

Ifield Golf Club

Rusper Road, Crawley
Sussex, RH11 0LN



Appendices for Report for Save West of Ifield

regarding

**Horsham District Council's Local Plan 2023-2040
and the Regulation 19 Stage Representation**

prepared by

Mark Smith BA MRICS MBA

23 February 2024

Appendices Contents

MAS 1 – My professional experience

MAS 2 – Extracts from Sport England's '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide*' (ANOG)

MAS 3 – Extracts from Sport England's '*Planning for Sport Guidance*'

MAS 4 – Extracts from the R&A's '*Golf & Health 2016-2020*' report

MAS 5 – Extracts about the significant boost in UK golf participation post Covid

MAS 6 – My data from Sport England's '*Active Places Power*' tool

MAS 7 – Statement from Dr Martin Hawtree (professional golf courses architect)

MAS 8 – Extracts from '*Forging Links (The Story of Ifield Golf Club)*'

MAS 9 – Statement from Bernard Gallacher OBE (professional golfer and three time Ryder Cup captain)

Appendix MAS 1

My professional experience

ABOUT SMITH LEISURE

smithleisure

UK GOLF PROPERTY EXPERTISE ■ CHARTERED SURVEYORS

mark smith BA MRICS MBA ■
mobile: 07951 587303 ■
email: mark@smithleisure.com ■

Our golf sector focus

The common theme is work related to UK golf venues. We provide specialist support and advice to clients on golf property and business matters.

We cover the whole golf property spectrum – from small stand-alone golf centres to trophy venues and luxury golf hotels plus newer formats, such as adventure golf.

We have a deep understanding of this market built up over 30 years. We are well placed to provide reliable and insightful advice to our clients.

We are in this sector for the long term. The principles of integrity, trust and professionalism underpin our business and the work we do for our clients.

Our differentiating point

We are the only chartered surveying firm which

- a) specialises solely in the UK golf market and
- b) has direct operational experience in running golf venues.

This blend of direct operational experience, coupled with consultancy work on hundreds of golf property projects, gives us a balanced perspective.

Our insights gained in this sector over many years helps our clients – either by adding significant financial value or giving clarity on their decision making processes.

Mark Smith set up Smith Leisure in 2004. He is member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and has an MBA from Henley Business School. He is a member of Golf Business International - a group of leading advisers providing support to the global golf community.

Our services relating to golf venues

These include (in alphabetical order):

- Business rates appeals
- Buying, selling and leasing
- Expert witness evidence
- Feasibility and viability studies
- Operational audits and management
- Property valuations
- Rent reviews and lease renewals
- Strategic plans/exit routes
- Town & country planning



84 Clay Street, Crockerton ■
Warminster, Wiltshire ■
BA12 8AF. ■

Regulated by RICS

Smith Leisure is a trading name of Springate Ltd. Registered Number 5909649. Registered Office:
St Mary's House, Netherhampton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8PU. VAT Number 847 1116 36

ABOUT SMITH LEISURE (cont.)

Our clients

These include proprietary golf operators, private members' clubs, freehold owners, local authorities, investors, banks, non-golf surveying firms, lawyers and accountants.

Most of our new work comes from personal recommendation. Below are some of the clients we have worked for over the years.

Addington Court Golf Centre
Addington Palace Golf Club
Altonwood Golf Group
American Golf (UK)
Ansty Golf Centre
Badgemore Park
Barnet Council
Barton on Sea Golf Club
Baydrive
Birchwood Park Golf & Country Club
Birmingham City Council
Blackmoor Golf Club
Bolton Council
Boughton Golf Club
Bradley Park Golf Course
Brampton Park Golf Club
Broadstone Golf Club
Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club
Builth Wells Golf Club
Burgess Hill Golf Centre
Burhill Golf & Leisure
Camberley Heath Golf Club
Came Down Golf Club
Canford Magna Golf Club
Cape Cornwall Golf & Leisure
Chelmsford City Council
Cheshire East Council
Chobham Golf Club
Chorley Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Cookridge Hall Golf Club
Coombe Wood Golf Club
Cottesmore Hotel Golf & Country Club
Cowdray Estate
Crown Golf

