

5. QEII GOLF PARK INCREASE IN GREEN FEES

Officer responsible Leisure Unit Manager	Author Lyall Matchett
Corporate Plan Output: Golf Courses – Leased QEII Golf Park	

The purpose of this report is to submit a request on behalf of the QEII Golf Park for an increase in certain casual green fee charges for the Ascot Golf Course.

Previous applications made in October and December 1997 to increase green fees were declined by the Council.

The application is for the following increases:

		Current	Proposed
Casual Green Fee	Weekday	\$7.00	\$8.00
	Weekend	\$8.00	\$10.00
Senior/Pensioner	Weekday	\$6.50	\$7.00
	Weekends	\$8.00	\$10.00

Other fees for which no increase is sought:

Annual Membership	Single \$215
	Couple \$365
Casual Green Fee	Junior \$5
Concession Card	(5 rounds) \$30 (ie \$6 per round)

The lessee has submitted the following in support of this application.

- The last increase in fees was approved in November 1994 which was a \$1.00 increase for weekends only.
- Maintenance costs have risen significantly since the last increase.
- Similar course fees have risen substantially to reflect rising costs including Council owned courses.
- New machinery (2 mowers/tractor) which has improved the quality of the golf course has been purchased at great expense to QEII Golf Park.
- Some tees and greens have been remodelled.
- The course has been beautified with new trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping.
- New signs have been installed.
- On course toilet, drinking fountain and ball washers have been installed.
- High quality scorecards have been introduced.
- Additional costs to comply with OSH requirements.
- Additional part time maintenance staff.
- Better weed and pest control measures have been introduced.

While Ascot is a Par 3 course, most of the maintenance to a golf course involves tees and greens and Ascot has as many of these as any other course.

Green fees at other local courses for 18 holes are:

	Weekdays	Weekends
Rawhiti (increased 1/1/2000)	\$12 (\$10)	\$15 (\$13)
Windsor	\$20	\$20
Hagley	\$10	\$12
Avondale	\$20	\$20

The recent increase at Rawhiti was implemented with very little comment from regular users.

Maintenance costs at the Rawhiti Golf Links have increased 15.5% in the past 6 years. An analysis of the commission received from Ascot for the current year indicates that green fee revenue is currently down 13% on last year.

Because of the availability of a concession card purchase which reduces the cost of a round of golf to only \$6.00 it is not considered detrimental to senior golfers (pensioners) to increase the cost to this group in line with other golfers. No pensioner concession is provided at the Rawhiti Golf Links.

Clause 32.1 of the Lease with QEII Golf Park provides that written consent to landlord is required to increase fees and that such consent is not to be unreasonably withheld. Given that the Rawhiti Golf Links has increased its fees as from 1 January 2000 it is considered appropriate that an increase for the QEII Golf Park is approved in this instance.

Recommendation: That the application by QEII Golf Park to increase its green fee charges be approved as follows:

- Casual Green Fees – Weekdays from \$7.00 to \$8.00
- Casual Green Fees – Weekends from \$8.00 to \$10.00
- Senior/Pension Fees – Weekdays from \$6.50 to \$7.00
- Senior/Pension Fees – Weekends from \$8.00 to \$10.00

(Councillors Anderton and Corbett requested that their votes against the foregoing recommendation be recorded.)