

## **Cromwell Golf Club - Course Philosophy**

### **Overall Philosophy**

Cromwell Golf Course is an inland Links style course. It will be maintained as such, in accordance with the limitations of its environment and the resources of the Cromwell Golf Club. The course is designed to be played comfortably from tee to green approaches, with the main challenge features being onto and on the greens. The course is maintained to a standard to provide an enjoyable golfing experience for club level players.

### **Aspirations**

#### **Overall Impression**

The Club aspires to create excellent first impressions and lasting impressions of the course. Visitors and members should be impressed with the look of the course and the welcome area (course entrance, greens and fairways from the road, parking, proshop, clubhouse putting and driving range) when they arrive at the golf club. When they leave the course they should take away good impressions about the whole ambiance of the club and the look and feel of the course itself.

#### **Playability vs Challenge**

The course is intended to be enjoyable to be played by its range of members, yet to provide a challenge for players of all ability levels. To achieve this the direction of the course's development is to create an opportunity for players of all ages and abilities to reach the green surrounds comfortably, then be challenged by the approach shots and greens play.

#### **Fairways**

The fairways are as wide as can be economically and physically achieved, and fit with the capability of the irrigation system to adequately water them.

The intention of fairway hazards is not to penalize a bad shot, but to make the course more interesting and challenging. Situations of double-jeopardy will be minimized.

The fairways will not have defined edges. The cutting of fairways and semi rough will be done in such a way as to have as little clear definition of cut. They will be cut to a 17mm height. Fairways will merge softly into rough areas as much as possible.

With the undulating surfaces on the fairways, and the effects of the environment, It is accepted that there may, from time to time, be patches of fairway that have poor or no grass.

#### **Greens**

The greens will have a consistent speed from one green to another.

#### **Irrigation and Watering**

Watering will be used only to keep grass alive and not to keep it green. Over watering is far more damaging than under watering. Too much water will encourage the wrong type of grass to grow, encourage disease and be much more costly to maintain.

## **Bunkers**

Bunkers will be allowed to take on an eroded natural appearance. This will be managed in keeping with the overall nature of the surroundings, and over time it may be decided that the fairway bunkers can evolve into waste areas rather than be deemed hazards.

## **Trees**

Trees are valued on the golf course and they should add to the beauty of the landscape without blocking outstanding views, draining the valuable water resource and adversely affecting the greens, tees and fairways. They should only cause a minimal hazard.

The location and type of trees are very important. Regarding the location the key questions are:

- Do they make the hole more interesting?
- Do they improve the appearance of a hole or the course?
- Do they create an unnecessary or unfair hazard?
- Will the tree damage or adversely affect a fairway or a green

Regarding the type of tree appropriate to the course the key requirements are:

- Wind tolerant;
- The roots don't go searching for water;
- Slow growing;
- Hardy;
- Not too big;
- A single stem so they can be pruned up from the ground;
- Preferably, but not exclusively, evergreen;
- They will not damage the course maintenance equipment.

## **Rough**

Dry sandy rough is in keeping with the nature of the course

Marram Grass, while being retained as an aesthetic feature of the Links style course, is not intended to be a hazard. If any area of Marram Grass becomes a hazard to players, in general play, then it will be mowed to a playable level or removed and replaced by fine grasses or sand waste areas. These areas will merge into each other.

## **Implementation of the Philosophy**

### **Limitations of the environment**

The course has a sand base. In summer the climate is hot and dry and for periods of the year there are strong dry winds. The winters are cold and limit the growing season to 7 – 8 months of the year.

The surface of the fairways are undulating creating high and low points.

### **Resources of the Club**

There are around 475 members (January 2018) of whom a significant proportion are pensioners. Memberships provide around 33% of the club's financial resources. The club is able to sustain the maintenance of the course, excluding development, from annual income.

Water allocations to the Club restrict the amount of water that can be applied on a daily basis at critical times of the growing period. However, there is a more than adequate annual allocation of water available.

The club has a strong base of volunteer workers to support the work of the two full time grounds staff.

There is a good range of grounds equipment which is modern and regularly updated.

### **Changes to the course philosophy**

It is acknowledged that over time the composition of club membership and aspirations for the golf course will change. Therefore, rather than having rules set in concrete about long term development, it is understood that the aspirations will evolve as the course and club change. Greg Turner has been instrumental in the development of the course and it is intended to continue to be guided by him as long as he is willing to participate. All changes in philosophy will be with the approval of the Board, in consultation with the Club committee.