



## **Use of Motorised Buggies in the Winter Period Commencing November 2017**

For the purpose of this document, the winter period is generally regarded as being mid-November to mid-March. However, weather conditions may require this policy to be put in place as required given the particular condition of the course at any time of the year.

When the Head Greenkeeper or nominated person decides, following an inspection of the course, conditions will not permit use of any type of buggy or trolley, a sign will be displayed to this effect outside of the Golf Shop.

When the Head Greenkeeper or nominated individual decides the conditions will only allow limited play, buggies will only be allowed on certain holes on the course as indicated in the paragraph below, highlighted in bold text.

The use of trollies, electric trollies and motorised buggies on the course is the delegated responsibility of the Head Greenkeeper or his representative, who will daily check the course condition and a sign will be displayed outside the Golf Shop advising the membership/visitors of any restrictions imposed. The information will also be displayed on the Oakleaf Golf Complex website, updated each morning at approximately 8am.

It is inevitable that when borderline decisions are made, there is likely to be differing views on whether the Head Greenkeeper's decision is right or wrong.

The Head Greenkeeper bases his decision on two factors:

1. Whether or not there is a high risk to the health and safety of players using the highlighted equipment.
2. Whether there is likely to be lasting damage to the course. Whether repair of this damage is likely to result in excessive expenditure, or detract from the appearance and playing condition of the course.

As the Head Greenkeeper is the most experienced member of staff in these matters, he has been designated to make a decision on behalf of the Council. He has to make the same judgement when deciding whether to deploy course machinery and whether he risks the health and safety of his trained and experienced staff when they drive the machinery.

Situations will arise when conditions are borderline. **The Head Greenkeeper should then consider whether a part of the course can be made available to those**



**players who provide medical certification which states that they will not be able to play if the use of motorised buggies is suspended.** (They will also be required to provide proof that they carry third party accident insurance and sign a disclaimer before they are allowed to drive on the course).

If these conditions are met and the Head Greenkeeper agrees that limited use is acceptable, then a route will be laid out for buggy users by reference to the Course Risk Assessment and the prevailing ground conditions. This route will not include any holes where the Head Greenkeeper considers the risk to be unacceptable.

**Knowledge of recent winter conditions leads us to believe that this route will be along the following holes: 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and exit via 16<sup>th</sup> green back to shop.**

Buggy drivers will be expected to drive only on designated parts of these holes, ie in the rough, where that is possible, and the 90 degree rule will apply. It is likely that the numbers of members wishing to avail themselves of this facility will be few. It will be the responsibility of the Golf Shop to fully brief them on what is expected of them. Visitors wishing to use a motorised buggy, in these circumstances, will have to meet the same requirements as members.

