

Key Matter Proposal – Formation of Drainage & Irrigation Reserve Fund

The Board is proposing the creation of a dedicated Drainage & Irrigation Reserve Fund to begin structured financial planning for the replacement of the Club's ageing irrigation system and to protect the long-term quality and resilience of our course [Drainage].

The Current Position and Risk to the Course

Our existing irrigation system was installed almost 40 years ago and had an original expected lifespan of approximately 20 years. While we have been fortunate to benefit from this infrastructure for many years, the system is now well beyond its intended and economical life.

It is increasingly unreliable, components are becoming obsolete, and sections of the system are deteriorating. The Club is now spending thousands of pounds each year in reactive repairs and maintenance to keep it operational. This situation is neither efficient nor sustainable. Continued deterioration will increase maintenance costs and exposes the Club to the risk of major system failure.

Reliable irrigation is fundamental to maintaining greens performance, surrounds and overall course presentation, particularly during prolonged dry periods.

The Replacement Requirement

Replacement of the irrigation system would represent a substantial capital investment for the Club, reflecting the scale of infrastructure involved across the entire course.

This would not be a repair or upgrade of isolated components. Full replacement would involve renewal of the core system, including:

- Main line pipework
- Lateral pipe networks
- Sprinkler heads and control valves
- Pumping station equipment
- Modern computerised control systems
- New larger water storage tanks
- Electrical cable
- Green, tee and approach pipework

Important Clarification

This proposal is not a vote to replace the irrigation system at this stage. It is simply a vote to allow the Club to begin ring-fencing funds now, so that when replacement becomes necessary, the financial impact can be managed responsibly and progressively rather than reactively.

The Financial Proposal

Historically, the Club has not held a ring-fenced provision for irrigation replacement. The Board believes it is financially responsible to begin building a dedicated reserve now, rather than risk emergency borrowing or large one-off financial measures when replacement becomes unavoidable.

Following the financial performance of 2024/25, the Club generated a cash surplus of £40,000.

As recorded in the Board Minutes of November and December 2025, the Board unanimously agreed in principle that this surplus should be allocated to golf course infrastructure, with drainage and irrigation identified as the highest priorities.

The Board is therefore seeking member approval to allocate this £40,000 into a segregated Reserve Fund as the foundation of our Drainage & Irrigation provision.

Governance & Protection

Funds held within this Reserve will be:

- Clearly identified within Club accounts
- Used solely for major Drainage & Irrigation projects
- Protected from alternative use unless approved by the membership

No funds are being spent at this stage. This proposal simply allows the Club to begin saving responsibly and transparently for essential long-term course infrastructure.