

Responses to questions put to Travis Harrison of LMS re Water Harvesting Project on BPGC

No	Questions & Answers	Action
1	Q: Is an annual/monthly maintenance plan developed by the LMS/course superintendent (CS)? A: Yes a generic weekly schedule is attached.	
2	Q: Can the CS Maintenance plan be shared with the BGC every month for publication in the BGC newsletter? A: Yes attached	
3	Q: When will the ground water harvesting be completed? What are the delays? A: Expected end of March 2018. <i>Delays due to:</i> 1 – Unexpected location of a major sewer at the connection point to the storm drains 2 – Existing pumps at the 11 th hole not adequate. New pumps have been purchased 4 off. The two existing pumps located at 11 have been removed for testing, they have not been re-fitted. These pumps used to boost the mains water pressure. The two existing pumps have not been re installed this has caused a lack of additional pressure for the reticulation system around the course and such the reticulation system is not effective. LMS has been undertaking hand watering as an emergency action. This will not be resolved until the installation of the new pumps.	
4	Q: What difference should we expect once turned on? A: Full water capacity over the course. Of the 100% of the water available 50/70% of the water is destined for Dendy park sports fields the remainder for the golf course. The most important issue with the BGC is the amount of large gum trees sucking up any available water.	
5	Q: Is the water reticulation system adequate for the new water harvesting system? A: Yes it should be. LMS is undertaking a study right now by an independent contractor to identify any issues for the future so any upgrades can be budgeted for.	
6	Q: Do the greens need to be re sanded to address the holes left from the coring? A: Was the wrong coring size used on the greens? <i>The correct coring was used, "standard deep core" by an independent contractor that undertakes this works for many clubs in the south east. The coring was done prior to the removal of the Water pumps on 11. The pumps were removed for testing and not replaced. The sand in the cores heated up and has temporally killed certain areas of the greens. The greens will come back once water is available.</i>	

7	<p>Q: The Greens have no consistency to them and are in very poor condition. What plan is in place to sort this out? What is the proposed method for ensuring that the CS provides good quality greens? Measure? Stimpmeter – does LMS want BGC to run measurements and give feedback to CS? This needs to be consistent from green to green and also on any one green.</p> <p>A: <i>LMS agree the greens are in terrible condition. Hand water is taking place. No additional work can be done on the greens until Autumn March/April 2018. LMS has advised the use of a Cleg Impact hammer to get green consistency. They have this tool. They will start an improvement plan for the greens.</i></p>	Action LMS
8	<p>Q: When a new hole placement is added to the green it is usually carried out very poorly leaving non sharp edges and often a large volcano around the edge of the hole. Can the CS train his staff to ensure that the holes are put in more professionally? What measure do we use for this?</p> <p>A: <i>LMS agree that the holes can be put in poorly. They will monitor this with Melbourne Polytechnic. More the issue is not with putting the hole in but after the cup has been added. Some of the cups are a very tight fit with the flags and players can lift the cup with the flag and therefore causing the volcano. LMS is going to identify the faulty cups and replace. Can all players make sure they don't pull the cups up with the flags. If players come across bad holes please can they photograph and send the pics to the pro shop.</i></p>	ACTION BGC
9	<p>Q: What is the plan for the fairways over summer, assuming the new water is not available? Can mains water be used?</p> <p>A: <i>No mains water will be used for fairway.</i></p>	
10	<p>Q: The T boxes are in very poor condition – what is the plan to resolve?</p> <p>A: <i>Until the water is turned on nothing can be done.</i></p>	
11	<p>Q: Is there a plan to add sand to the bare bunkers? Eg the fifth and sixth which are probably the worst. But others are probably in need. Can BGC members help with labour? Does the CS plan address using machines to tidy up the bunkers each week?</p> <p>A: <i>The issue with the bunkers is the tree roots sucking up the moisture. Bunkers need water to be “sandy”. LMS think there are a few troublesome bunkers on the course. Worst are the ones on holes 5 and 6. LMS is going to put forward a tree maintenance plan for the course. They can then approach Bayside council to have the plan actioned. LMS/MP have a machine for raking the bunkers and this is being done. Travis will also run a bunker play lesson for a small fee if members are having problems. The solution to the poor bunkers is to remove the water sucking trees.</i></p>	ACTION BGC
12	<p>Q: What tasks can the BGC members undertake in the CS maintenance plan? Thereby freeing up their time to undertake tasks that can only be done by them – use of machines etc.</p> <p>A: <i>A volunteers group has been set up. Once the water is back on LMS is happy to co-ordinate “working bee” activities/Repair a fairway sanding activities etc. The BGC will sending out information and asking for members/families to help with some activities over the next few months.</i></p>	ACTION BGC

