



Deeside Course Policy Document

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB - COURSE POLICY

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DEESIDE GOLF CLUB - COURSE POLICY

1 Introduction

1.1 Aims

This document sets out the policy of the golf club regarding all matters impacting on course maintenance and preparation, as agreed by the Council. The aim of the document is to establish a clear and consistent approach to course management to fulfil the potential of the courses for the members, their guests and visitors.

The document will lay out the vision for the courses, provide long term continuity for the management of the courses as set out within the Club Strategic Plan and should be reviewed as and when required.

The Aims for the Haughton and Blairs Courses as agreed are as follows:

Haughton:

To be presented to a high standard in accordance with the Club's Course Policy, and to provide a challenging, but rewarding experience for all abilities.

Blairs:

To be playable and enjoyable, delivered with exceptional presentation, consistent with it being an important complementary golfing experience for all members.

Mission Statement

- To employ "best practice management" to present Deeside as the leading inland golf course in the North East of Scotland.
- To utilise, within the resources of the members, modern greenkeeping equipment and trained greenkeeping staff.
- To enable members, guests and visitors, to experience the unique playing environment at Deeside Golf Club.

To Enable Objectives:

- Good environmental practices will drive the selection and application of products that can be used on the golf course.
- Resource management will be continually assessed to ensure that best practice and technology is applied whenever possible.
- The course will be maintained so that excellent playing conditions exist for all standards of golfers.
- The golf course should play on a daily basis, and be prepared in line with the prescribed standards. (Weather limitations permitting)
- The goal of the Greens team is to limit their maintenance activities that will minimise player interference and to present the golf courses as consistently as possible.
- These objectives will be met within an overall annual capital and maintenance budget prepared by the Course Manager, along with the Greens Convener, Finance Convener, and approved by the Council.

1.2 Club History

Deeside Golf Club was founded in March 1903.

Various changes to the original course and facilities have taken place over the years leading to the Club now having an 18 Hole Championship layout (Haughton course), 9 Hole layout (Blairs course), 8 bay Driving Range and a 1,200m² short game facility.

A full history of the club can be found in **Appendix A**.

1.3 The Courses

The two courses at Deeside are set in just over 150 acres of historic park land, with some very mature trees covering the site.

The Haughton Course is made up of 5 holes of the original course constructed back in the early 1900s with the remaining holes built in the late 1990s.

The course has a mixture of old soil greens and newer USGA constructed greens. The course is formed on soil ranging from sandy loam to shingle and from silt to peat. This range of soils makes it a very challenging site to maintain. The course has a burn/ditch complex running through it and 3 holes with water hazards. It plays just over 6400 yards from the Black tees.

The Blairs course is a 9-hole course made up of many of the original Haughton course holes. It is a short course but with tree lined fairways and burns/ditches and is still a challenging course. Seven of the greens are old soil greens and two are of USGA construction. The soil on this part of the site is mainly a sandy loam.

The whole site is on a flood plain and requires constant drainage improvements and aeration work. Over the years it has proved impossible to totally stop flood water from the adjacent river Dee entering the course, therefore work is continually ongoing on ideas and methods to evacuate flood water off the site as quickly as possible.

In the past few years large outflow pipes (900mm diameter) complete with non-return flapper valves have been installed, and improvements made to the burn complex running through the site to allow for quicker movement of water and improved waterflow from the courses back into the river Dee.

Scorecards for both courses can be found in **Appendix B**.

1.4 Health and Safety

Deeside Golf Club is responsible for maintaining a healthy and safe workplace for all greens staff, seasonal workers and volunteers. The Club will ensure that we conform to all Health and Safety requirements as applicable to all staff.

The Club maintains a safety policy in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. All greens staff are required to be familiar with and to adhere to this policy. The Club

will provide all staff with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to carry out their daily work activities safely.

The Course Manager will be responsible daily for maintaining and updating the policy relating to green keeping issues.

The Club will ensure that there are always qualified First Aiders available during working hours. Refreshment training will be carried out at recommended intervals in accordance with industry standards i.e. every 3 years.

A general risk assessment for the yard, buildings, work equipment and golf course (a specific hole by hole) will be maintained and reviewed at regular intervals, this will cover:

- Machinery and the workplace. (noise and vibration)
- The control of substances hazardous to health. (COSHH) regulations
- Manual Handling.
- Working at heights and in confined spaces.
- Working alone.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Council

- Overall direction and control of the Club, including determining policy, approving plans and setting budget controls.
- Consultation on any changes to this policy document and approval of any significant changes that may affect the play of the courses.
- Approval of any alterations to be carried out to the Courses.

2.2 Greens Convenor

- Providing strategic guidance, in conjunction with Council to the Course Manager on the continued development and improvement of the golf courses as laid down in this Course Policy Document and within the approved budget.
- Presenting the courses to members' satisfaction in conjunction with the Course Manager and the Greens Team, ensuring effective and safe delivery of the regular maintenance programme, within the approved annual budget.
- In conjunction with the Course Manager preparing and posting relevant member information notices as required, e.g. Winter Development Plan, Winter Trolley rules, Course Etiquette reminder etc.
- **On an annual basis, review the general risk assessment with the Course Manager.**

Key Duties of the Greens Convenor are contained in **Appendix C**.

2.3 Course Manager

- Supervision and management of all members of the Greens Team.
- Day-to-day implementation of agreed course management strategies and delivery of the courses in accordance with this document.
- Preparation of all required budget proposals, staff performance and Health & Safety issues relating to course management.
- Informing Members of impending works on the golf course which will disrupt play.

Key Duties of the Course Manager are contained in **Appendix D**.

2.4 Members, their guests and visitors

Members shall observe basic course Etiquette which specifically includes:

- Repairing pitch marks on greens.
- Replacing divots and treading them in.
- Picking up litter and placing it in the nearest bin.
- Carefully raking bunkers pushing sand towards the face rather than away from it.
- Replacing rakes inside the bunkers, in an area least likely to affect play, preferably at a point in the bunker furthest from the tee.
- Avoid taking buggies and trolleys on greens, green surrounds/approaches and tees.
- Removing and replacing the flagstick carefully to avoid damaging the hole or the putting green.
- Refrain from dropping the flagstick on the putting green.
- Following traffic control measures that include signage, barrier hoops and ropes and stakes to prevent golfers walking on affected areas.

