
THE MILLBROOK GOLF CLUB



Millbrook Matters Special Edition

Dear Member

What's happening this week

Tuesday 23rd February: Seniors from 08:00 to 08:40

Tuesday 23rd February: Bedfordshire Farmers GS x 20
from 09:30 to 10:00

Wednesday 24th February: Ladies from 09:00 to 09:16

Thursday 25th February: Late Night Kitchen - Last
orders at 20:00

Friday 26th February: Seniors from 08:00 to 08:40

Friday 26th February: Reddings Wood GS x 9 from 09:30
to 09:45

Sunday 28th February: Captains Drive In - Shotgun Start
at 08:30

Sunday 28th February: Carvery Lunch from 12:45 to
16:00

CAPTAINS DRIVE IN: Please register before 08:00. The Captains will drive into their captaincy year at approximately 08:15. Players can then take position on the course for an 08:30 start. Starting holes will be issued upon registration, Individual stableford, played in three balls. £5 entry which includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival.

CARVERY LUNCH: Please book a table with Emma, Nathan or I, it's hopefully going to be busy following the shotgun start..... 01525 840252 option 4.

Rather than the 'what's been happening section' I have chosen to include my response to the survey, in the hope that more people will read it!!!

SURVEY RESULTS

I hope you were all aware of the recent membership survey. This survey was designed to offer feedback to our committees, hopefully endorsing both recent decisions made and plans for future spending.

A typically good response to a survey would be to receive feedback from around 15% of the total number of recipients, we exceeded this figure with just under 30% of the entire membership responding. Thank you for sharing your point of view and showing that you care.

The format of the survey allowed us to be ranked, across all areas of the club, on a scale of 1 to 5. 1 being terrible and 5 being excellent. The system then collates your responses and provides an average score for each question.

This short note is a summary of the headline results, a more detailed response answering many of your questions and suggestions will be available shortly. All responses have been read and carefully discussed by the management committee.

Overall I am delighted to report that our members rated us an average of 4.1 out of 5. A real indication that we are moving in the right direction and that you, our members, like what TheMillbrook has to offer.

There were however areas of the club, highlighted within the survey, that we know must improve. The survey was specifically designed to help us prioritise these areas. It was clear from the responses received that we have four areas around the club requiring immediate attention, these being:

1. The Car Park and Overflow Car Park.
2. The Tees on the course.
3. Pathways around the course.
4. The unpleasant smell around the clubhouse.

The Car Park

Quotes have been received and finance is available to improve the overflow car park. This involves clearing and levelling the area, curbing the area, adding a hardcore base and finishing with road shavings. We envisage achieving this during 2016.

The main car park also needs refurbishment, quotes are being obtained and as above we will endeavour to resolve this during 2016.

Tees on the course

Until we upgrade our watering system there is little point in spending money on the tees. Our current system is antiquated, for example, If we want to water the 17th tee, the sprinklers come on in unison with the 3rd green, meaning to thoroughly water the 17th tee we would have to flood the 3rd green. Quotes have been received for an upgrade to the watering system.

Numerous comments were noted regarding wear and tear on the tees due to the majority of golf being played from the white tees, therefore concentrating the wear areas. Many comments suggested that we enforce a tee of the day or restrict play to the whites for competitions only. As a committee we feel that giving our members the choice of teeing area is important, largely due to the difference in length between our white and yellow course.

Limiting play from the white tees would help negate high wear areas, as would discarding of the blue tees completely, offering greater scope for white tee movement. Since there are varying opinions on this subject and we are keen to improve the teeing areas, In the near future I will be sending a specific 'tee box' survey in order to gauge opinion.

We will shortly be making this upgrade to the watering system, offering the opportunity of tee refurbishment as an ongoing priority.

Pathways around the course.

Like the car park, consideration had already been given to the improvement of pathways around the course. It is accepted that some of the pathways are more like worn areas and some manmade pathways are in need of repair.

A new zig-zag style path will be added to the left side of the 1st hole, easing the climb from the bottom of the dip up toward the green. Work on this pathway will commence during March.

Improvements have already been made to the pathway on the 7th, delineating the walkway, stopping trolleys and buggies from encroaching on the wet areas in front of the pond and collapsing the edges of the path when doing so.

We have also defined the walkway around the back of the 3rd green up to the 2nd tee, keeping golfers away from the back of the 3rd green will really help growth around this area.

The unpleasant smell

The smell around the clubhouse and occasionally within the clubhouse emanates from the fat trap. We are more than aware that this impacts our ability to attract customers who might socialise at the club. We have endeavoured to resolve this issue for the past two years with little success so far. Our only solution is to move said fat trap further away from the building. Ideas and associated costs are being explored. We will resolve this issue with haste.

Finance

The cost of these improvements will not impact on our existing plans to complete the bunker programme, maintain the course at least at its current playing standard, and continue to improve our machinery.

The improvements required/requested had been built into our future spending plans, however from the feedback received it is clear that some of this investment must be brought forwards or altered accordingly. In order to fund some of these projects, we are likely to need a bank loan.

We are trying to deal with these necessary improvements as a matter of urgency, and as soon as we have a clear idea of the total costs and time scales, we will report back to the membership on our plans before proceeding.

Thank you again for your input and necessary feedback. I hope the above illustrates the committees desire to act in the best interests of the club and it's membership.

Kind Regards
Rob