13	<p>Q: Can the club house staff monitor the use of sand buckets on the course along with slow play, patrons not using their own clubs?</p> <p>A: Yes TH will make sure he talks to his Pro-Shop staff.</p>	ACTION LMS
14	<p>Q: Can large signs be put around the course to reminded patrons to repair divots. Can a load of sand buckets be put out on the course to remind patrons who didn't pick one up at the 1st to pick up one? Can the pro shop run a "repair a fairway" initiative in conjunction with the CS maintenance plan? Can the BGC members use "working bees" to kick start this?</p> <p>A: Yes TH/LMS is sourcing a large sign for the 1st T re carrying a sand bucket. Can all members even stand bag golfers carry a sand bucket and use them regularly even to fix other peoples divots. One should also leave a golf course in better condition than they found it. Please set an example out on the course.</p>	ACTION LMS
15	<p>Q: Can new rakes be purchased for each bunker? Alternatively can BGC run a program "Donate a rake" so we can address this problem quickly. Can BGC members repair and put new rakes on the course if LMS can facilitate?</p> <p>A: No rake program required. LMS will provided a rake for every bunker. Please let the Pro Shop know if there are any missing or broken rakes. Please can all golfers rake the bunkers and rake other people's foot prints.</p>	ACTION BGC
16	<p>Q: Can two new ball cleaners be purchased for the course</p> <p>A: LMS will purchase two new ball cleans. Can the members let BGC know which hole they want them on. There are two ball cleansers in operation on the course that have been repaired by the vice President, Giles Toler. New soapy water and a towel added. These towels regular go missing by vandals. So if members have any spare hand towels or golf towels please can they give them to Giles or leave them at the BGC and we can keep this improvement going for the greater good of all golfers.</p>	ACTION BGC – to advise which holes members would prefer the ball cleaners if they were made available by LMS
17	<p>Q: If BGC wanted to run a memorial program ie benches can this be added to a BGC/LMS policy?</p> <p>A: BGC will be putting together a Memorial document for the consideration of MGC members and families.</p>	Action BGC
18	<p>Q: Can the toilets at the pro shop be cleaned more regularly?</p> <p>A: LMS agree that they are poorly maintained and will action an improvement. Feedback from BGC members would be appreciated.</p>	Action LMS
19	<p>Q: Can a couple of taps be added out on the course to enable golfers to fill up water bottles?</p> <p>A: LMS will investigate added taps to fill water bottle out on the course. They will not run new water pipes. Members advise that there are existing waters stands at Holes 8 At the green on Hole 6/Tbox Hole 4 There is also a water stand at hole 13 – can this also be fitted with a tap. Suggestion is that the tap is a self-closing tap so as to prevent the tap being left on?</p>	Action LMS

