



Brighton Golf Club



BPGC Water Harvesting Project Meeting

Brighton Golf Club Members and other interested parties will be aware from notices placed in the BGC clubrooms and newsletter articles that this project is now in the final planning stages with the project currently out to tender.

On 20th October BGC and other Clubs that play the course received an email from BPGC manager Travis Harrison outlining his goal as manager to be able to maintain a golf course which is enjoyable for all members and guests to play without the project affecting our golf experience/value for money.

During the course works 4 to 5 holes and the practice fairway could be out of action at any one time. His initial plan is to develop a 9 hole composite course made up of 9 holes which are not affected by the works, the 18 hole clubs would then play these 9 holes twice.

There would be 2 sets of tees so on each 9 players would hit from different spots. The course developed would flow nicely without long walks between tees. The only other option would be to play an 18 hole course with 4 to 5 temporary hole/greens.

A date of 27th October was set for reps from BGC and other Clubs to meet with Travis and play the proposed 9 hole composite course, followed with a meeting to voice any concerns and/or recommendations on how he can successfully achieve his goal of getting through the course works so that we can all enjoy the benefits of extra water long term.

Play took place and was followed by a meeting which was recorded and I now share some of the salient points with you.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Travis Harrison, Peter Franklyn (Civil Projects Coordinator, City Works, Bayside City Council BCC), BGC represented by Keith Beggs, John McCreery, Jane Millar and Wayne Troedson. Plus reps from other participating golf clubs.

AS MEETING COORDINATOR TRAVIS STARTED THE DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS

- Travis has been joined with Bayside City Council in his new job as Manager of the BPGC and has been brought up to speed with the Water Harvesting Project (WHP) to bring the BPGC up to a level where it provides the best golfing experience possible.
- There was much discussion about the option of the 5 or so temporary holes including the inconvenience and quality of play and remarked that he would not enjoy or play on such a course. He recognises that club Members do not have that option and that the temporary change to the course may have the effect of Clubs experiencing a fall off of members either temporarily or permanently.
- Any changes need to consider minimum walking between holes and avoidance of workmen on site.
- Golf coaching is a business for L.M.S. which will also possibly be disrupted as will access to the course by BGC Members via the Club carpark.

At this point Travis handed over to Peter Franklyn

OUTLINE OF PLANNING

- The name of the project will be the Storm Water Harvesting Project. This is because water is being taken out of a large storm water drain (part of which runs beneath the BGC car park). Water is extracted at a point adjacent to the BGC/BPGC access gate.
- The first part of the project is to get the water out of the drain pipe as quickly as possible during a rain event.
- To do this a Buffer Storage of approx. 1 megalitre comprised of large concrete pipes will be built and located underneath and to the rear of the practice fairway at a lower level than the storm water drain. This will facilitate a fast gravity fed water extraction system.



BPGC Water Harvesting Project Meeting

- Once the water is stored a large pump (100 litres per second) will pump the collected water from the buffer storage downhill, via a reticulation system, to the golf course lakes.
- Presently there are two lakes with a capacity of 14 megalitres and with the addition of a third lake storage will be increased to 30 megalitres.
- This will be done by a) reshaping the existing lakes with shallow edging tapering down to increase the depth and b) a 3rd lake will be created at the 11th hole.
- The process envisaged is that water will be kept in the lakes at the 11th and 17th holes and they will be filled first and emptied last so that during works there is always water in these lakes to keep the course looking as attractive as is possible.
- A pump house will be installed and connected to the BPGC/Dendy Park reticulation system. This will be fitted with a UV filter required by law to meet certain standards for water being used for irrigation purposes.

QUESTIONS

Will the Buffer Storage be gravity fed from the storm water drains?

Yes, storm (rain) events only last between 5 and 2 minutes so speed is essential to extract the water from the buffer drain then down to the lakes as quickly as possible. This water will pass through two rain gardens located towards the end of the 10th hole.

Soil removed for the buffer storage will be used for re-shaping the practice fairway.

All reticulation pipes will be below ground level (up to 7 metres deep). The easement hole for Dendy Park will be bored. The supply of water from BPGC to Dendy Park will be roughly fixed at approx. 40 megalitres per annum. This is based on accessing 75 to 100 megalitres of water per annum. In a bad year that might be changed to 50/50. This will be adjusted if necessary manually via a variable valve.

What are Rain Gardens?

