

**Studley Wood: Management Report
Proposed Course Developments 2016 onwards.
Response of The Seniors' Section.**

We welcome the process leading to the publication of a defined development plan with anticipated timescales. This will bring confidence of members in the future of the club which we hold dear.

We recognise that the Seniors Section is but one group of members, but, we like to think it important to contribute to this consultation as we frequent the "White Tee" course, perhaps more than the Men's Section (and the Ladies of course). This is an important perspective as the White Tee course is the format of Studley Wood most often frequented by paying visitors and even by the Men's Section in winter months. .i.e. it has heavy usage.

The course is very different when played from Blues and Whites, with heavy use of the teeing ground and also a different landing area and relevance of "in play hazards" including bunkers. It is therefore very important to consider this perspective very carefully.

We have considered the information offered to us carefully and submit the following reflections:

Hole	Proposal summary	View of Seniors Section	Level of importance / priority
1.	Changes to bunker on left	Priority is to avoid flooding and we feel this may be relatively easy one to resolve.	Top priority
2	No change	We agree	
3	No change	We agree	
4	Sand needed	Important to ensure consistency across the course	High
5	No change	We agree	
6	No change	We agree	
7	Right side fairway bunker changed to mound and pot bunker	Although we agree – money and renovation has recently taken place and this has improved matters. We disagree with the "dream" scenario due to expense – better herringbone drainage to lake would be cheaper.	Low
8	Improve pathway by tee box	Considerable time and money has been spent here. Any further work should be designed to offer better guarantee of success e.g. drainage into stream at back of course. The two new trees on the mound between the 7 th /8 th are also (predictably) "dying".	Medium
9	Removal of RH bunker near lake and lake extension	Agreed as top priority due to constant flooding issues. However if cost of proposal is a problem, then a contoured mound "guiding" water into lake would be an alternative to extending the lake. More trees	Top priority

	Removal of LH fairway bunker	planted in existing bunker area would dissuade long hitters cutting corner. Again, a serious flooding problem here More trees would help protect from Practice/teaching areas	High priority to resolve flooding.
	Removal of LH greenside bunker and placement of pot bunker to Front LH green area	Not an issue, unless expensive to maintain?	Low priority
10	Removal of LH fairway bunker, replacing with pot bunkers.	Not an issue, unless expensive to maintain?	Low
	Removal of RH greenside bunker and extension of lake.	Massive cost surely? Bunker is most appropriate hazard here.	Reject idea
	Deeping of ditch	Presents a potential danger to safety – serious concerns and unnecessary.	Reject idea
11	Dig out and re-sand bunker	Currently in poor condition	High
12	RH fairway bunker	Although we agree in principle – money and renovation has recently taken place and this has improved matters.	Low
	Sand needed to greenside bunker	Important to ensure consistency across the course	High
13	Removal of RH fairway bunker and mound	The problem is clear, various solutions are possible – we disagree with removal completely however as the bunker is a feature of 13 th and 14 th holes. Flooding is the issue – and destination of ball cannot be seen from either Tee. However, some protection needed to 13 th /14 th fairway and driving crossovers – pot bunkers/ trees?	Top – this needs urgent attention
	LH Fairway and short greenside bunkers dig out, reline and re-sand.	Not an issue, unless expensive to maintain?	Low
14	Trees from Clubhouse area to line side of Tee Box	Expensive to do properly and dead trees would be awful!	Low
	Enlarge pond to LH side of fairway	This is high ground – why do this expensive work unless part of a drainage plan?	Low
15	No change	We favour a “Culverting” of the elbow 20 yards either side of the bridge of the existing ditch to the RH landing area to remove the “random” chance element of unfair penalty of going in	Medium

		ditch due to bad bounce from sloping fairway in summer months.	
16	Sand needed	Important to ensure consistency across the course – but there are worse bunkers than these.	Medium
	Widen and define ditch	Serious hole length accessibility issues for many seniors if this is widened.	Reject idea
17	Removal of RH bunkers (All 3 ?) and put in a lake	If this is easier than raising and maintaining the existing bunkers then fine – priority is to avoid flooding – but draining to ditch should be possible.	Medium
18	No change	We agree.	

Reading this shows that our **top priorities are the bunkers on 1st, 9th and 13th/14th**. We are pleased with the work done to the bunkers to the **right** of the 1st and 18th and suggest this model is used more extensively.

From the perspective of the aesthetics, challenge and quality of Studley Wood course we support a clear, costed and time scaled plan for rationalising the number and nature of the bunkers. However, of equal importance is the filling in the divot holes in the fairways and first cut within a sufficiently regular and routine maintenance programme. Prioritising this is not a big or expensive job but would make the fairways even better and make the course look much smarter. There is a feeling that such work is not as regular as is needed during periods when the ground is soft. e.g. the approaches to the 1st and 3rd greens.

Permanent Winter Mats on Par 3s.

Presumably this is only for the White Tees??

Although there is a problem of Tee maintenance here due to high usage, we have mixed feelings on this as a solution, particularly in regard to the suitable placement of them on the 4th and 16th to allow shot access to the green for the left to right and right to left shaper of the ball. Sand boxes seem a viable alternative and there is also the cost factor when judged against other priorities?

Ball Cleaners.

Essentially the effectiveness of these is a maintenance issue for the staff and should be a part of routine work. We do not feel Ball Cleaners are necessary on every hole – maybe every four - as individual golfers have alternative ways to clean their golf ball between the existing facilities.

Overall on these two issues the seniors feel that these are not sufficient priorities for us to contribute financially to them , not least as they are course maintenance issues and not exceptional items for which the members might be asked to contribute from their own very limited funds. However, if the issues were generally agreed within the membership then, without setting precedent, we would be prepared to contribute ¼ of our current uncommitted assets i.e £100.

Peter Crook

Seniors Captain.

Views reflective of our in depth consideration at Committee meeting on June 14th 2016 and previous discussions.