



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

10 October 2017

5.00 pm

West Herts Golf Club

Publication date: 2 October 2017

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Committee Membership

Councillors: J Dhindsa, D Scudder, P Taylor and D Walford

Agenda

Part A - Open to the Public

1. Election of chair

To elect a chair for the meeting

2. Apologies

3. Disclosure of Interests

4. Minutes (Pages 5 - 9)

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2016 to be submitted and signed.

5. Course usage update (Page 10)

A copy of the course usage data is attached.

6. Course closures 2018 (Page 11)

A list of course closures in 2017 is attached.

7. Green fee rate 2018 (Page 12)

The green fee rates for 2018 are attached.

8. Booking schedule

9. Any other business

**Watford Borough Council and West Herts Golf Club
Joint Consultative Committee**

4 October 2016

Present: West Herts Golf Club

David Rogers (Chair)
John Baldwin
Ken Connelly
Jonathan Kaltner (General Manager)

Watford Borough Council

Councillor J Dhindsa
Councillor P Taylor
Councillor D Walford

Gary Oliver Culture and Play Section Head
Ishbel Morren Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer

1. Election of chair

David Rogers was elected chair for the meeting.

It was noted that Eric Woodward remained president of West Herts Golf Club and chair of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC).

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Scudder and Eric Woodward.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015 were agreed and signed.

4. Course usage update

The General Manager outlined the figures for the previous 12 months – a rolling year beginning in September 2015.

Whilst there was some variation in course usage amongst Watford residents on a month by month basis, the flexible 'Lifestyle' membership (aimed at players seeking

more accessible and affordable club arrangements) had continued to improve the number of Watford residents playing golf at West Herts Golf Club over the year. 'Lifestyle' membership had grown from 50 in 2015 to 90 in 2016, of which around 90% were Watford residents.

There followed a discussion about the membership monitoring carried out by the Golf Club. It was agreed that from January 2017, an equalities monitoring form should be included in the Club's membership forms (including renewal forms). The Culture and Play Section Head would provide the Club with a suitable example.

In addition, the Club agreed to analyse more precisely which of its members with WD postcodes lived within the borough of Watford.

Action –

1. From January 2017, an equalities monitoring form should be included in the Club's membership forms (including renewal forms).
2. The Culture and Play Section Head would provide an example of an equalities monitoring form for use by the Club.
3. West Herts Golf Club would analyse its members with WD postcodes to ascertain how many lived in the borough of Watford.

5. **Course closures 2017**

The course closure dates, advising when special events would be taking place in 2017, were noted. These were within the terms of the Joint User Agreement.

It was proposed that the Club should consider including a public open day in its schedule of course closures to encourage the wider participation of Watford residents.

Action –

1. West Herts Golf Club should consider an additional public open day in its schedule of course closures.

6. **Green fee rate 2017**

The General Manager reported that the Club was proposing an increase in the Friday green fee rate in 2017 from £26 to £30 per round. This was in response to rising demand for play on a Friday. The proposal was being put forward by the Club following research into the rates charged in comparable clubs in the surrounding area. All other rates would remain unchanged.

Councillor Dhindsa expressed his concern at the extent of the rate increase in

percentage terms, which he did not support.

It was questioned whether the increase might be offset by reductions in the rates charged at other times in the week, or could be spread over two years.

It was agreed by majority that the JCC should recommend to the Club and the Council an increase in green fees on Fridays from £26 to £30.

In a separate line of enquiry, the weekend rates charged for junior players were queried. The General Manager agreed to clarify the full schedule of rates for 2017 and circulate this to the JCC.

Action –

1. An increase in green fees on Fridays from £26 to £30 should be recommended to the Club and the Council.
2. The General Manager should investigate the full schedule of rates proposed for 2017 to assess the scope for any reductions and to clarify the weekend rates charged for junior players. The schedule of rates should then be recirculated to the JCC.

7. Booking schedule

Following earlier discussion of the booking schedule, the JCC agreed to recommend to the Club and the Council that changes to the Joint User Agreement should be continued.

