



## **Five-Year Vision 2022 – 2027**

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 previous versions have been successfully completed. We carried out further reviews in 2015, 2019 and again in 2022.

We have achieved this by a process of continued investment in our golf course 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 evolution continues and the amendments to the plans are 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 architect David Jones. David and I have agreed a 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 a mix of fine leaved 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, new, 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.

Rebuild pitching green

Raise chipping area for practice green

Winter chipping mats (Huxley mat) and all weather path - Complete

Refurbishing the practice bunker – Complete

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

Install artificial greens and bunkers to landing area of practice ground for more accurate target practice, subtle mounding will be added for improved aesthetics.

### **Driving Range: Safety Netting / Flood Lighting**

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

Floodlighting (up lighting) to 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 - Complete

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 & grow long rough.

### **Hole 2**

Build new Lifetime tee - Complete

Add new tree planting along out of bounds line to cover view of new greenkeeper compound.

Insert additional drainage to fairway.

Create sleeper retaining wall to front edge of green, re-shape and realign pond.

Install all weather path from fairway to right hand side of green.

Extend front of green and build pot bunker on front right of green.

Drain green right hand side surround, walk on/off.

Build fence along public footpath.

### **Hole 3**

Rebuild and extend white tee, raise height of yellow tee

Improve ladies tee irrigation.

Build Lifetime tee – Complete.

Extend fairway closer to the tees – Complete

Reshape fairway and add new planting on right hand side of hole.

Rebuild fence along the public footpath.

Add mounding in rough to right hand side of fairway and green surround.

Reshape and rebuild all bunkers.

### **Hole 4**

Extend white tee to provide better playability - Complete.

Build Lifetime tee.

Increase mounding at rear of green.

Build new bunker front right of green

Increase planting to rear of green

**Hole 5**

Build Lifetime tee.

Reshape tees, extend and raise white teeing area.

Refurbish two right hand side fairway bunkers – Complete. Improve mounding around both fairway bunkers

Reshape fairway and green approach.

Refurbish right greenside bunker – Complete

New mounding to rear of green

Add new planting to left, right and rear of green.

**Hole 6**

Extend white tee to left hand side

Build Lifetime tee (x2).

Change 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 semi rough.

Reshape fescue - Complete

Over-seed the banks on left side of green with rye fescue mix.

Reshape and rebuild left hand greenside bunker

Improve and increase mounding at rear of green

**Hole 7**

Extend path from tee to fairway - Complete

Build Lifetime tee.

Plant fescue grasses.

Rebuild RH fairway bunker (split into 2) – Complete. Improve mounding around these bunkers.

Reshape rear portion of green and form run off area and improve green mounding.

**Hole 8**

Build Lifetime tee.

Add new planting to rear of tees.

Refurbish greenside bunkers - Complete

Add back to back sprinklers

Improve mounding around green

**Hole 9**

Build Lifetime tee

Form new ladies tee

Rebuild and extend white tee and install irrigation

Refurbish & reduce size of both fairway bunkers.

Extend buggy path through natural mounding to left side of green.

Reshape RH greenside bunker

**Hole 10**

Reshape & raise tees.

Build Lifetime tee.

Reinstate right hand mound to former size and stabilize

Form right hand greenside bunker and reduce hollow.

**Hole 11**

Rebuild and raise tees.

Add planting to rear of tees

Build Lifetime tee.

Refurbish fairway bunkers - Complete

Add new planting to right hand side of green.

**Hole 12**

Rebuild white and yellow tee

Build Lifetime tee.

Add planting between 12<sup>th</sup> tee & 11<sup>th</sup> green.

**Hole 13**

Reshape tees.

Build Lifetime tee - Complete

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

Reshape right hand side of fairway and extend to right of double bunker, additional irrigation required

Reshape and rebuild both left hand side bunkers near driveway.

Add back to back sprinklers on green surround.

Additional planting at rear of green

**Hole 14**

Build new white championship tee

Build Lifetime tee.

Improve drainage on existing tees.

Reshape approach and add irrigation

Refurbish all green side bunkers - Complete

Add back to back sprinklers

Form mounding between 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> green

**Hole 15**

Build Lifetime tee.

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

Clean and reshape the bank to expose sand face (as per 13<sup>th</sup> hole), hydro-seed for stability

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

Add back to back sprinkler

**Hole 16**

Build Lifetime tee - Complete

Fill both ditches, install land drain system extending into fairway low spots.

Improve fairways drainage

Extend/enlarge both ponds, add liner to both ponds to maintain water all year round

Level fairway in landing zone from tee (subtle sloping)

Add back to back sprinklers.

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

**Hole 17**

New raised competition tee - Complete

Add yellow tee option in same area.

Build Lifetime tee.

Extend remodelled rear bank further south towards 18<sup>th</sup> tee

Add back to back sprinklers.

Introduce new sprinkler to right of pond.

Add approach drainage.

**Hole 18**

Build Lifetime tee - Complete

Refurbish right hand fairway bunker.

Add second bunker beyond first and reshape fairway.

Add drainage to fairway.

Refurbish right hand approach bunker.

Fill left hand approach bunker and form new left hand greenside bunker

**Matthew Short**

**General Manager**

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