a flexible approach but will rota if required.

### **Training**

Training is an essential element in achieving a team of skilled and motivated staff. All permanent Greens Staff will work towards achieving National Vocational Qualification (N.V.Q.) Level 2, and other types of qualification, along with appropriate licences and certificates of competence. Training courses are encouraged through sources such as the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (B.I.G.G.A.).

### **Green-keeping Facilities**

The facilities are situated to the left of the 5<sup>th</sup> tee comprising of:

- Course Manager's office.
- Kitchen / Staff room.
- Large main area for housing machinery and a workshop area.
- Tool and chemical storage facilities.
- External petrol and diesel storage.
- Machine wash down area.
- An open bay for storing tractor mounted equipment.
- Bays for the storage of top dressing, soil, and sand.
- In addition, there is a pump-house and water storage facility situated to the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway.

### **Machinery and Equipment**

The Board regards the provision of the necessary machinery and equipment as an essential pre-requisite in achieving the policies set out in this document. The policy of the Club is to purchase, maintain and replace, when necessary, the most appropriate range of machinery and equipment for the upkeep of the course. The Course Manager is responsible for keeping himself up to date with developments in golf course machinery, and make recommendations to the Course Director, including competitive quotations for acquisition and disposal of machinery. The Course Manager is

also responsible for the maintenance of all machinery, including all Health and Safety requirements as well as records of use, preventative maintenance, major servicing, repairs etc.

## **The Course**

### **Greens**

Annual Meadow grass and Bent grass are the predominant species on all greens. The objective is to gradually reduce the Annual Meadow grass and encourage Fine Bent and Creeping Bent to develop and thrive. This objective can be achieved by a continual programme of aeration, to create conditions which encourage healthy bacterial activity, which in turn breaks down the thatch layer, and encourages the deeper rooting species of grasses. Consistent over seeding throughout the year is also essential and it is policy to utilise only Bent / Creeping Bent seed as well as selective Fescues when required.

The height of cut on greens is the responsibility of the Course Manager, and depends on his reading of future weather conditions, forthcoming events, the state of the soil, moisture levels etc. During the main playing season, the greens should be cut daily but rolled / ironed instead when cutting is either not required or deemed damaging. The effective height of cut should be between 3.5 mm and 4.5mm to achieve consistent speeds of 8 - 10 ft/s on the Stimpmeter. The trueness of the surface is deemed more important than the speed, but both should be consistent throughout the course.

Aeration work along with physical removal of organic matter and application of dressings takes place at the start of the week, allowing for maximum recovery times and possible delays. Greens maintenance takes place annually in late March and August. Verti-draining will be carried out outside of the main playing season, along with other methods of decompaction and aeration e.g., Air2G2.

The Club aims to apply at least 100 tonnes of top dressing per year. The application will be heaviest after both maintenance windows, with lighter applications during the season. The aims of this are to: dilute the thatch content; produce firmer surfaces; create a warmer and more aerobic profile; encourage finer grasses; and increase rooting etc.

### **Hole Positions**

Hole positions will be changed 1 - 4 times a week, dependant on the weather and competition schedules. If heavy rain is forecast, areas where water will accumulate on the greens should be avoided. The position should be fair, but all areas of the putting surface should be used during the season to spread wear and compaction. It is the decision of the Course Manager or the designated trained member of Greens Staff to choose the positions.

### **Tees**

Tee maintenance is required throughout the year i.e., dressings and divoting, along with a sustainable fertiliser policy. Tee surfaces must be flat with no obstructions behind them. The turf will be cut at 10mm. The development plan is to convert all tees to a harder wearing grass species, specifically Perennial Rye Grass, plus hollow-coring, moss treatment, scarification, and weed

spraying when required. Markers, bins, and course furniture i.e., divot boxes are to be checked daily.

### **Fairways**

All fairways will be cut twice a week if required, at a height of no lower than 12mm. Fairways will be aerated annually, in line with budget. They will also be weed sprayed annually (unless not deemed necessary). Fairway divoting will be carried out by either Greens Staff or special divoting parties consisting of volunteers from the membership.

### **Aprons, and Green Surrounds**

The aprons and green surrounds will be cut up to three times a week to a height no lower than 8mm. There will be a programme of scarification, solid coring, top dressing, application of fertiliser and wetting agents, and over-seeding, throughout the year. The shape of the approaches will be marked annually at the start of the season to maintain consistency. They will start no less than 15 metres from the green and be no narrower than a triple mower width around the green.

