

# THE PERFECT SHOT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WEST LINTON GOLF CLUB



November 2025



## From the Captain, David Murray

Welcome to the November edition of The Perfect Shot. A number of exciting projects have been progressing behind the scenes, and in this issue, I'm pleased to share updates on several key developments.

### Swing Studio

In collaboration with our PGA Professional, Ian Anderson, the Club has been exploring ways to enhance our Indoor Practice Facilities. After reviewing a range of options, we're pleased to announce that we will be building a state-of-the-art Swing Studio within the Clubhouse.

The new facility will be created by repurposing part of the Men's Locker Room, allowing us to make the most of existing space. Once completed and fully equipped, Members will be able to hire the Swing Studio and enjoy access to cutting-edge technology — including the ability to play virtual rounds on golf courses from around the world.

### Key Benefits for Members:

- **Swing Analysis Technology:** Get detailed feedback on your swing mechanics using high-speed cameras and launch monitor data.
- **Enhanced Coaching:** Work with Ian Anderson in a controlled environment to fine-tune your technique and improve performance.
- **Year-Round Practice:** No matter the weather, you'll be able to keep your game sharp indoors.
- **Play Global Courses:** Experience famous courses from around the world through immersive simulation.

While we don't have a confirmed timeline yet, we're hopeful that construction will begin early in the New Year. We'll keep you updated as plans progress.

# Greens

## Irrigation System Renewal – Strategic Update

The Course remains Council's highest priority, as its condition directly influences Member satisfaction, Visitor attraction, and the ability to host prestigious Competitions — all of which enhance the Club's reputation and financial stability.

Our current irrigation system, installed by Alex McRostie in the mid-1970s, has served the Club well for nearly 50 years. However, it now requires significant manual effort, often at suboptimal times for staff and turf health. Recent pipe bursts highlight the aging infrastructure, and with metered water usage, these failures carry financial implications.

Looking ahead, reliance on metered water is increasingly unsustainable — both environmentally and economically. The Club must consider alternative sources and systems that align with future expectations and responsible resource management.

One such alternative, boreholes, has been a recurring topic of discussion. To move beyond speculation and toward informed decision-making, Council allocated funds in the 2021 Accounts to investigate irrigation options. Over the summer, the following studies have been conducted:

- **Geology Report**
- **Boundary Investigation**
- **Hydrogeological Survey (potential water sources/sites)**
- **West Water Burn Sample Testing**
- **Course Survey**
- **Irrigation System Design**

These reports are nearing completion. Once finalised, they will provide the foundation for a well-informed debate on the Club's future irrigation strategy — covering feasibility, appropriateness, cost and implementation pace.

## Course Winter Works Plan

Following Council approval, the winter works schedule is set to begin as early as conditions allow, ahead of the colder weather. The planned works, listed in no particular order of priority, include:

- **Bunker Upgrades**, Enhancing the quality, safety, and consistency of bunkers across the course.
- **5th Hole – New Back Tee Construction**, building a new back tee in preparation for the hole's transition to a Par 5 (refer to the Course Development Plan for further details).
- **5th Green Surrounds Improvement**, Improving the immediate area around the 5th green to enhance playability.
- **6th Hole – Back Tee Elevation**, Raising the back tee to improve visibility and play conditions.
- **7th Hole – Tee Corner Infill**, filling in the back left corner of the 7th tee to increase usable teeing area.
- **12th Hole – Tee extension**, Extending the 12th tee into the moorland at the back left corner to provide additional teeing options.

# Course Development Plan

## Redesign of Holes 5 and 16

I am pleased to share an important update on our ongoing Course Development Plan at West Linton Golf Club.

Following a series of productive discussions and a site visit with Richard Le Sueur of Golf Design Scotland, the Club Council has approved **Phase One** of a proposed redesign of **Hole 5** and **Hole 16**. This marks a significant step in our long-term strategy to enhance the quality, playability, and enjoyment of the course for all members.

### Project Overview

#### Hole 5

- Extension of Tee areas to accommodate a move to Par 5 off the Yellow and White Tees
- Introduction of strategic fairway bunkering to improve challenge and visual appeal
- Upgrades to the green complex and surrounding bunkers

#### Hole 16

- Improved lines-of-sight for a clearer and more engaging playing experience
- Exploration of new Tee locations to enhance variety and accessibility
- Redesign of the Green and backdrop to elevate aesthetics and hole playability.

### Project Phases

#### Phase One – Concept Design *(Approved)*

- Development of initial design concepts
- Cost and quantity estimates for budgeting

#### Phase Two – Detailed Design *(Next Step, pending Membership approval)*

- Planning the works in detail
- Recruitment of a specialist shaper and sourcing of materials

#### Phase Three – Setting-out and Construction

- Site visits to ensure accurate placement of tees and features
- Support for the Course Manager and team during construction



***“If only...***

*the golfers in front replaced divots, repaired pitch-marks, smoothed out bunkers, kept just behind the people in front not just in front of the people behind, walked briskly between shots - what a perfect game golf would be!”*

**Yours truly, from the group behind**

## Member Benefits

This project is designed with our members at its heart. The improvements will:

- Enhance the strategic challenge and enjoyment for Players of all levels
- Improve Course aesthetics and visual interest
- Increase variety and flexibility in play
- Support long-term sustainability and maintenance of the course
- Reinforce West Linton's reputation as a high-quality golfing destination

We are committed to minimising disruption during the works and I will keep you informed as the project progresses. Your feedback and support are always welcome as we invest in the future of our course.

## Hole 15

Hole 15 has historically been a Par 5 for Gents with a Stroke Index of 16. However, from the Yellow Tees, it has played as a Par 4, and data shows it would rank as Stroke Index 1 from that position.

Following consultation with Scottish Golf, who confirmed that hole length is no longer the sole factor in determining Par, and supported by performance data, the Club has approved the change.

**Hole 15 will now be a Par 5 from both the White and Yellow Tees.**

## Staff Update

**Mark Lawrence** first joined the Club in 2007 when we engaged the services of Pentland View Catering. Following the end of that arrangement in 2009, Mark and his wife Kay became our Caterers, operating on a self-employed basis until 2022, when Mark formally became an employee of the Club. At the end of this year, Mark will be stepping down as he and Kay relocate to Fife to be closer to their family. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them both and will greatly miss the outstanding food and service they have provided over the years. Recruitment for a replacement is currently underway, though it's possible there may be a temporary gap in catering provision at the start of next year. We'll keep you updated as things progress.

**Jacky Lofthouse** joined the Club in 2004, initially thinking she might stay for just a couple of years. Twenty-one years later, Jacky has decided the time is right to retire. Throughout her tenure, she has been the steady hand behind the scenes, ensuring the smooth running of the Office and supporting a succession of Club Secretaries with her deep knowledge and calm professionalism. We were fortunate to welcome Kath McCaffrey to the team following the closure of the Village Post Office. Kath initially joined to cover for Jacky during her knee replacement surgery and has proven to be a great asset. She will continue in her role going forward.

To celebrate and acknowledge the exceptional contributions of both Mark and Jacky, the Club will be hosting a farewell function, likely to be held on a Sunday afternoon in late January 2026. Full details, including arrangements for a collection, will be shared in due course.