In addition, it was agreed that the changes to the Joint User Agreement should be continued unless (or until) either the Club or the Council notified the JCC that they wished to revert to the previous arrangements (or adopt alternative arrangements). This would remove the need for the JCC to recommend changes to the fee bookings every year.

Action –

1. The General Manager should send the necessary documentation to the Legal and Democratic Services Section Head in order to extend changes to fee bookings and to the Joint User Agreement. These changes should be continued unless (or until) either the Club or the Council notified the JCC that they wished to revert to the previous arrangements (or adopt alternative arrangements).

8. Any other business

Disciplinary Matters

Following previous discussions on the role of the JCC in regard to internal disciplinary matters concerning Club members, it was confirmed that the JCC's role was limited.

Essentially, the terms of reference of the JCC did not extend to the discipline of Club members, except in regard to consider and resolve the unreasonable refusal by the Club of an application for membership. In regard to public players, the JCC was able to consider and resolve appeals by a public player against disciplinary action by the Club. A fuller explanation had been sent to the General Manager by the Legal and Democratic Services Section Head.

Chair's overview

The Chair updated the committee on the following:

1. Jonathan Kaltner had taken over from Steve Barrett as General Manager of West Herts Golf Club in March 2016.
2. Catering operations at the Club had been brought in-house in order to improve the standard of customer service. Using TUPE arrangements, staff had been transferred across to become Club employees.
3. The Club had reported a modest £19,000 trading surplus in the financial year ending 31 December 2015.
4. A VAT refund for the Club was anticipated from HMRC.
5. There had been significant investment in the course and Club facilities in the past year. As a part of this investment and renewal process, the Club had been in discussions with West Herts College. This was aimed at involving students in catering activities as part of their course curriculum work.

It was suggested that the Club should investigate whether government training grants were available for its activities with West Herts College.

Joint User Agreement

John Baldwin noted that the Joint User Agreement was now 20 years old. A great many changes had taken place in the Club during the intervening period and it was proposed to review and possibly rewrite the agreement.

The Club was advised that the starting point for this process should be a clear, written proposal from them setting out precisely what changes were sought. Following this, agreement would need to be reached on how best to take the proposals forward, e.g., at an extraordinary JCC meeting or by establishing a working group.

Squatters

Ken Connelly reported that the Club had been experiencing difficulties with squatters in the area known as the Dell. This had both hygiene and waste disposal implications. Contact with the park's ranger service had not proved helpful. The

Culture and Play Section Head advised that he would intervene to see if the problem could be resolved.

Action –

1. The Club should investigate whether government training grants were available for its activities with West Herts College.
2. The Culture and Play Section Head would speak to the park ranger service to see what assistance could be given to the Club to alleviate the squatter problem in the Dell.