### **First Cut**

The first cut will be no less than one width of a triple mower, running alongside the fairway but cut in the opposite direction. It will be cut up to twice a week at a height of 20 – 25mm. On holes where the carry to the fairway is greater than that which some members can achieve, these areas will also be cut as first cut.

### **Rough**

The rough will be cut at least once a week to a height of 43 - 50mm with the very deep rough cut at 75mm every fortnight.

### **Trees**

Tree and woodland management will be an integral part of general course maintenance. Some of the trees on the course are subject to Tree Protection Orders. Permissions must be sought for tree work undertaken on the course as appropriate. There is a wide range of trees on the course (both in species and age) including a significant number of Manchester Poplars which have reached or are reaching the end of their expected life span. These trees drop their leaves earlier than other species and extend the period that the Greens Staff have to clear leaves from the course. The orderly removal of these trees along with a programme of tree planting will form part of a 3-year improvement plan. This will be carried out to minimise the impact on the appearance and playability of the course and will also:

- Allow light and air into key areas of the Course to improve turf quality.
- Encourage flora and fauna to re-inhabit areas.

- Remove dead / dying trees that could become dangerous to Greens Staff or golfers.

### **Integral Hedges**

All hedges on the course will be kept neat and tidy. Work will take place outside the nesting season.

### **Bunkers and Hazards**

We are currently upgrading and re-designing the bunkers on the course. Once a bunker is completed it will be filled with sand, consistent with that of the other bunkers and match the specific performance criteria required. Bunkers will be raked fully on competition days and heavily spot raked as a minimum on other days.

There are a number of areas, across the course, mostly ditches, which are marked as hazards with red posts. The hazard margins must be clearly defined with posts, and or lines so that golfers are in no doubt as to whether or not they are in the hazard.

### **Paths**

We are upgrading paths and again aim to make a consistent surface throughout the course. Potholes are to be fixed and paths cleaned and weeded as required to ensure definition.

### **Ditches**

These are to be cut yearly when it does not impact the environment and their vegetation should never be long enough to affect play.

### **Drainage**

All pipework to be routinely checked. Additional drainage plans will be discussed with the Course Committee and Board.

### **Ground Under Repair (GUR)**

Areas of damage across the course, where it would be unfair to expect a golfer to play from, must be clearly marked and repaired as soon as practical. The area must remain marked as GUR until repaired. Every effort must be made to keep these areas to a minimum. The marking of GUR is particularly important for major events and competitions.

### **The Practice Grounds**

The turf of the two practice grounds must be kept at fairway height. The two practice greens will be cut at a height to match those of the course. The sand in the practice bunker will be consistent with



that in the bunkers on the course. Maintenance of turfed areas and bunkers will be as per the maintenance of those on the course.

## **Course Closure Procedure**

### **Responsibility for Closure**

The Course Manager is responsible for closing the course. In the absence of the Course Manager, it is the responsibility of a designated member of the Greens Staff. During weekends responsibility falls within the remit of the Club Professional.

### **Actions When the Course is to be Closed**

When the course is closed before play, a sign will be placed by the board on the way into the car park. An appropriate phone message recording will be made immediately. A social media message will be posted, and the Club's website updated.

### **Reviewing Course Closures**

To ensure the course is re-opened at the earliest opportunity, conditions will be reviewed by the Course Manager. In the absence of the Course Manager, it is the responsibility of a designated member of the Greens Staff in consultation with the Professional and / or his Staff, or, in their absence, the Office Staff.

### **Flooding or Water-logging**

The condition of the course will be reviewed hourly from 07:00 to 15:00 in the Summer and hourly from 08:00 to 12:00 on weekdays in Winter. At weekends, reviews will be on an ad hoc basis.

### **Lying Snow**

The condition of the course will be reviewed daily at 08:00 and 12:00.

### **Electrical Storms**

Reviews take place on a half-hourly basis from the time that play was suspended.

### **Fog and Mist**

Reviews take place on either an hourly or ad hoc basis, whichever is deemed most appropriate for the conditions.

### **Special Circumstances**

Reviews take place on an ad hoc basis, depending on the circumstance.

The following signals will be used to announce decisions regarding course closures, suspension of play and resumption of play:

- Abandonment of play: one prolonged klaxon blast (repeated).
- Suspension of play: three short klaxon blasts (repeated).
- Resumption of play: two short klaxon blasts (repeated).

