

Sand Martins Golf Club

Five-Year Plan 2019 - 2024

In 2012 we announced a five year rolling programme of proposed improvements to be carried out on the golf course here at Sand Martins. Many of the items listed in the original plan have been successfully completed and we carried out a further review in 2015. Much of that work has also been completed.

We have achieved this by a process of continued investment in our product and by adopting a strategic approach to undertaking the works.

The very nature of the type of works carried out by us has meant that some planned works have been delayed whilst unscheduled works have had to take priority.

The amendments to the plans were designed to continue the process of upgrading our course and taking it to the next level.

As part of our total commitment of creating a Club of lasting quality for the enjoyment of its Members, we have recently carried out a further review with input from our golf course specialist. Alan Leather, alongside Andrew Hall and myself, and this has resulted in an agreed set of objectives and improvements which are set out below and on the accompanying plan.

Your continued support in helping the Club in our quest for excellence is greatly appreciated.

Key objectives:

To improve course appearance, playability, interest, drainage and safety.

To further enhance the character of the course.

To continue to refurbish heavily used areas with longer term solutions

To adopt "best practice" to improve course maintenance.

To introduce measures to ensure that members of all ages and handicaps can find playing Sand Martins, an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

General amendments – the principle areas to be worked on are:

Complete the installation of "Back to Back" sprinklers to achieve 360-degree water coverage thereby enhancing the grass coverage to all greenside surrounds.

Over seed roughs and mounding on back nine holes with mixture of rye and fescue grasses.

Introduce new areas of planting and mounding to help define greens and protect driveway.

Formation of sleeper entrances to tees.

Refurbishment of bunker faces with artificial turf.

Complete work to enhance the character of feature holes.

Introduction of Lifetime tees aimed at Academy students and veteran golfers.

Specific amendments:

Driving Range and Practice Areas

The new purpose built covered driving range building with its specialist teaching area and club fitting & coaching studio has been successfully completed and this will be enhanced by rebuilding the Pitching Green and its approach and by raising and rebuilding the practice chipping tee.

New drainage will be installed on both the approach and the tee area.

Driving Range: Safety Netting / Flood Lighting

The safety netting along the right hand side of the driving range will be extended along the remaining boundaries to improve safety.

Up-lighting will be installed on the driving range to extend the hours for members to practice in accordance with the Planning Consent issued by Wokingham Council.

Hole 1

Construct new starters hut to compliment the new raised tees.
Rebuild & raise ladies tee & add irrigation.
Build new Lifetime tee.
Refurbish bunker on dogleg.
Reform mound on outer edge of right hand side of fairway and replant.
Install new drainage lines in second half of fairway and drain to ditch through new retention pond.
Plant a new copse to the rear of the green.

Hole 2

Build new Lifetime tee.
Add new tree planting along out of bounds line.
Insert additional drainage and over-seed fairway.
Create sleeper retaining wall to front edge of green.
Extend front of green and build pot bunker on right hand side.
Drain right hand side of green surround.
Build fence along public footpath.

Hole 3

Rebuild ladies tee and add irrigation.
Build Lifetime tee.
Add new tree planting to south of pond and reshape fairway.
Reshape fairway and add new planting on right hand side.
Rebuild fence along the public footpath.
Add mounding in rough to right hand side of fairway and to rear of green.
Reshape fairway on left hand side of green approach.

Hole 4

Extend right hand side of white tee to provide better visibility.
Build Lifetime tee.
Increase mounding at rear of green.

Hole 5

Build Lifetime tee.
Reshape tees.
Refurbish two RH fairway bunkers
Reshape fairway and green approach.
Refurbish RH greenside bunker.
Add new planting to left, right and behind green.

Hole 6

Build Lifetime tee.
Change the soil structure in the drive landing area by using a sand mixture & over seeding.
Reshape fairway beyond left hand birch trees and add bunker in rough.
Over-seed the banks on left side of green with rye fescue mix.

Hole 7

Build Lifetime tee.
Plant fescue grasses.
Rebuild RH fairway bunker, form two smaller bunkers and reshape fairway.
Reshape rear portion of green and form run off area.

Hole 8

Build Lifetime tee.
Add new planting to rear of tees.
Refurbish greenside bunkers with grassed rollover top edges.
Add back to back sprinklers.

Hole 9

Build Lifetime tee.
Rebuild men's yellow tee and ladies tee and install irrigation
Refurbish & reduce second LH fairway bunker.
Extend buggy path through natural mounding to left side of green.

Hole 10

Reshape & raise tees.

Build Lifetime tee.

Remove remains of right hand mound.

Reshape fairway on left hand side to run to right of existing mound.

Extend and reshape mounding on right hand side and reshape fairway.

Form fairway bunker in new RH hand banking.

Hole 11

Rebuild and raise tees.

Build Lifetime tee.

Add new planting to right hand side of green.

Hole 12

Rebuild white and yellow tees

Build Lifetime tee.

Add planting between 12th tee & 11th green.

Hole 13

Reshape tees.

Build Lifetime tee.

Clean face of right hand side mound and hydro-seed as necessary.

Reshape right hand side of fairway.

Refurbish double bunker on right hand side.

Reshape left hand bunker near driveway.

Add back to back sprinklers on green surround.

Hole 14

Build Lifetime tee.

Install drainage on tees.

Add back to back sprinklers on green surround.

Hole 15

Build Lifetime tee.

On the site of the old bunker on left of fairway, replace with planting

Add new planting on right hand side of fairway, above and below banking.

Clean and reshape the bank to expose sand face (as per 13th hole).

Form a grass hollow to right of green and drain to new ditch.

Add back to back sprinklers on green surround.

Hole 16

Build Lifetime tee.

Fill second open ditch crossing fairway and replace with land drain system extending into fairway low spots.

Add back to back sprinklers.

Add new planting to mounds at right hand side of fairway near green.

Hole 17

Complete new raised competition tee and restore landscaping.

Build Lifetime tee.

Reduce right hand side of green and increase fringe.

Extend remodelled rear bank further south towards 18th tee.

Add back to back sprinklers.

Introduce new sprinkler to right of pond.

Extend left side of green and add approach drainage.

Hole 18

Build Lifetime tee.

Refurbish right hand fairway bunker.

Add second bunker beyond first and reshape fairway.

Add land drainage to fairway.

Refurbish left and right hand approach bunkers.

Matthew Short - General Manager

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