Chair

Watford Borough Council and West
Herts Golf Club Joint Consultative
Committee

The meeting started at 5.00 pm
and finished at 6.35 pm

EVERYONE ACTIVE PASS HOLDERS													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2017													
ACTUAL	15	31	43	123	114	97	168	90	143	97	76	39	1036
TARGET	100	100	200	300	300	300	300	300	300	200	100	100	2600
(+/-)													
YTD ACTUAL	15	46	89	212	326	423	591	681	824	921	997	1036	
YTD TARGET	100	200	400	700	1000	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2500	2600	2600
(+/-)													
PASS HOLDERS RESIDENTS													
2000	171	194	229	266	386	353	379	372	318	237	185	77	3167
2001	113	104	201	259	326	351	372	384	364	266	180	108	3028
2002	125	114	185	282	268	312	298	306	324	146	112	84	2556
2003	115	84	203	265	335	316	283	274	258	216	109	59	2517
2004	68	115	91	190	249	159	158	228	184	88	70	91	1691
2005	67	53	49	162	168	146	170	124	120	108	61	29	1257
2006	45	38	31	105	99	111	159	134	172	126	76	31	1127
2007	28	25	76	155	88	110	107	104	70	71	62	22	918
2008	26	31	63	92	100	93	107	144	78	106	42	33	915
2009	24	24	86	93	137	86	132	143	97	130	49	16	1017
2010	16	15	81	176	177	143	214	159	161	144	48	7	1341
2011	60	119	117	348	284	236	306	325	114	174	107	55	2245
2012	83	47	204	193	192	144	90	195	143	88	44	7	1430
2013	34	16	59	106	94	179	159	144	96	79	43	32	1041
2014	19	38	96	107	93	110	151	106	116	106	32	17	991
2015	16	11	76	125	182	292	278	175	127	115	43	69	1509
2016	14	48	69	121	185	88	172	154	129	94	67	39	1180
2017	15	30	39	121	112	95	160	83					
(+/-)	7%	(38%)	(43%)	0%	(39%)	8%	(7%)	(46%)	2%	(18%)	56%	(43%)	(22%)
PASS HOLDERS NON RESIDENTS													
2000	6	4	11	7	12	15	31	18	9	9	5	1	128
2001	1	1	5	19	8	4	1	1	2	1	4	0	47
2002	2	3	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	13	29	33	4	6	115
2004	5	5	13	25	19	11	9	33	19	14	7	9	169
2005	2	7	5	21	22	17	21	6	7	9	2	0	119
2006	0	2	0	2	1	6	14	4	3	3	3	0	38
2007	0	5	1	2	6	4	9	1	0	0	0	0	28
2008	0	5	3	2	4	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	23
2009	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
2010	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
2011	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	7	11	3	1	26
2012	3	2	10	13	11	7	12	3	3	3	1	0	68
2013	0	0	2	6	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	18
2014	0	2	0	12	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
2015	1	4	27	28	14	14	26	14	10	0	0	0	138
2016	0	0	0	8	4	6	1	7	14	3	9	0	52
2017	0	1	4	2	2	2	8	7					

Blue denotes 2016 figures

2018 Course Closures

Events which preclude ordinary play for both the Public and Club Members:

1. 12.05.18 WHGC Men's Spring Meeting
2. 07.07.18 WHGC Captain's Day
3. 09.09.18 WHGC Club Championship
4. 16.09.18 WHGC Finals Day
5. 09.12.18 Christmas Grand Charity Event

Events which will result in changed times for access by the Public and Club Members:

1. 15.04.18 Captains Drive in
2. 21.04.18 WHGC St George's Day Meeting
3. 14.07.18 WHGC Club Open Day & BBQ
4. 13.06.18 WHGC Senior Open
5. 12.08.18 WHGC Mixed Invitation
6. 03.09.18 WHGC Ladies Open
7. 29.06.18 WHGC Mens Invitation
8. 27.12.18 WHGC Mixed Shotgun Event



WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB

GREEN FEES

Proposed from 1st January 2018

		Mon-Thurs	Fridays	Weekend
WATFORD RESIDENTS	LP01	£28.00	£30.00	£35.00
(EA CARDS - WD17, 18, 19, 24, 25)				
CONCESSIONARY (OVER 65)		£23.00	£24.00	£28.00
NON RESIDENTS	LP02	£38.00	£44.00	£54.00
(EA CARDS –ANY OTHER POSTCODES)				
CONCESSIONARY (OVER 65)		£30.00	£35.00	£43.00
VISITORS	18 HOLES	£52.00	£60.00	£70.00
	ALL DAY	£72.00	£20.00	N/A
	JUNIORS	£22.00	£24.00	£27.00
PRACTICE ROUND	ADULTS	£28.00		
(ANY DAY)	JUNIORS	£11.00		
MEMBERS GUESTS	18 HOLES	£28.00	£30.00	£35.00
	ALL DAY	£41.00	£43.00	£48.00
	JUNIORS	£16.00	£20.00	£26.00
	13 HOLES	£21.00	£25.00	£29.00
COUNTY CARD	£28.00			
(MIDWEEK ONLY)				