- Communicating any matters relating to the golf course and its upkeep to the Club Manager in writing. (Members should refrain from directing complaints to the Course Manager or his staff directly).

If these simple things are followed it will make it easier to keep the courses in better condition.

All members should note the following:

The Green keeping staff have priority over any golfer on the Courses before 8:00 hours. Golfers teeing off between 06:00 and 07:00 hours and not playing in a recognised competition will have no status on the course and must give way to the Greens' team.

3 Course Management Objectives and Procedures

3.1 Greens

Green surfaces are the ultimate measure of all great golf courses. Every effort must be made to protect and preserve the finest greens surfaces available. The objective is to have putting surfaces with evenly comparable pace, smoothness, firmness and overall uniformity.

The underlying objectives of putting surface management are to:

- Provide a putting surface within the target guidelines of STRI for as much of the year as possible barring frost, snow and flood damage.
- Build in the potential to produce exceptionally high standards of putting surface for short periods at intervals through the main growing season. (Due to the extra stress placed on the grass plant to achieve this it can only be sustained for Championships)
- Promote a good level of consistency between putting greens on a daily basis.
- Provide surfaces of tidy appearance.
- Provide surfaces free of disease blemishes and moss.
- Achieve a STIMP outcome of between 9 and 10 feet for the club championship week.

The above will be achieved by promoting firm and dry surfaces. Soft, holding surfaces are to be wholly discouraged.

A set of measurements is taken for each of the following characteristics on greens, the data and results are then analysed against the STRI target guidelines and the correlation between the results is identified:

- Firmness
- Smoothness
- Trueness
- Speed
- Moisture levels
- Soil analysis
- Organic matter content at 0-20, 20-40, 40-60 and 60-80mm depths.
- Soil moisture content

These measurements are taken once a year as part of the STRI programme, and then by other sampling during the season.

Maintenance of the course and in particular the greens can be categorised into either “in season” or “off season” however all are weather dependant and may vary based on current and forecast weather conditions.

In Season Maintenance

Generally routine maintenance through the playing season will include:

- Mowing to a height of between 3.5 and 4mm. Mowing heights and frequency of cutting are the responsibility of the Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper and depends on their reading of future weather conditions, forthcoming events and current ground conditions.
- Regular aeration throughout the year using a variety of methods including solid tining, slit tining, verti-draining, hollow tining, grooming, verti-cutting, micro-coring, injecting compressed air, sand injection and scarifying.
- The greens will be overseeded with bent grass to try and improve the quality of the putting surfaces.
- Spiking during the months of May to September utilising 6mm tines as this causes minimum disruption to the playing surface.
- Hole positions will be relocated on a regular basis and always for main competition events. Hole cutter blades must always be sharp and trimming scissors shall be used each day for best presentation. For special events, white paint to tops of holes will be applied.
- Pin positions will be changed 3 times a week during the months of June, July and August, subject to resource constraints, weather and ground conditions. Pin positions will be changed twice a week during the rest of the playing season and then as required during the winter months.
- Application of fertilisers and dressings shall be intermittent as determined by the Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper.
- The application of fungicides shall be as required to treat and prevent grass diseases.
- Winter greens and tees shall be prepared in late summer to allow the best surface for play during the winter months.

Grass species on the greens vary from surface to surface but are mainly dominated by annual meadow grass (poa annua). We are working to change to a more bent grass dominated putting surface.

Greens will be mown / ironed regularly through the growing season at a height of 4 mm This will be raised to an appropriate height when winter or ground conditions prevail, mowing often enough with hand machines to retain a uniform, neat surface. Greens mowing will be completed with pedestrian machines during the growing season for designated competitions subject to availability of resources. From June through to end of August the Greens team will target to hand mower the Greens 3 times a week.

Monthly use of the Air2g2 machine will inject compressed air through the root zone to relive compaction deeper down and aid drainage.

Pencil tining on the greens and collars will be carried out approximately every four weeks, with small amounts of dressing brushed-in each time to produce good putting surfaces with sufficient aeration to promote healthy growth in the greens.

Yearly top-dressing application should exceed 150 tonnes. This approach will reduce the need for hollow tining with large (16mm diameter) tines.

Deep scarification, aeration and top-dressing programmes should be formulated to reduce layers of compaction to the soil profile through depth.

A programme of autumn verti-draining, winter slitting and shallow star slitting / narrow gauge solid tining through the spring and summer will be maintained to ensure good surfaces.

To prevent thatch on the greens we will operate a system of frequent routine aeration.

Reduced compaction will be achieved by verti-draining in during the autumn and winter months, utilising 12 mm tines. Fertiliser, with low phosphate input, unless chemical analysis indicates deficiency, and irrigation will be provided to a minimum level, merely to redress wear in order to retain a dense turf of fine texture. Liquid fertilisers will be used on a little and often basis throughout the playing season with occasional use of a granular fertiliser. Through the autumn and winter period a liquid turf hardener tank mix will be used to maintain colour, strength and disease prevention.

Wetting agents should be applied as appropriate through a sprayer as deemed necessary by the Course Manager throughout the year.

The use of chemicals on the course will be kept to a minimum, we will comply with manufacturers guidelines and minimise the risk off 'run off ' into the river Dee.

Off season Maintenance

- Main greens maintenance work will be carried out in September the dates for which shall be noted in the club diary. This process strengthens the deeper rooting grasses, relieves compaction and removes thatch. Heavy top-dressing application after hollow coring will be carried to fill all the aeration holes created.
- Spiking in the Winter and Autumn will utilise 12mm diameter tines. The greens will be top dressed after spiking.
- Mowing shall be to heights as deemed appropriate by the Course Manager and Head Greenkeepers to maintain grass health, normally around 6mm.
- Aeration by means of solid tining, slitting etc
- Course improvements will be carried out via an approved winter programme. The Club will have a 5-year winter programme in place, that will be updated annually. Members will be notified in advance before this work is commenced.

On completion of the winter course improvements, the focus will shift to preparation of the courses for the coming playing season.

In particular the Pre-season check list will be followed for both courses to ensure that they are in as good condition as possible for the first scheduled competitions.

