

Proposed Trolley Usage Policy Winter 2016/17

We are now entering the winter period where weather conditions will begin to exert their influence upon the course. The previous winter was particularly challenging after we experienced record rainfall (& temperatures). This resulted in course closures due to fairways becoming muddy and unsuitable for play.

Last winter's experience has been important in considering how to manage course usage for the coming winter. A key factor that causes the creation of mud is trolley usage and we limited their use last winter. The use of powered trollies has increased over recent years and it is these that are considered exacerbate the muddy conditions.

The first action we would encourage golfers to make it to switch to carry bags. This could take the form of a light weight bag, possibly with a reduced number of clubs. This removes the footprint of the trolley altogether from the course. It also allows golfers to vary the route they take – walking across tees & greens and avoiding the tracking that trolleys creates.

We appreciate that not all golfers are able to carry a bag. We would therefore allow pull trolleys to be used. These type of trolleys do not create so much disturbance to the ground whereas powered trolleys have the potential to slide and churn up mud.

The use of powered trollies is a last resort through the winter period. These type of trollies were rarely allowed on golf courses in winter until recent years where policies across many golf courses have come under pressure. Only those that are physically limited in carrying a bag or pulling a trolley should use these type of trollies through the winter period.

Where trolleys are used, we ask people to keep to paths where appropriate.

Those who use trollies may use hedgehog wheels if they wish.

If ground conditions become as challenging as the previous winter, we will consider implementing a full trolley ban.

It is in the interest of all golfers to adhere to this policy in order to preserve the golf courses for future use.

In a previous communication to all members in the spring (Winter Review) we spoke how the business could improve access around the course in the winter months. We have started the construction of a number of path extensions, focusing on the most needy areas such as: 2nd tees to fairway, 3rd green area, 5th green to 6th tees, 11th tees to fairway, 13th hole, 14th tees to fairway, 15th tees to fairway, 17th tees to fairway. The aim is complete as many as possible whilst the ground conditions are favourable.