



**Hamptworth Golf & Country Club**

Hamptworth Road  
Hamptworth  
Wiltshire  
SP5 2DU



## **Course Update December 2008**

It's that time of year again when projects and improvements on the course get underway. As you will have seen, we are cutting out buggy paths around the course. We intend to do the front 9 first, followed by the remaining back nine ready for winter play 2009. These paths may look a little unsightly at the moment but once they have been stoned and the edges grassed and blended in they will be a great asset to the course. These paths will create a golf course where members may take out buggies 12 months of the year. Every effort is being made to contour these paths into the shaping of each hole so as to create a low impact path system around the whole golf course.

Bunkers are in need of some serious work, we are planning to re-cut new drainage system into a majority of these bunkers. As the existing systems have blocked up with clay and silt, this is partly due to the original pipe work being too small and the course deer hoofing and turning over the bunker bases on a regular basis, mixing the clay bases with the sand adding to the problem. We are also filling in two bunkers on the course this is due to member's feedback, saying these bunkers are not needed and make the hole unnecessarily harder. These are the third bunker, left of the green and the fourth left of the green. These will be filled in to create a mound which will blend into the surrounding areas of the green. We are going to undertake the replacement of new drainage this winter in the following bunkers, these being the first greenside, fourth greenside and eighth greenside and hopefully the 15<sup>th</sup> greenside. This work will be ongoing with the remainder of the problem bunkers being worked on as and when viable.

We have also thinned out a vast amount of woodland areas around the golf course, so as to improve the playability and the visual effect to these holes; this will be ongoing throughout the winter, along with some more tree planting projects taking place.

Drainage has always been a priority during the winter months and is still ongoing around the course as and where necessary. This will always be ongoing to continually improve the playing conditions.

As you may have seen we are installing new post and rail systems around the course this hopefully will direct buggies and trolleys to the green area without driving all over the playing surfaces.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> tee will be completed through the winter period using soil excavated from the pathway construction.

We are at present running on 4 members of the green staff, this being due to losing two staff at the end of the summer. Chris, my first assistant of 5 years has moved onto new pastures, so Nick Fox and Matt Lawrence the two other green staff have been given the opportunity to step up a gear which is working very well with enthusiasm and hard work and good team spirit. With this in mind we are looking for two full time staff to join us in the spring.

If anybody would like to talk to me about projects, concerns on the course just find me and we can have a chat.

Tim Facer