



## SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB

*Founded 1874*

# Answering Your Questions

*Further questions on the proposed course, answered by the Course Manager*

Thank you for the questions that have continued to come in since the presentation evening and the drop-in sessions. This short paper answers the latest of them in plain terms, with answers prepared by the Course Manager. It accompanies the funding paper issued alongside it.

## 1. Why is the proposed layout better than the current Micklem or Brabazon courses?

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The proposal presents a better complete golf course than any of our existing layouts, while not being an overly radical change to the site, and while keeping almost all of the quality features we already have.

Every one of our current layouts carries long-standing issues with player safety, site security, public interaction, holes that hold up play, and poor ground conditions. The proposal is designed to address all of these.

It also brings a much better-balanced pair of nines. The front nine becomes more varied and flows better from green to tee, with its yardage strengthened so it sits less in contrast to the back nine, which stays almost the same as the current Brabazon layout with subtle improvements to green sites and teeing grounds.

Above all, the proposal uses the land we play on in the best possible way. Two new holes and green sites should bring a quality par 5 and par 3 in place of lesser holes that occupy those locations today.

## 2. Does the Club intend to make every change the architect has suggested?

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No. The masterplan is a large document containing a whole host of suggested course improvements. Implementing it in full would take several decades, even if the Club chose to do so.

The Club is taking from it what serves our members best. We do not currently see value in radically changing the number and colour of teeing grounds as suggested, and some of the championship tee recommendations are not a priority, because our focus is the course members play week in, week out.

Member feedback has also directly shaped the proposal. The Sahara will remain unchanged, in its current par 5 format, with a more forward ladies teeing ground added.

### **3. Will the course be harder to play?**

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No. The aim is a playable links course of high quality, not a test of brute length. In several ways the proposal makes the course friendlier:

- The par goes up and the yardage comes down from both the yellow and white teeing grounds, so the carry to the fairway is shorter than it is today on several holes.
- The holes are routed over higher, drier ground, where rough grows thinner. That replaces the thick, insect-ridden rough that currently surrounds the carries on holes like Road, Jimmy Kay, Tees and Lagoon.
- Bunkering is reduced overall, kept only where a bunker genuinely earns its place.

### **4. What will the new 1st green look like?**

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The architect has produced a general concept for the first green, with detailed designs to follow if the project receives membership approval.

It matters that any new green matches the character and style of our existing green sites. The Club intends to suggest to Mackenzie & Ebert that elements of the well-liked Long Trial Green style are reinstated in the new 1st, which would make for a superb green location with a fine view over the rest of the course.

### **5. What will happen to the old holes?**

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The land of the Bents and Crocodile holes, north of the public right of way, is kept and maintained as amenity turf that can be used for golf whenever needed.

That gives the Club real flexibility. In a very wet winter, these two holes stand ready should the Dunes fairway flood severely before its raising works are carried out. They would likely also serve as a short par 3 course, and as a turf nursery, a much-needed resource for the green staff that helps keep the main course in top condition.

The current Crocodile tees, the original Bents green and the Road tees would be left to return to nature once their turf and rootzone material has been put to use, allowing the whole golf course to be properly fenced and secured at last.

### **Next steps**

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An online questionnaire will follow shortly, giving every member the chance to have their say on the proposal. Please look out for the link by email.

Finally, a sincere thank you from the Greens Committee to everyone who has taken part so far. Your questions, your input and your attendance at the presentation evening and the drop-in sessions have been genuinely welcomed, listened to, and incorporated into the proposal, as the Sahara alone shows. The whole conversation has been conducted in a polite and respectful manner that reflects well on our Club, and this proposal is stronger for every contribution made to it. Thank you.