A copy of the Pre-season check list can be found in **Appendix E**

3.2 Approaches

The green approaches should be maintained to provide a smooth, well presented transition from fairway to putting green. This may include a close-cut collar and apron.

These areas will have a good level of grass consistency and be free draining.

The collar and immediate surround will be managed, except for cutting; in a similar manner to greens.

The collar will be mown a minimum of 2 times a week with a triplex mower to a height of 10mm.

The apron will be mown at 10mm a minimum of twice a week and as necessary over the winter to retain a tidy presentation.

To keep the approaches to the required standard they will receive annual maintenance, which will include hollow coring, sand injection, topdressing and over seeding. They will also be fertilised during the season as required.

Weed control measures to be taken as necessary.

3.3 Tees

The goal is to provide a well-grassed, firm level area from which to play a shot.

Tees should be well aligned and of adequate size to provide recovery capacity.

A seed and divot repair programme will take place continually during the regular golf season to promote a level consistent teeing surface.

All yardage markers and surrounds shall be kept neat and tidy.

The maintenance of tees is similar to that of green surrounds with regular aeration, controlled feeding and top dressing.

- Tees will be mowed 2 to 3 times per week at a height of 10-12mm depending on growth and weather conditions. Clippings will be boxed off.
- Divot marks will be repaired 2 to 3 times a week using a mix of sand, loam and seed.
- Aeration will be carried out on a regular basis throughout the year using a variety of methods including; verti-draining, hollow tining, verti-cutting and scarifying.
- Banks will be cut once or twice each week throughout the growing season. This will be carried out by ride on machinery where possible or flymo mower where not.
- Permanent tee markers will be maintained so that they are clearly visible, markers will be checked daily and changed as needed to utilise the greatest amount of teeing space.
- Markers will be moved to spread wear across the whole area.
- Five sets of tee blocks will be utilised Red, Blue, Yellow, White and Black.
- Weed control measures to be taken as necessary.

3.4 Fairways

The fairway area will be well defined as the ground lying between the carry from the tee and the green apron. Fairways shall be maintained at their current width any alterations only being made following Council approval.

The mowing of fairways should present an attractive appearance, producing a margin which complements natural and man-made features the aim being to provide firmness and a good cover of fine grasses.

Fairways will be cut to a height of 12-14mm at the necessary frequency to maintain neat and consistent surfaces (2-3 times per week during growing season). Fertiliser and irrigation shall be provided only as required to keep grass alive, not to present a lush and verdant course.

Aeration will be carried out to promote firm and dry playing surfaces throughout, concentrating on main traffic areas and known wet spots.

Fairway divot work will take place at least every 3 weeks or more often if required, with major landing areas and other high use areas being divoted more frequently.

Weed control measures will be taken as necessary.

3.5 Green Surrounds

The goal is to provide a well-presented transition from the surrounding rough area to the putting surface with uniform grass coverage by removal or thinning out some of the tufted grasses and replacing with a finer leafed plant. Wetting agents and nutrition will be applied to improve the quality of the surrounds on an as needed basis.

Maintenance will include verti-cutting, hollow coring, sand injection, topdressing and overseeding with finer leafed grasses and fertilising and weed control as necessary to produce a think uniform coverage.

During the playing season green surround cutting height will be 32mm.

3.6 Rough

The objective is to maintain rough at minimal levels while not compromising the aesthetics, severity of penalty, and speed of play.

Haughton

Semi rough at a width of 3.00m will be mown twice per week to a height of 32 mm to provide a nominal penalty to the wayward shot.

Rough will be mown weekly at a height of 62mm.

Both areas will be kept as weed free as possible.

Blairs

There will be no differentiation between the rough and semi rough on Blairs, all non-fairway or approach areas shall be cut to a height of 32 mm. Where possible all rough on the Blairs course will be cut by robots.

3.7 Bunkers

Bunkers will be maintained to provide hazards which collect balls to a central depression with adequate room for a full swing from this position.

They shall drain freely, be visible and influence play.

The sand used should be of a specification recommended by STRI and laid to a depth to provide for a consistent playing surface.

Ideal characteristics for the sand used in the bunkers should have most of its particles in the 0.125 to 1 mm range and be of a light tan colour to provide for good definition and contrast.

Bunkers shall:

- Contain the proper amount of sand well distributed within the bunker without rocks or other loose impediments.
- Contain clean and firm sand at a depth of 100 mm across the bunker floor, with depth tapering out on sloping walls. The top 8 to 12 mm of sand shall be kept looser by raking consistently.
- Be hand raked a minimum of 3 times per week and always on competition days during the playing season. When raking, the sand will be shaped to try to keep balls away from the edges of the bunkers so a full shot can be played.
- Shall have their edges trimmed as necessary to retain a clear definition to the hazard.
- Be of appropriate design relative to the character of the hole and course.
- Facilitate the fair presentation of the ball.
- Have adequate rakes placed in the middle of each bunker.
- Bunkers will have the faces smooth raked to help with compaction and reduce the likelihood of balls plugging. Bases will be raked as normal.

Bunkers will remain in play for as long as possible during the winter season. However, it is recognised that after a flood event, bunkers may become unplayable. The priority of the green staff is to get the course back in play at the earliest after a flood and bunker work will be a secondary priority. Dependent on latest weather and/or flood forecast, the Greens staff may bring some (all if possible) bunkers back into play; however this will be limited to one refill of 64 bunkers during the winter season i.e. some bunkers may require no refills and others may be refilled 2 to 3 times (maximum of 64 bunker refills in total).

3.8 Paths and Bridges

Paths will be kept weed free with clean edges, no potholes and covered in a dark grey granite dust or utilise rubber matting that allows grass to grow through the matting for areas of high wear and tear. Wetting agents and nutrition will be applied to improve the quality of the pathways and bridge ends on an as needed basis.

Grass pathways from greens to next tee box will be cut to a level of 32mm.

The Public footpath, which runs along the boundary of the course and the river Dee, shall be kept clear of excessive grass and weed growth. The path shall be two persons wide where possible. The purpose of keeping the public footpath clear is to encourage members of the public to use the path rather than enter the course.

3.9 Ponds

All ponds within the course will be maintained on a regular basis and have a number of ball scoops around them to allow the golfer to retrieve their ball.