## **Protecting the Course in Winter**

### **Greens**

It is the Club's policy to only utilise temporary greens when absolutely necessary. The Greens Staff will prepare temporary greens late Summer / early Autumn. Normally, they will be sited on grass cut to approximately 12mm and on ground appropriate for play. Temporary greens are used when conditions dictate that the use of the main greens would potentially cause damage that would be detrimental to their long-term condition, or the condition of the surrounds, and when greens work is taking place.

### **Conditions for the use of Temporary Greens:**

#### **Frozen Subsoil (Penetrative Frost)**

Walking on the greens when the subsoil is frozen, and / or thawing, can cause the roots of the grass plant to break in the frozen ground. This leads to grass plants that are weak and susceptible to disease.

#### **Water-logging**

The surface layer of the greens can be damaged if play is allowed on the greens when they are heavily waterlogged. This again leads to grass plants that are weak and prone to disease.

### **Greens Work**

At various times of the year, we carry out work on the greens. When we undertake this work and the temporary greens are prepared, they will be in use until the work on the greens has been completed. This allows the work to be completed as quickly as possible and avoids compromising the safety of the Greens Staff completing the work.

### **Application of Chemicals**

Chemicals including fertilizer and anti-fungicides are used frequently throughout the year. They are required to ensure that the greens are as healthy as possible. From time to time, treatment for diseases such as Fusarium needs to take place. Anti-fungicides are expensive and need to be given the best possible chance of working by allowing the greens to rest. This aids their absorption by the plant. Temporary greens will be utilised in these circumstances also.

### **Special Situations**

Situations may arise where the use of temporary greens will be needed for specific holes. Examples of these situations include damage to the playing surface, excessive wear of walk off areas, and possible danger to golfers' safety from damaged or fallen trees etc.

### **Decision to use Temporary Greens**

The Course Manager or trained member of staff will be solely responsible for the decision to move to temporary greens.

### **Decision to Revert to Main Greens**

The Course Manager or trained member of staff will be solely responsible for the decision to move back to the main greens.

## **Tees**

To protect the surfaces, it may be deemed necessary to use either alternative Winter tees or mats. This will be the decision of the Course Manager.

## **Buggies and Trolleys**

The decision as to what is permitted will be made daily after inspection. When conditions throughout the course are deemed to be unsuitable for buggies the Course Manager or suitably qualified member of Staff will prohibit their use. When conditions in specific parts of the course are deemed unsuitable for buggies, their use will be restricted accordingly. The [buggy policy](#) is to be adhered to along with any stipulations made on the day. All information will be made available by the usual lines of communication.

Players are reminded not to spin their trolley wheels on paths and closely mown areas for the purpose of cleaning them.

## **Greens Staff and Members**

### **Work on the Course**

Greens Staff always have priority when working on the course. Shots must not be played when Greens Staff are in range unless they have signalled it is safe to do so.

Members are very aware of the quality and presentation of the course and expect constant improvements in the playing conditions. The Greens Staff are aware of the need to work without inconveniencing players. Improved mechanisation enables the Greens Staff to carry out most tasks quickly and efficiently, but inevitably there can be conflicts between Greens Staff and golfers. The Greens Staff are aware that the course is there for the benefit and enjoyment of members and visitors, and work programmes are planned accordingly. To achieve the best possible balance:

- Every effort will be made to start daily work on the course as early as possible, and to keep ahead of golfers starting early.
- Course or hole closures will be planned well in advance and details of any planned closures will be notified to members well in advance.
- There are a few times each year when play on the course will have to be restricted to allow the Greens Staff to 'set up the course' for major competitions or events. As far as possible, these restrictions will be kept to an absolute minimum and members will be informed. Our Greens Staff take a great pride in their professional workmanship and work hard to present the course in the best possible condition.

Please play your part in helping to maintain the condition of the course by:

- Not playing before your allocated tee time, or before the course is open, as it will affect plans made for maintenance.
- Not missing out holes or teeing off from a different starting point to the one stipulated as it will affect maintenance plans.
- Repairing all pitch marks, even if you have not caused them. Unrepaired pitch marks take much longer to recover and cause irregularities in the surface of the green that can affect the roll of putts.

