

## **Course Strategy Group - plans for 2024/25**

Dear members,

The Course Strategy Group (CSG) has been reviewing the plans for this coming winter and meetings have been held with Scott McPherson, Course Architect along with Billy Hudson, Head Greenkeeper in attendance as part of the team that will implement the course improvements this winter.

This report is to update all members on our plans for the bunker re-design and other projects that we hope to tackle this winter.

### **Course Strategy Group members**

As a reminder and for all our 100 + new members, the CSG is made up of golf club members and is headed up by me, Stewart MacKinnon. Input is sought from Mark Patchett, our professional as well as the Head Greenkeeper, the Captain, and the Greens Director. The CSG also appointed Scott McPherson, a well-respected golf course architect. Scott has only been contracted for the bunker redesign project, not the full course changes such as, for example, tees, greens, paths, and sustainability projects.

### **Bunkers**

Scott McPherson & the CSG have reviewed the plans drawn up a few years ago on 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> holes, being the section of the course we plan to tackle this coming winter. We have considered the feedback we received from members and guests, the green keeping team, CSG members and Council and there have been some tweaks to the original proposal.

Following a review of the bunker sizes, inflationary increases to materials, some unknown issues and costs that arose during the 2023/24 work, the CSG is also mindful that our focus on spending remains on all parts of the course improvement project, with bunkers the main focus.

### **Map**

This will give members a picture of the planned works, copies of the map of holes 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> have been posted up in the Clubhouse and a pdf copy has been attached to this email.

### **Bunker changes**

The new tweaked proposals and the Architects rationale are summarised below:

#### **Hole 10**

Remove bunker on the right-hand side of the green to create a grassy swale.

The bunker greenside at hole 10 will be removed as it is not visible for the second shot and is not used that often. The replacement grassy swale will draw wayward shots away from the green presenting an interesting chip shot up the green on to the most challenging green on the course.

### Hole 11

Renovate both cross-bunkers in front of the green.

Remove bunker at the left front side of the green, and tie in the slopes so a ball will roll to the left.

Renovate bunker on the right-hand side of the green.

This is a 180-yard downhill par 3 that is having the green sloped more downhill to the left to improve drainage. By removing the Left Front bunker this will expose this slight hazard further for shots pulled to the left. The middle front bunker will be renovated to promote a flighted shot into the green while the two bunkers on the RHS (the favoured approach line) will be renovated to work together and both be visible from the tee.

### Hole 12

Remove bunker short right of the green.

Renovate bunker short left of the green.

Renovate bunker on right-hand side of the green.

Remove bunker on left hand side of the green.

Amendments are as planned to create two better visible bunkers instead of the current four. This is the stroke index 1 hole and presents plenty of challenge without the need for heavy bunkering.

### Hole 13

Add new bunker on the right-hand side on top of the hill near the front of the green.

Possibly renovate/ leave the bunker on the left-hand side of the green.

Remove both bunkers on right hand side of the green. - creating a runoff area

No bunkers to be added on the fairway.

The proposed bunker in the fairway would not be visible from the tee so is not being added. This green displays many hallmarks of the historical time that the course was built and it's quiriness should be protected. The two RHS greenside bunkers are out of sight, do not work well together and add to the serious erosion of the ground near the green where players walk off. This area has frequently become GUR with the extra rain in recent winters. Putting the visible bunker on the RHS on the top of the bank will assist with second shot alignment into the green and assist in encouraging players to vacate the green by taking trolleys further away from the proximity of the green. The LHS greenside bunker needs some renovating.

### Hole 14

Renovate one of the fairway bunkers on right-hand side at the top of the hill to make visible from the tee.

Remove the other two bunkers.

Remove the three bunkers beside the green.

Add one new bunker on right-hand side near the front of the green.

The current three bunkers on the fairway are well placed but invisible. One good visible bunker will suffice to direct players up the fairway and not towards the green at hole 13. A major feature of this hole greenside is the wall on the left. Moving the fairway left towards the trees to bring the wall more into play is desirable. Hence the current three bunkers will be removed and one feature bunker near and on the RHS of the green will promote an approach to the green from the left.

### Hole 15

Remove bunker on the left-hand side of the green.

Renovate bunker on right-hand side of the green.

Add one new bunker at back left corner of the green.

This is a 160-yard par 3. The front of the green is protected by grassy humps replacing a bunker that resulted in shots regularly landing in the garden behind the green. This has solved this problem. The green would benefit from two banked bunkers one on each side at the back of the green positioned so that the flag could be positioned at the front of, or between, the two bunkers. Shots from these two bunkers would then be away from the direction of the garden.

### **Summary of changes for holes 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> is as follows:**

New bunkers - 3

Renovated - 8

Removed - 12

Overall we will be going from having 20 bunkers currently in this section of the course to 11 in future, thus reducing the cost of these changes and ongoing maintenance.

### **Drainage**

Billy Hudson, Head Greenkeeper will be reviewing the drainage and identifying where improvements to drainage is required - especially at 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> holes. The club will use the next 18 months to improve drainage in the bottom field where necessary prior to the bunker refurbishments commencing. Some investigation work may be carried out in summer 2025 (July trades holidays).