Ponds will be well marked with yellow and red stakes. There will also be a paint line sprayed around the hazard to mark the edge. All ponds shall have a life ring installed at a point around the edge, which shall be checked on a biweekly basis.

Ponds shall be dredged as and when required to stop the build-up of leaves that could affect the installed fountains.

9th Hole Haughton

Shall have clear banks around the areas where the ball is likely to roll into the pond on the fairway side. This will allow golf balls to be found easily. An area of natural reed is to be left at the mouth of the pond by the 10th ditch to promote wildlife.

3rd and 18th Holes Haughton

Shall be maintained with clear edges on the play side to allow golf balls to be found. Both ponds have fountains installed to help with water movement and stop algae from forming on the surface.

3.10 Preparation for Daily Play

The courses shall be prepared for daily play by using various flagstick and tee block placements that challenge the golfers' thinking and maintain quality of turf by spreading wear and reducing stress over various cupping and tee block areas.

General Course setup:

- Greens will be checked with cups being changed every 2-3 days in-season and off- season as needed.
- Hole positions will be set based on the layout of circa 6 difficult, 6 medium and 6 easy pin positions. (Red Flag – Front, White Flag Middle and Yellow Flag back of the green)
- Tee markers will be checked daily and changed as needed to utilise the greatest amount of teeing space and all of the tee blocks.
- All waste bins and tee caddies shall be checked and emptied as required.
- Ball washers will be checked and water added as necessary when tee positions checked.

The course will be setup with an overall balance between the holes and tee positions to maintain the appropriate yardage.

On weekends and during member tournaments/medals, tee blocks will be located at or near the markers.

The greens' staff will choose the flagstick / hole-cup placements utilising a standard form using standard guidelines.

3.11 Course Closure Policy

The courses may be closed on the authority of the Course Manager or Head Professional, or in their absence the Head Greenkeeper on duty, when extreme and / or adverse weather

conditions occur and damage to the course, or risk to personal safety would result if play were permitted.

Such conditions would exist if the greens were largely waterlogged, if the course was flooded, strong winds and during severe frost and snow.

Should the course be closed for any reason the decision to reopen the course will rest with the Course Manager or his staff if they are available. Should they not be available then the Head Professional or his assistant will make the decision.

During a competition, play may be suspended or abandoned by the Head Professional or the Course Manager if conditions become unsuitable for play. This would not automatically close the course unless one of the persons set out above is present and considers that to be the appropriate course of action.

Every effort will be made to keep course closures to an absolute minimum. If the courses are closed this will be communicated by use of the website, 'Club V1' App and signage at the clubhouse and 1st tees.

Please refer to the Course Closure policy document for more detail.

3.12 Winter Golf

The course winter layout plan will be reviewed and updated each August. This document will be agreed between the Course manager and the Green's convenor. Members feedback will be sought and input into the plan where possible.

To help manage divots during the winter, tee mats will be used on the tees of all par 3 holes and other holes as per the winter course layout document and may also be used at the course managers discretion due to changing course conditions. Tee markers will be placed in other prepared areas to help reduce wear when needed.

During the winter period temporary greens will be used when there is a heavy frost, when the main greens are very wet or being worked on. During periods of frost there will be inspections throughout the day to see if the restrictions can be lifted. This will be communicated to members via the website and the 'Club V1' App.

Restrictions on trolleys and buggies will be placed on the Haughton Course during periods of frost, however trolleys with winter wheels will generally be allowed to be used on the course; members will be allowed to use their trolleys and buggies on the Blairs course.

This will be communicated by use of the club website and the 'Club V1' App.

3.13 Tree and Shrub Management

A long-term management tree planting / removal programme will be maintained. Particular attention will be given to optimising morning sunlight penetration and air flow around putting surfaces and greens complexes as a whole.

Tree trimming and maintenance will predominately be carried out in the winter months. Cherry picker will be hired into trim trees on a higher level were required.

Trees will be inspected annually by an Arboriculturist, and his recommendations will be followed for the maintenance of the trees.

3.14 Ecology

It is an important part of the Club's policy that we preserve as much of the natural habitat of birds, animals and flora of the course as possible.

The course cannot be left unattended – fallen trees must be removed; invading scrubs will be cut back when needed. Invading species such as Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed must be removed as per government guidelines.

On occasions, tree felling may be necessary when tree roots encroach greens or trees cause shade problems.

Trees which affect the course and prevent the growth of grass will also be lopped. This work will be implemented under the control of the Course Manager who always has to recognise the need for tree preservation.

Tree planting will take place when and where required with professional advice being sought when necessary. Only indigenous trees and shrubs that thrive in our climatic zone will be planted.

Certain animals/birds i.e. squirrels, rabbits, moles, badgers etc do damage to the course and will be controlled when required in accordance with the law.

The objective is to use the minimum amount of fertilisers commensurate with promoting healthy growth of the various grasses on the course, with fungicides only being used to treat specific grass conditions.

Light sand top dressing applications will be applied frequently to the greens, collars and tees as required.

3.15 Water Irrigation System

The prime function of the watering system is to allow survival of the grasses on the greens, tees, surrounds and fairways in times of relative drought. It will not be used to soften greens or to make them "greener" since these practices only encourage disease and do nothing to promote healthy growth.

Deeside Golf Club has a fully automated computer-controlled irrigation system which provides irrigation to nearly all areas of the Haughton course, greens, tees, approaches, fairways and green surrounds.

The Blairs course has irrigation to greens and tees.

The Irrigation system water is supplied from a bore hole located on the Blairs' course.

The Course Manager and Head Greenkeepers are responsible for deciding when to use the irrigation system. The objective is to use as little water as possible whilst recognising that during periods of low or no rainfall it may be necessary to irrigate. Maintenance of the irrigation system will include trimming heads, servicing valves and levelling heads.

3.16 Burns and Drainage Ditches

These will be maintained as a vital means of removing rainwater from the course in as effective a manner as possible. Routine maintenance during the playing season will be confined to tackling problem areas as they arise and maintaining the appropriate hazard markings.

Access to burns and drainage ditches to be maintained to ensure safe and easy access for equipment that is used to remove debris.