- Please rake bunkers and push the sand forwards.
- Please replace bunker rakes inside the bunkers (towards the rear) lying them parallel to the direction of play. This keeps the chance of them being struck by a ball entering a bunker to a minimum.
- Please replace divots. Whilst not all replaced divots take, a high percentage do, and this helps the course recover more quickly.
- Please do not drop any litter (including cigarette ends) on the course and if you see any litter, please pick it up and drop it in one of the bins dotted about the course at the tee stations.
- Buggies, and electric / pull trolleys. Please do not take them on to tees, greens, green surrounds or between bunkers and greens.

### **Complaints**

Any complaint about the conduct of a member of the Greens Staff, or about the condition of the course, must be addressed to the Chair of the Course Committee in writing (e-mail: [alyson598@outlook.com](mailto:alyson598@outlook.com) or hard copy correspondence via the Club office). The Chair of the Course Committee will investigate the matter together with the Course Manager. If they cannot deal with the complaint themselves, the matter will be submitted to the Course Director for the attention of the Board.

Members and visitors must not, under any circumstances, approach a member of the Greens Staff to complain about the conduct of a member of the Greens Staff, nor about the state of the Course.

### **Irrigation General**

The overall policy is to use as little water as possible to encourage deeper rooting grasses to predominate. Water will be required during the Summer months. This will often be an automatic cycle at night, with hand watering throughout the day in extreme conditions. Water is also needed on occasions, to wash fertilisers and other treatments into the greens.

### **Water Supply Overview**

Under an abstraction licence from N.R.W. water is drawn from the Cregan Brook at a rate of no more than 20 cubic metres per day and is stored in two 10 cubic metre capacity holding tanks situated on the right of the first fairway.

During prolonged periods of dry weather water is drawn from two bore holes in the field to the right of the first fairway at the rate of no more than 10 cubic metres per day per bore hole and held in two 20 cubic metre capacity tanks in the same field. At this level of extraction no additional licences are required.

Usage is measured at several points and compared with our defined extraction limits to ensure we comply with our daily obligations. This is tracked and recorded at regular intervals.

## **Irrigation System Overview.**

The irrigation system is inspected and serviced March/April to ensure we minimise any risk of failure or delivery issues through our key working season. The system is de-commissioned in late October once the requirement for additional irrigation has passed.

The system is pressurised to 8bar with maximum capacity of 40 cubic metres (20 from the Cregan brook and 20 from the combined capacity of both boreholes).

The system supplies a total of 209 sprinkler heads of varying outputs which are split between Tees and Greens.

## **Management of the Natural Environment and Ecology**

The strategic aims of the Club are to: mitigate the risks to the course associated with climate change; care for the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources on which the course is sustained; and balance the demands of golf with responsibilities to the natural environment.

We are mindful that the Vale of Llangollen and the River Dee are both nationally and internationally recognised and protected in law, being integral features of a stunning landscape and home to a number of rare species. The Dee has S.S.S.I. status for its Otter, Salmon, and Wetland Habitats and S.A.C status for its aquatic plant communities, Sea, River and Brook Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon, and Otter. The Vale and River are located in the centre of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley A.O.N.B. The laws which protect these designated areas also shape our management of the course and estate.

The Club aims to alleviate bank erosion by the River Dee using natural methods and at the same time enhance the biodiversity on the course. We are engaged in a programme of tree planting in the riparian area of the course, in association with the Natural Resources Wales LIFE Dee Valley Project. Invasive, non-native plant species are controlled by hand weeding, slashing, and selective chemical application with assistance and training funded by the North Wales Wildlife Trust.

A programme of seeding selected long-grassed areas and areas of scrub with wildflowers further enhances the floral diversity on our course and the wider estate. This in turn helps to sustain our resident pollinators – Honeybees, thereby further increasing the resilience of our ecosystem.

We subscribe to the 'GEO Foundation for Sustainable golf' which encourages the fostering of nature, conservation of resources, strengthening communities, and acting against climate change. We record our achievements on their 'OnCourse' platform as we work towards 'GEO Certification', golf's internationally endorsed sustainability award.

## **Professional Advice**

The Club and Course Manager may seek professional advice when required. At no point should an advisor be approached before both parties have been in consultation.

## **Health and Safety**

The club maintains a Health and Safety policy. The current copy of this document can be found on the main VLGC website [here](#)

**Website**

The Club Manager will ensure comprehensive details of this policy are maintained on the Club website.