### **Ditch**

The ditch at 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> holes will continue to be monitored, following the recent remediation works carried out by the team.

### **Fairways, Tees, Greens, Approaches, Aprons, paths, bridges & trees**

The Greens team will continue with other CSG work to improve these areas for the 2025 season, including over-seeding some fairways and injecting air into the greens.

Stewart MacKinnon

Course Strategy Group

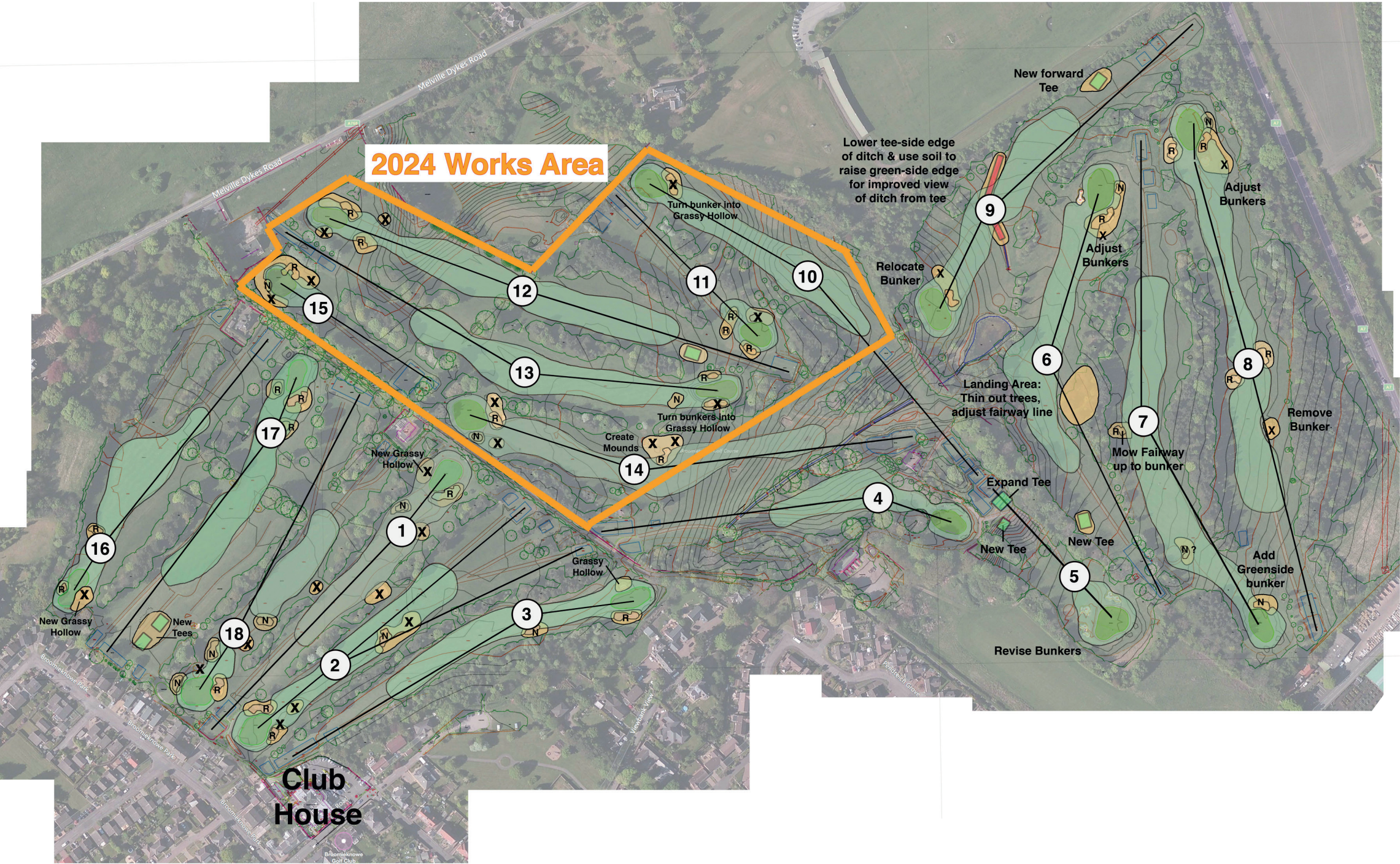
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# Broomieknowe Golf Club

Renovation Masterplan - September 2024



HOLE	BUNKERS			
	NEW	REMOVE	RENOVATE	NO CHANGE
1	1	3	1	
2	1	3	2	
3	1		1	
4				
5	1	1		2
6	1	1	1	1
7	1		1	
8	1	2	4	
9	1	1		
	8	11	10	3
10		1		
11		1	3	
12		2	2	
13	1	2	1	
14	1	5	1	
15	1	1	1	
16	1	1	2	
17			3	
18	3	3	1	
	7	16	14	0
TOTAL	15	27	24	3

Total Bunkers (Current) 54  
Total Bunkers (After Renovation) 42

Phase 1: Completed Holes

Phase 2: Works Holes (2024)

- Work Areas for Renovations
- R** = Renovate Bunker
- N** = New Bunker
- X** = Remove Bunker
- = New Tee