During the summer season the weirs will be managed to maintain the correct level of water in the 9th pond.

During winter months work will include:

- The Greens team will regularly monitor build up debris in burns and ditches and take necessary action as required.
- Repairs to the banks of the burns and ditches where required.
- Repairing and replacing collapsed or blocked underground drains.
- Removing the weir from the 9th pond to keep the water level low; this will aid in water being evacuated off the course post a flood event.
- Adding to the network of drains where necessary.
- Updating locations of all drains on the map of the course.

3.17 Practice Grounds

The club has 3 different practice areas: 1. Driving Range, 2. Putting Green and 3. Chipping Green for use by members, guests and visitors.

These areas are to be maintained in as close a condition to the courses as possible.

Rules for members utilizing these areas can be found within Appendix F.

3.18 Penalty and non-playing areas

These areas require to be managed and maintained on a regular basis to avoid excessive vegetation, flood debris, grass cuttings and other detritus building up.

These areas are generally as follows:

- between the 4th, 5th and 6th holes.
- the access road/storage area to the left-hand side of the 5th tee.
- in front of the 6th tee.
- between the 7th and 8th holes.
- between the 8th and 9th holes.
- on the right-hand side of the 13th tee; from the tee box to the 13th ditch.

The Course Manager will ensure that:

- vegetation and detritus does not build up over shingle beds that could prevent excess water on the course from draining freely.
- That debris from flood events, grass cuttings, material from trees, bushes etc are managed on site, and that areas where such material is stored is kept tidy; from time to time this material may be required to be removed from site.

3.19 Professional Advice

It is the policy of Deeside Golf Club to seek opinions and audits from a certified agronomist such as the STRI as deemed necessary by the Council.

The Course Manager is also authorised to seek assistance from a certified agronomist for soil and leaf analysis or for questions he may have of any abnormal happening such as the invasion of disease, unusual fungi or pests.

4 Resources

4.1 Greens Staff

Deeside Golf Club is committed to sustaining the optimum staffing level as finances allow and to provide for the necessary training and education to retain a structured staffing profile, i.e. during the summer the club would expect to employ a minimum of 9 fully trained green keepers, 1 Grounds person and seasonal staff as deemed necessary to maintain the golf courses. The club will continue with the apprenticeship scheme to support staff development and staff retention.

Staff will have their annual appraisal every October and training requirements / development opportunities will be created from these. Training will include college courses, required operating qualifications and the possibility of working at PGA events at other courses.

4.2 Courses clean up post a flood event – Members support.

A flood event can result in significant debris and silt being deposited on the course. In order to accelerate the clean-up operations Council may request Members to volunteer to support the green staff in this work. This additional support may allow the courses to get back into play earlier.

The health and safety of club members and green keeping staff when carrying out clean-up operations is of paramount importance.

The following provides guidance on how this support work will be managed.

All work by members will be supervised by a member of the green keeping staff as nominated by the Course Manager or his deputy. There must be at least one member of the green keeping staff supervising a maximum of 6 members.

Members must wear appropriate clothing i.e., wet weather gear, boots, gloves, hats etc. The Course manager or his deputy will be the final arbiter on appropriate clothing.

Members at all times:

- shall follow the directions of green staff.
- work within their physical capacity, and no longer than 2 hours before taking a break.
- should not enter any lying water, ditches or burns.
- work in pairs as a minimum; and
- must immediately report any injuries whilst carrying out work to the Course manager or his deputy.

5 Machinery and Storage Facilities

The existing facilities are located at the far end and right-hand side of the driving range and comprises:

- One large steel framed, and two timber framed buildings covered in dark green metal cladding. The two large sheds are used to store machinery and a workshop.
- A smaller shed comprises:
 - Kitchen/Staff Rest Room.
 - General Storeroom and Drying Room.
 - Toilets and shower/ wash facilities.
 - Course Managers office.
- Double skinned Red Diesel tank is located outside the large shed.
- Petrol tank is located up by the sand/soil bays.
- A wash down area for machines/vehicles/golf ball cleaning.
- Chemical container for pesticides.
- The irrigation pump house and storage tank are located at the end of the track heading to the Blairs course.

Provision of the necessary machinery and equipment is essential to achieving the policies set out in this document. The Club has a capital replacement programme for machinery renewal and sets out to eliminate any old or unreliable equipment. Most of the main cutting equipment is on a 5-year purchase agreement and other items of machinery are purchased according to a replacement plan.

The key pieces of machinery considered essential to maintaining the course are as listed in Appendix G:

These machines will follow a replacement policy depending on current performance and hours used. Normally main cutting machinery is replaced on a 5-year rolling cycle, whereas other machinery is replaced as and when needed.

Machines are to be maintained to manufacturers' guidelines at all times.

A full inventory of course maintenance equipment will be maintained at all times.

A planned programme of replacement will be produced as an ongoing measure though there will be flexibility within this structure to delay or bring forward purchases as the need arises.

All machines are to be well cared for by staff following the maintenance guidelines as indicated in the manufacturer's handbook or through other recognised industry guidance.

All machinery will be cleaned and lubricated after each use. The main items of machinery will undergo routine servicing as agreed with the supplier.

A machinery pre-start check procedures should be in place to meet H&S requirements and to ensure the machine is in proper working order in accordance with the manufactures operating instructions.

The club has deployed autonomous mowers to cut the 'rough' areas on Blairs and on some areas of Haughton 'rough'.

- The mowers will be inspected and cleaned once a week when in operation.
- The mowers will receive an annual service as per Manufacturer's instructions.
- During the winter season they will be mothballed and stored in the maintenance shed, as per manufacturer's instructions.
- If the course is at risk of flood, then either:
 - The green's staff will remove the mowers from the course and store in the maintenance shed until the threat of flooding recedes, or,
 - The green staff, using the manufacturers App on their mobile devices, shall remotely instruct the mower to move to their pre-programmed 'High Ground' position.

6 Course Development

As part of the Clubs Strategic Plan, the services of a credible course architect will be sought to create a long-term courses and landscape masterplan addressing any design issues, design opportunities, playability, accessibility landscape and environmental management.

