

GENERAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

GREENS

We have eight old push-up greens that were part of the 9 hole course. They were built 55 years ago and are well overdue for replacement.

The greens involved are the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th & 18th.

TEES

Most of our tees require some work to enlarge and/or flatten them.

Additionally, our permanent tee markers are at the back of the tees. On the majority of comp days, the tees are forward so the course played is shorter than the rated length. I suspect that there have been instances where the tees have been so far forward that scores should not have been used for handicapping.

I propose tee redevelopment include enlargement to accommodate 4 tee sets and cyclic tee positions. The 4 tee sets being:

BLUE	Men's championship tees - 1 position (Only used for Championship & Medal days).
WHITE	Men's regular tees - 7 positions.
RED	Ladies regular tees - 5 positions.
YELLOW	Seniors tees - 3 positions (Primarily for seniors).

I would envisage that we would have all tee sets rated for men and the red and yellow rated for ladies. In the interests of equality, we could also add a fifth tee for ladies championship events.

Four cyclic tee sets might seem to many for our course but they do have significant benefits. In particular:

- The wear on tee's is spread over a greater area.
- The course length will not vary from the rated length.
- We can avoid situations where our social play yellow markers are forward of the ladies red markers.
- They allow multi-tee competitions where players have a choice of which tees they play from.
- The attractiveness to social groups associated with schemes as Golf Pass, RACV Golf Membership , Qantas Golf Membership who want to play off rated tees for handicapping purposes.

COURSE LENGTH

We should consider opportunities to gain some extra length. There are a few opportunities to do this as part of tee redevelopment (extending the tees back). Fairway realignment can also help provide some extra length.

IRRIGATION WATER STORAGE & DRAINAGE

One thing we should work on is determining how much irrigation water we actually need.

We currently have 44MI in water licences but only have 22MI of storage capacity. 22MI is sufficient for current needs but, with ongoing improvement of the playing surfaces, may not be insufficient in the mid to long term.

I believe there is sufficient space to construct two Holding Dams should we need more capacity. One located between the 1st, 2nd and 18th holes and the other between the 12th and 13th holes. I estimate that these two dams could give us additional capacity of up to 14MI.

Filling this additional capacity could be an issue in that we cant take more than 22MI from Walkers Drain and most of our drainage bypasses our existing dams.

One option for additional water is to buy an upstream water licence from an existing owner if ever one becomes available. A second is to apply for a storm water harvesting allocation from Southern Rural Water. A third is to include sumps to collect drainage water before it leaves the property. Solar or wind driven pumps could then be used to pump that water into the holding dams. The sump could be in the form of a water hazard that can also provide some filtration and sediment trapping functionality.

NOTE: Due to Southern Rural Water policies, drainage cannot be diverted into the new dams mentioned above. This is why I call them Holding Dams (aka Turkey Nest Dams).

TREE LINE DEVELOPMENT

GENERAL

In the past, members have been great in supporting the club with providing, planting and nurturing our trees. Unfortunately, many trees have been planted too close together or have been the wrong tree for a particular location. Typical repercussions being that trees do not flourish, they impinge on the playability of the hole or are too close to tees and greens.

Tree line development will be an important part of any hole improvement program. In our case it should concentrate on removing or replacing diseased or poor quality trees, removing trees in areas where they are not needed for buffering with adjacent holes, or adding new trees in areas where they are needed of buffering or playing challenges.

When planting new trees, consideration should be given to the expected mature height and canopy diameter of the variety chosen and their impact in hole playability. Consideration should also be given to their tendency to shed bark or leaves as these create a large clean up workload for course staff.

IMPACT ON DOGLEG HOLES

We have 4 dogleg left holes where a 200m or greater drive is needed to ensure a clear full second shot. This is unfair to the average golfer. The worst is the 1st, The others are the 6th, 13th and 18th. I propose we consider removing trees to open up the second shot on such holes.

ACROSS COURSE AND SURROUNDING VIEWS

We are located on land parcel that can offer pleasant views across the course and of the surrounding area.

Where possible, we should remove trees not needed for buffering with adjacent fairways or not needed for playing strategy. Some trees on the boundary can also be removed to improve the vista. The trees behind the 11th green being classic examples.

BUNKERS

Bunkers are a normal part of any golf course. I think we need more. In saying this, I think we should plan for them but not necessarily build them until we are confident that we are able to maintain them.

CLUBHOUSE & CARPARK

Our car park is often "chaotic" in terms of how people park. Sealing and bay marking should be considered.

No doubt, increased growth in in utilisation of the club facilities will see a need to increase parking space and probably clubhouse floor space. Possibly even a pro-shop. This might be something for future planning Phase 2.

DRAWERS vs FADERS

I believe our course favours those who shape the ball from right to left (right hand draw or left hand fade). We might want to consider options to give the left to right players a better deal. This could mean making it easier for them or harder for the right to left players.