

Email from Roger Tomey, General Manager on behalf of South Winchester Golf Club on 30 April 2021

“I hope this email finds you well and enjoying the return to golf during what must be one of the driest springs on record.

You will no doubt be aware from our recent members communication on 25th March 2021, there has been some interest in the land at South Winchester, in relation to the Winchester City Council local plan. As I made clear in my previous note, South Winchester golf course is subject to a deed of covenant in favour of the members, ensuring it remains as a golf club until at least 2026. This prohibits any development of the site and ensures it remains as an operational golf club throughout the term of the covenant.

Despite this covenant against development, the SHLAA process being undertaken by Winchester City Council has heightened speculative interest in South Winchester, as well as several other parcels of land under consideration within the local plan. This has led to numerous approaches with a view to purchase the freehold of the club. I can confirm that Crown Golf have agreed terms to sell the freehold of the Club to Bloor Homes. If the agreement is completed, the club will be leased back to Crown Golf initially for the period of the covenant, which may be extended if the land is not taken forward within the Winchester City Council local housing plan. This means that the golf club remains secure for at least the next five years and there will be no change to how we operate the Club.

We are currently busy preparing the Clubhouse for re-opening, with the bar undergoing redecoration and our plans to create a new welcome area and extend the club's hospitality space are well underway. This new lounge area overlooking the Lake and fountain will increase the space for members in the Clubhouse when restrictions lift, as this has previously been tight. We are also making some additions to the patio area to make outdoor dining a more enjoyable experience.

Our primary focus remains solely on running the best golf club possible and that will not change. In addition to the improvements to the Clubhouse we are also investing in the irrigation system, replacing the main pump sets, which we expect to be installed in the next month. This is over and above the new sprinkler units installed in March, which together will provide better watering solutions for the tees and greens.

Naturally you may have some questions, which I am happy to address over the coming weeks, I will also organise a Members forum with Crown Golf C.E.O. Stephen Towers when restrictions allow and we have pertinent information to share.

Most importantly our focus will continue to be on making membership at the club enjoyable for all and we look forward to a great golfing season ahead.”