This will generate a rolling plan for the overall development of the courses however in order to achieve consistent standards of presentation and playability, a rolling 5-year plan for both courses has been formulated to take into consideration the following "maintenance" projects:

- Upgrading of tees.
- Installation or upgrading of drainage systems.
- Upgrading of bunkers.
- Installation or upgrading of irrigation system.
- Rough / grassland management.
- Development of practice facilities.
- Management of tree and woodland/ habitat areas.

The plan should comprise a list of proposed projects to be completed on an annual basis but with enough flexibility to allow for movement of individual projects forward or back a year in accordance with limitations of weather and finance. A copy of the current of the 5-year plan can be found in the Appendix H.

7 Professional Advice

7.1 Agronomy

The Club will consider appointing an experienced professional, independent agronomist to provide support and guidance to the Course Manager and others involved in course management. The agronomist should be given a remit to advise on course maintenance and development issues, including any resource issue which impinges on these. Continuity of advice is important and the main aim of this policy document.

7.2 Course Architect

As part of the Clubs Strategic Plan, the services of a credible course architect will be sought to create a long-term courses and landscape masterplan addressing any design issues, design opportunities, playability, accessibility landscape and environmental management.

No course changes or development work shall be undertaken out with the overall proposed course development plan. At no time will any changes be made to the course without the approval of Council.

7.3 Environmental Management

Environmental management programmes should be agreed and implemented after consultation with a recognised ecologist who is sympathetic to the needs of golfers and the character of the golf course.

7.4 Tree Management

Professional advice will be obtained from an arboriculturist to determine felling and thinning of any trees. A Code of Practice will be developed and implemented prior to any trees being cut down.

Members will be advised of all proposals prior to any action.

8 Complaints

Any complaints relating to the condition of the courses or behaviour of employees should be made in writing to the Club Manager. No complaint relating to the conduct of the staff or the condition of the courses should be made directly to any member of the Greens' staff.

9 Communication

9.1 Members' Dialogue

Communication to members will be made monthly to maintain a dialogue with members on issues relating to course management which have a direct bearing on the course condition.

Members will be informed, via email and notices, of works likely to cause disruption to play as soon as possible before the commencement of such works.

On days where major works are taking place or in progress the professional shop will be informed and the information will be passed to members when they sign in to play.

Members will be updated on winter projects or work being carried out on the courses by quarterly emails, also there will be a Information evening each year to go through the winter program and give members a chance to ask questions.

9.2 Course Status – Communication Protocol

On days where abnormal ground conditions exist, these should be outlined on the Club's website, and the Club's information app as soon as possible. It will also include any intended review of the status which would possibly take place later in the day. This should be done by the most senior member of Greens' staff on duty on the day.

Abnormal ground conditions requiring a status update are:

- Course closed due to water/frost/snow/wind/fog.
- Course opening delayed due to water/frost/snow/wind/fog.
- No Buggies or trolleys shall be allowed if the Green's staff deem that ground conditions are unsuitable.
- Preferred lies being in play as a result of fairway maintenance or wet/muddy conditions.
- A number of temporary greens being in play (the number should be stated).

On days where either course is closed a sign will also be displayed at the entrance to the club House.

10 Appendices

Appendix A – Club History

In November 1902 a public meeting was convened in the school at Cults to consider the formation of a golf club.

That meeting led to the election of a committee to investigate possible sites for a course and four months later, in March 1903, Deeside Golf Club was officially inaugurated under the captaincy of James L. McIntyre, one of four doctors on the 19-man committee.

A nine-hole course was opened formally on September 3, 1903, a clubhouse opening followed a year later, and within a further 12 months, the course was extended to a 5,000-yard 18-hole circuit.

The next significant course development was the purchase of more ground in 1947, and this was followed in 1969 by the addition of 80 acres of land which had been part of West Cults Farm where a new nine-hole course was completed in June, 1984.

The 1990s were dominated by a radical course redevelopment programme with the twin aim of making better use of the flat and uninteresting ground on which the nine-hole course was situated and having both the 18 and 9-hole courses starting and finishing in the vicinity of the clubhouse. To these ends, an EGM in 1995 approved a £600,000 scheme to redesign the two courses.

Following extensive discussions and numerous SGMs it was agreed in 2003 to build a new clubhouse overlooking the challenging and picturesque 18th hole.

The club's centenary in 2003 was marked by a number of events, some of them involving representatives from fellow-clubs in the North-east, and the next highlight was the opening – to general complimentary acclaim – of the new clubhouse on 15th December 2004.

The new Driving Range was opened on 3rd April 2009. The building has been finished to a high standard throughout with sympathetic detail in mind thus blending in with the new Clubhouse. The Driving Range building features eight bays in total, two of which are teaching bays situated at either end of the range building. The completion of this building provides a first-class practice facility.

In August 2024 all Bays on the driving range were fitted with 'Trackman Range'. This facility is free to use service for members with Deeside Haughton Course available to play on Trackman.

In 2015 the chipping green area was redeveloped, with the construction of a 1200m² chipping green with 3 practice bunkers and a range of different mounds and slopes surrounding it to give the golfers the ability to practice a vast range of shot.

There is also has a separate 350m² putting green.

Appendix B – Course Scorecards

Haughton Scorecard

COMPETITION										M		L		
DATE		TIME		H'Cap Index	Course H'Cap	Playing H'Cap	CR	SR	CR	SR				
A							72.0	137	77.0	139				
B							71.0	133	75.6	136				
C							70.0	130	74.2	132				
Marker/D							68.4	127	72.6	129				
							67.0	124	70.9	125				
Hole	Marker's/ D Score	Black Yards	White Yards	Yellow Yards	Red Yards	Blue Yards	Par	S.I.		Player's Score			Nett Score/ Points	
								M	L	A	B	C		
1		189	170	154	136	133	3	13	17					
2		410	410	395	370	344	4	5	3					
3		557	529	506	494	447	5	7	7					
4		414	393	386	364	340	4	1	1					
5		179	160	149	149	128	3	11	13					
6		499	486	479	447	447	5	17	11					
7		490	443	428	402	396	4	5 5	3	15				
8		353	353	331	322	299	4	9	5					
9		330	312	302	292	265	4	15	9					
		3421	3256	3130	2976	2799	36	37 37	OUT					
▶ FRONT ▶ MIDDLE ▶ BACK														
10		414	414	389	344	335	4	6	8					
11		394	394	381	358	330	4	8	4					
12		176	167	156	143	120	3	12	14					
13		549	529	495	485	482	5	2	2					
14		172	151	140	133	129	3	14	12					
15		357	357	348	345	345	4	10	10					
16		191	171	154	128	128	3	16	18					
17		282	282	272	268	262	4	18	16					
18		457	444	440	436	388	4	5 5	4	6				
		2992	2909	2775	2640	2519	34	35 35	IN					
		3421	3256	3130	2976	2799	36	37 37	OUT					
		6413	6165	5905	5616	5318	70	72 72	TOTAL					
		Stableford Points or Par Result						PLAYING H'CAP						
								NETT						

Marker's Signature _____ Player's Signature _____

Reverse of Haughton Scorecard

LOCAL RULES

OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18)

On or beyond any boundary wall, fence or line of white stakes.