The purpose of the rain gardens is to filter the storm water travelling down to the lakes. They will be of a pebble surface finish and is tolerable to foot traffic but will be regarded as an unplayable area – water hazard.

Feedback is invited from golf club members on any issues related to the rain gardens.

The project contractors will be bound to a 2 year contract for the upkeep of the rain gardens. After that period, during which a plan of maintenance has been established, the BCC will take over.

PF explained that if it is apparent that the rain gardens are holding water after a rain event then they are not working properly and this should be reported to the pro-shop.

What is the start date?

1. Project for Tender - Released
2. Tender awarded – By end of 2016
3. A target, which is still subject to discussion, was to pump into the lakes (dams) by 1st July 2017. In this case the harvesting start date would be by 1st February 2017 - providing the piping and dam preparation work is done by this time.
4. Work on the 11th hole would start on March 1st (brought forward from early estimate - Easter) enabling enough time to complete this part of the project before the onset of winter.
5. Travis confirmed his desire to keep the 18 holes open as long as possible. May have one shortened hole during that time.
6. Re-grassing of disturbed ground to be done around September 2017. BCC will work with Travis on this.

Will the 11th Hole wire screen be moved back?

PF Yes, a part of it will be moved. But Travis suggests remove it all which will improve the aspect of the area.

There will be a 40 metre carry over the water from the 11th tee.



BPGC Water Harvesting Project Meeting

Golf course management will be noticeable so as to reduce disruption to golfers and workmen as much as possible.

What will be the duration of work on the 11th Hole?

Contractually work (including water into the lakes) is to be finished by 1st September 2017 but planning for 1st October 2017. Then there will be maintenance of the grassed areas.

What happens with dirt from the dams?

The dirt will be used for re-mounding of the area on Holes 5, 6 & 7 where the pines are located. Most of the pines will be removed leaving a row lining the LHS of the 5th fairway.

Re-mounding will take place at the 6th tee, which gets quite wet, to provide better drainage.

Soil from the 11th hole new lake will be taken out through Creswick St to South Rd and then to a new temporary entrance to the pine area. Subject to VicRoads approval.

This will be clay not topsoil. Topsoil will be brought in to cover areas that are back filled.

Travis is conscious of the likelihood of problems affecting play during the first 6 months of works and will work with Clubs to mitigate any inconvenience as much as it is possible to do.

Will work be done to remove exposed tree roots and improve bunkers?

Travis spoke about plans to remove gum trees and gum tree roots around some putting greens as it is these types of trees that largely do the damage by sucking water away from greens, fairways and bunkers. Mentioned that Private Golf Courses do not normally have a gum tree within 40 meters of any greens or bunkers.

All trees on the BPGC are numbered and assessed by an arborist bi-annually.

OTHER MATTERS

- BCC has put aside some funds to address the problem of the course WC as part of the contract.
- LMS will provide bi-monthly reports to BCC on what's happening and meet with Clubs on a regular basis to discuss project problems, concerns and updates.
- A suggestion was put to Travis to place a Project Time Table in the Pro Shop to show progress to keep all Club members informed with 1st hand information. Added to which Peter Franklyn suggested the possible creation of a special project newsletter but didn't say who might do that.
- Peter also announced that he soon will not be in charge of the project as he is retiring from Bayside Council and that his replacement will soon be advised.
- Travis advised that the new course rating will be required for temporary 9 hole composite course along with matching score cards.

The meeting concluded with Travis ensuring us that the tree root cutting will be his number one priority and that he wants to build a closer relationship between LMS and the Clubs that use the golf course. He will be offering deals/ lessons and will sponsor events to compete with the various GC deals we are currently seeing advertised.

He also reiterated that during the project only 9 holes of the golf course will be in play and so this provides him with extra manpower and an opportunity to do much needed other work on the course – as follows:



BPGC Water Harvesting Project Meeting

GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS FOR NON USED HOLES

2nd Hole	Improved drainage in front right bunker
3rd Hole	Fix path and approach to green
6th Hole	Right hand bunker repair (worst on course), improve drainage
7th Hole	Improve left hand side of fairway
11th Hole	Fix green and rear bunker
13th Hole	Used as extra hole/bonus hole, could be included in the 9
17th Hole	Improve green and path to 18th tee
10th & 18th Holes	Used for junior tiger, club fitting and adult coaching

The meeting concluded with all in attendance very pleased with the enthusiastic and solid support being expressed by BCC and LMS.

It is hoped that the project will proceed as planned with minimum interruption to the golfing public.

Keith Beggs
President