20	<p>Q: Membership categories – can the platinum card be provided in the membership?</p> <p>A: <i>BGC committee are reviewing the membership categories to try and offer a junior program.</i></p>	Action BGC
21	<p>Q: If a BGC member wants to add a junior (under 18) to his/her platinum card can they do so for a small fee or can the junior golfer have their own playing rights on the course (even if they are not undertaking lessons) – so that the under 18 golfer can also have unlimited playing rights – may be a few caveats are that they have a junior membership at the BGC and have a golf link handicap to ensure correct course etiquette.</p> <p>A: <i>BGC and LMS to review</i></p>	Action BGC
22	<p>Q: Can the seats be upgraded outside the pro shop. Feedback from the mothers who drop of and wait for their golfers is that the fixed benches are uncomfortable and awkward. They would prefer more modern chairs and tables. A lot of the benches are broken and the shades are never put out and the umbrellas when used do not provided shade over the seating area. This could really be improved to make a more welcoming and pleasant place to sit.</p> <p>A: <i>LMS has advised some changes to their management contract that will allow some refurbishment work to take place. LMS is putting together a program for this. LMS want to upgrade and they will advise updates when they are available.</i></p>	Action LMS
23	<p>Q: Can a no smoking policy be adopted around the pro shop. Also large signs up around the course so as to remind smokers not to extinguish their cigarettes on the course and leave butts as rubbish.</p> <p>A: <i>At the pro Shop is a no smoking area.</i></p>	
24	<p>Q: Can some hitting nets be provided at the course?</p> <p>A: <i>BGC is looking at outing a hitting net on the concrete form works left behind from the water harvesting project. Hopefully this will be well support by the BGC members and this additional member befit can be added.</i></p>	Action BGC/LMS
25	<p>Q: Can more practice holes be put into the practice putting green with putting flags to add a look of a golf club?</p> <p>A: <i>LMS has purchased some flags for the putting green. Also they will add additional holes once the water is on.</i></p>	Action LMS
26	<p>Q: For club members can a large bucket of balls be placed on the new practice mound along the members walk way, so that the area can be used by members for a quick few balls prior to their Sat. round. What is preventing us from doing this?</p> <p>A: <i>No BGC members are not to hit balls on the training fairway. This is out of bounds for all BGC members. TH has special insurance in place re public liability and BGC members are not covered if something should go wrong.</i></p>	No Action
27	<p>Q: Can junior members store their equipment at the pro shop. This will allow them to get to the club independently eg. after school and at other times without needing to reply on parents for lifts.</p> <p>A: <i>No there is no room. BGC is looking into this with the proposed junior program.</i></p>	Action BGC

Email from Travis Harrison 15/1/18

* SWHP has been delayed due to extra expenses council has occurred during the project which were not forecasted. The total completion date with everything operational may not be till March. Hopefully the contractor will be out of the majority of the course by mid Feb but there is still a bit of work to do on the offtake structure (back of practice fairway). The biggest issue the delay in the SWHP has caused is with the irrigation system. This has left us with no pressure to run the system hence the greens have been struggling through summer. Our staff have had to hand water greens which is a time consuming task taking man hours away from other required jobs. It has been frustrating for all involved and we apologise for the current state of the greens but we have done everything possible to keep them going.

* The lease agreement between LMS and council has been re-assessed by lawyers and found that council are actually responsible for all end of life issues for building and maintenance. These issues have always previously been put back on LMS which have taken large amounts of money out of our budgets. This is great for the course/golfers as upgrade to toilets, buildings, ground staff sheds and irrigation system will now happen. It may not all be straight away but a plan will be rolled out to implement improvements moving forward. This also frees budgets up for LMS to spend on other course/facility improvements.

* Green fees will stay at the same amount until we are happy the course is back to good condition. The fees were meant to go up end of the last financial year.

* We welcome any feedback from the club, look forward to working together this year to provide great events and help build membership for BGC.

* As always there will be numerous coaching programs offered to help improve your game. We also offer full club fitting to make sure your clubs are

Email from Travis Harrison on 24/1/18

I meet with the engineer of the stormwater project yesterday and talked more about the exact amount of water we would get on completion of the project.

Figures are done from averages of a normal 10 year period.

Dam capacity 35ML. Dam capacity of usable water 27ML (must keep 7-8ML for environmental requirements in the dams)

On average our ability to harvest water will be 86ML a year.

Dendy park will require a worst case 40ML a year, most recent years has been between 32-36ML

This leaves 46ML for use on the golf course.

There will be a restriction put on the golf course usage if the dams drop below a certain level to ensure Dendy park has the required amount of water. This restriction may last a week or two worst case.

Currently LMS use approx. 50ML of water a year from mains which will continue this for greens and tees. We then used dam water when its available, previous storage was only 14ML approx. with no ability to harvest.

Hope this gives you a better understanding of the amounts of water we have access to.