PENALTY AREA (Rule 17)

Penalty Areas are marked with Yellow/Red stakes and/or lines.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR (Rule 16)

All areas marked GUR or enclosed within white lines. Ball MAY be lifted and dropped without penalty. On seeded areas (with the exception of seeded divots) and areas prepared for winter greens ball MUST be lifted and dropped without penalty.

PROTECTION OF STAKED TREES (Rule 16)

If a staked tree or trees less than two club-lengths in height interferes with a player's stance or area of their intended swing, the ball MAY be lifted and dropped, without penalty. This does include trees surrounded by metal cages.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 16)

All roads, paths, bridges, parapets, steps and yardage markers. Fixed sprinkler heads. If the immovable obstruction lies in the general area within two club-lengths of the green and within two club lengths of the ball and is on the intended line of play then the player may take free relief.

MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 15)

Stones in bunkers. Animal droppings.

NOTES/ETIQUETTE

Players MUST replace divots, repair pitch marks on greens, rake and footprints in bunkers.

As a matter of 'Pace of Play' it is a groups responsibility to keep up with the group in front and if it loses a clear hole they should invite the group behind to play through. The term group includes a single player. A match playing a whole round may be entitled to pass a match playing a shorter round.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:

Match Play – Loss of Hole;
Stroke Play – Two Strokes.

Any Temporary Local Rules are defined on the Club V1 App.

Yardage Markers are Measured to the Front of the Green

Toilet Code: C1903

In the event of an emergency call 999 immediately. In a non-emergency situation please call the Club on 01224 869457 selecting Pro Shop, Office or Bar option.

The three defibrillators on site are located in these areas:

- Inside the entrance of the Clubhouse
- Outside the course toilets
- On a green-keepers buggy



COURSE RATINGS
& INFORMATION



DEESIDE
GOLF CLUB

SCORECARD

Every golfer has a duty of care and responsibility to ensure that the playing of golf is carried out in a safe and responsible manner that does not endanger the safety of people and property.

Rectan

Blairs Scorecard

MB GOLF mbgolfmark.co.uk 07/22

PLAYER	Please indicate tee used																				
COMPETITION	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Tee</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Ye M</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Rd M</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Ye W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Rd W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CR</td> <td>31.9</td> <td>30.6</td> <td>34.2</td> <td>32.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SR</td> <td>111</td> <td>105</td> <td>126</td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAR</td> <td>34</td> <td>32</td> <td>34</td> <td>34</td> </tr> </table>	Tee	Ye M	Rd M	Ye W	Rd W	CR	31.9	30.6	34.2	32.9	SR	111	105	126	118	PAR	34	32	34	34
Tee	Ye M	Rd M	Ye W	Rd W																	
CR	31.9	30.6	34.2	32.9																	
SR	111	105	126	118																	
PAR	34	32	34	34																	
DATE																					

Marker/ Score	Hole	Yellow	Red	Par	Stroke Index	Score	Points + - 0
	1	180	170	3	5		
	2	295	283	4	7		
	3	447	398	5*	1		
	4	161	149	3	8		
	5	302	240	4	4		
	6	472	435	5*	2		
	7	144	137	3	9		
	8	149	132	3	3		
	9	334	272	4	6		
	TOTAL	2484	2216	34			

*Par 4 for Red Men Tees.

Mrk Sig _____

Ply Sig _____

TOTAL	
H'CAP	
NETT	

Appendix C

The Key Duties of the Greens Convenor are:

- To liaise with the Course Manager in updating the Course Strategy/Policy document, detailing expected standards of maintenance and presentation and any future development plans; thereafter monitoring progress and reviewing any relevant amendments.
- In conjunction with Course Manager, oversee the preparation of an annual Winter Course Development plan and budget.
- To communicate regularly with the Course Manager (both by email and in person) to discuss ongoing course maintenance, projects / issues / improvements.
- To hold regular meetings including course inspections, if required or by choice, with Course Manager.
- To carry out annual Course Manager Appraisal and set objectives for following year.
- To ensure good relationships developed with all greens team.
- To chair two briefings per year with entire greens team.
- To attend (if possible) the annual STRI meeting with the Course Manager.
- To monitor monthly course expenditure, maintenance and staffing costs, against approved budget.
- Approve the monthly report written by the Course Manager on course developments in advance of and for discussion at monthly Council meetings.
- In conjunction with the Course Manager, to prepare and submit course reports, covering developments / forward plans etc, for inclusion in Spring and Autumn Club Newsletters.
- On an annual basis, review the general risk assessment with the Course Manager. The Green's Convenor may seek support from a few members when carrying out this annual review.

Appendix – The Key Duties of the Course Manager are:

The Course Manager will provide a monthly written report on developments and proposals for course management to the Greens Convenor.

The Course Manager is responsible, in conjunction with the Greens Convenor, for the implementation of this Course Policy in all respects, including but not limited to:

- Implementation of the Club's Health and Safety Policy.
- Attending Health and Safety Committee meetings as required.
- Planning both long and short term maintenance schedules in relation to demands on the course.
- Liaising with the Greens Convenor on current and potential problem areas.
- In liaison with the Club Council to provide estimates to assist with the preparation of annual and long term budgets.
- Machinery maintenance and repair.
- Work with the Greens Convenor and Finance Convenor to prepare plans for machinery replacement.
- Purchase and storage of all fuels, chemicals, top dressing sand and other materials.
- Maintenance of schedules and records relating to machinery and staff.
- Storage and safety of all equipment and materials.
- A general risk assessment for the yard, buildings, work equipment and golf course (a specific hole by hole) will be maintained and reviewed at regular intervals (the Course Manager and Greens Convenor will review the risk assessment once a year), this will cover:
 - Machinery and the workplace. (noise and vibration)
 - The control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) regulations.
 - Manual Handling.
 - Working at heights and in confined spaces.
 - Lone Working.
- Allocation of daily tasks to all greens staff.
- In liaison with the Head Greenkeeper, meet staff training requirements.
- Conduct staff appraisals.
- Act as line manager in all matters of green staff discipline.
- Carry out weekly check of the course.
- Submit a monthly report to be communicated to members.
- Carry out weekly checks on quality of work being carried out by greens staff

The Course Manager should ensure that all individuals physically involved in the maintenance of the golf course appreciate the importance of their role to the team. This should include everyone working on the golf course throughout the year, including apprentices and part-time or seasonal workers.

Appendix – E

Summer Season Workplans

This policy document provides the high level requirements of work to be carried out on the Course during the main playing season. The Course manager shall ensure the work plans are kept up to date and that they are adjusted to suit weather and ground conditions, as well as upcoming events such as the Club Championship Day, Medals, Pennant team matches, Ladies matches and other key events that the club hosts.

Pre-Season Check list

Checklist Haughton		
Completed	Date	Task
		Hollow core approaches
		Top dress approaches
		Hollow core green
		Topdress greens
		Verti-drain tees
		Verti-drain green surrounds
		Install new signage
		Clean all current signage, paint if needed
		Treat and overseed weak areas.
		Top up bunkers
		Dust paths
		Dust bridges
		Trim and clean tee signage
		Spray Iron on fairways
		Fertilise approaches with cold start
		Fertilise tees with cold start
		Rake weak areas

		Rake green surrounds
		Rake fairways and semi rough.
		Over seed weak area and dress
		Trim irrigation heads
		Remove dead trees
		Stump grinding
		Paint post range
		General rake and tidy on each hole
		Chipping green maintenance
		Putting green trees.
		Clear burns
		Top up toilet steps with peas
		Grass bays tidy up
Checklist Blairs		
Completed	Date	Task
		Verti-drain tees and dress
		Hollow core greens and dress
		Hollow core approaches and dress
		Rake all areas
		Check and top up bunkers
		Overseed weak areas
		Fertilise all areas plus weak areas
		Tidy up paths
		Level main path across course
		Work on first 50 yards of driving range.

		Clean bins and ball washers
		Paint 150 yard markers
		Paint hazards posts
		Paint seats
		Clean ditches
		Repair badger damage
		Trim irrigation heads
		Edge bunkers plus flymo round
		Dust bridges
		Rake and clear debris
		Divot fairways
		Divot tees

Appendix F – Practice facility rules of use

The following rules apply for each area and are there to ensure safety.

1. Driving Range:

- Shots are to be played from the tee mats only, no shots to be played from the grass.
- Shots must be hit between the white posts.
- Members must return the empty baskets to the ball machine.

2. Putting Green:

- The green is for putting practice only, no chipping allowed.
- Flags are to be replaced when finished practicing.

3. Chipping Green:

- The area has been designed for chipping, pitching and bunker play only.
- The maximum length of shot should be no more than 10 yards from edge of putting surface, there are signs to indicate this.
- Although a practice facility, it still needs to be treated with the same care and attention as the courses. **Please rake the bunkers after use and replace divots.**
- Remain aware of the golf club access road when practicing.
- **Range balls may be used at the chipping green but must be collected and returned to the driving range.**
- There is no defined limit to the number of golfers who can practise at any one time, although please apply common sense with this.
- Be reasonable as to how long you practise if there are others waiting.
- On medal days, priority should be given to those wishing to practise before playing in the competition.

APPENDIX G

Key Equipment Listing

- Toro 3360 triplex machine x 2
- Toro 3370 triplex machine x 2
- Toro 2110 - 4 x Pedestrian mowers
- Toro 3575 Fairway mower x 2
- Toro 4000D Rotary mower
- Toro 3500D Rotary mower x 2
- Toro 4500 Rotary mower
- Husqvarna Ceroa mower x4
- Husqvarna 550 mower x2
- Husqvarna 580 mower
- Husqvarna 535 AWD mower x2
- Wiedenmann XP8 Aerator
- Wiedenmann GXI 8 Aerator
- John Deere 4320 Tractor
- John Deere 5090M Tractor
- Toro Workman HDX with top dresser
- Toro 5800 Multi pro sprayer
- Kubota L2-622 Tractor
- Kubota 3820 Tractor
- VGR Topchanger
- Toro 648 Pro core
- Case 5 ton digger
- Cat 1.8 ton digger
- John Deere Gators TX x 6
- Wiedenmann Super 500
- Can-am Traxtor
- Air 2 G 2

Appendix H

Current 5-Year Maintenance Plan 2025-2029

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 Approx. cost	YEAR 2 Approx. cost	YEAR 3 Approx. cost	YEAR 4 Approx. cost	YEAR 5 Approx. cost
REPAIRS/ RENOVATIONS	Bunker program on the Haughton course	40,000				
	Remove 9 old bunkers and reshape ground to form mounds and swales. Using material on site to fill bunkers.	5,000				
	Development of outfield on driving range		10000	10000		
	Construction of out flows at the 5th and 13 th .		30000			
	Upgrade the irrigation pump control panel; this panel is no longer supported if a fault occurs which may result in no irrigation available for up to 3 months. Whilst any fault is fixed.	18000				
	Bunker redevelopment on Blairs Course. This requires to be completed to minimize flood damage and reduce bunker reinstatement work after a flood.		20000	20000	10000	
	New path by 11th tee and 13th tees	10000				
	Widen bridge at 2nd tee and carry out ditch access work (required for ditch maintenance)		5000			
	Replace green paths by 1 st tee and coming up from 18 th green	8000				
	Construct new path from Blairs 9 th green.	8000				
	Path and bridge development plan		5000	5000		
	TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	89000	70,000	25,000	10,000	