Dacorum Borough Council
Draycote Hotel
Dudsbury Golf Club Hotel & Spa
Dunham Forest Golf & Country Club
Dwellcourt Group
Ealing Council
East Berks Golf Club
Enmore Park Golf Club
Ferndown Golf Club
Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club
Formby Ladies Golf Club
Frodsham Golf Club
GL Hearn
Goldman Sachs
Golf Kingdom Family Golf & Leisure Park
Goring & Streatley Golf Club
Gravesend Golf Centre
Greenwich Peninsular Golf Driving Range
Hampton Court Palace Golf Club
Harleyford Golf Club
Hartley Wintney Golf Club
Hartsbourne Country Club
Hatchford Brook Golf Centre
High Post Golf Club
Hobbs Cross Golf Centre
Hoburne Golf
Hoebriidge Golf Centre
Horton Park Golf Club
HSBC
Kingswood Golf & Country Club
Knight Frank
Littlestone Golf Club
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Enfield
London Borough of Hillingdon

Manhattan Loft Corporation
Mill Hill Golf Club
Mill Ride Golf Club
Mytime Active
National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa
Newbury Racecourse
New Forest District Council
New Zealand Golf Club
Parkstone Golf Club
Pedham Place Golf Centre
Pentland Golf & Leisure
Pine Ridge Golf Club
PING Europe
Pinner Hill Golf Club
Playgolf
Portsmouth City Council
Premier Golf Developments
Preston City Council
Queenwood
Quod Planning Consultancy
Redlibbets Golf Club
Regent Park Golf Course
Remedy Oak
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Roehampton Club
Royal Bank of Scotland
Royal Guernsey Golf Club
Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
Royal St George's Golf Club
Royal Winchester Golf Club
Rustington Golf Centre
Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club
Sand Martins Golf Club
Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club
Scarborough South Cliff Golf Club

Silvermere Golf & Leisure
South Herts Golf Club
South Winchester Golf Club
Stirling Investments
Stafford Castle Golf Club
St Mellion International Resort
Studley Wood Golf Club
Sunningdale Golf Club
Surrey National Golf Club
The Addington Golf Club
The Belfry
The Dartmouth Hotel Golf & Spa
The Drift Golf Club
The Dye London
The Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club
The Kendleshire Golf Club
The Lambourne Golf Club
The Machrie Hotel & Links
The Point at Polzeath
The Shire London
The Shropshire Golf Centre
The Warwickshire Golf & Country Club
Thonock Park
Thornhill Estates
Thorpe Wood Golf Course
Transport Scotland
Vivien Saunders OBE
Waverley Borough Council
Wescom Group
Wirral Council
Witney Lakes Resort
Wrag Barn Golf & Country Club
Woburn Golf Club
Woodland Environmental
World of Golf

A MEMBER OF



Smith Leisure is a trading name of Springate Ltd. Registered Number 5909649. Registered Office:
St Mary's House, Netherhampton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8PU. VAT Number 847 1116 36



84 Clay Street, Crockerton ■
Warminster, Wiltshire ■
BA12 8AF. ■

Regulated by RICS

ABOUT MARK SMITH

smithleisure

UK GOLF PROPERTY EXPERTISE ■ CHARTERED SURVEYORS

mark smith BA MRICS MBA ■
mobile: 07951 587303 ■
email: mark@smithleisure.com ■



Work focus – property and business matters relating to the UK golf sector

- Valuation matters (both capital and rental valuations plus business rates appeals)
- Expert witness evidence for court and tribunal cases plus public planning inquiries
- Viability studies and business plans
- Strategic reviews and management consultancy
- Rent reviews and lease renewals
- Sales, lettings and acquisitions (including due diligence)

Work experience

- 2004 - Set up Smith Leisure
- 2000 to 2004 - Property Golf & Finance Group Ltd (property director 2002-04)
- 1999 to 2000 – Strutt & Parker's golf department (head of brokerage)
- 1991 to 1999 – William Hillary Leisure & Hotel's golf department (associate)
- 1988 to 1991 – Hillier Parker in London (trainee surveyor)

Professional and academic qualifications

- Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors since 1991 and a RICS Registered Valuer
- Executive board member of Golf Business International – a group of advisers providing support to the global golf community – see www.golfbusinessinternational.com
- MBA from Henley Business School
- Degree in economics and statistics from Exeter University

Other

- Website – www.smithleisure.com.
- Spoken at conferences and seminars on golf property issues
- Written articles for golf industry magazines on various topics



84 Clay Street, Crockerton ■
Warminster, Wiltshire ■
BA12 8AF. ■

Regulated by RICS

Smith Leisure is a trading name of Springate Ltd. Registered Number 5909649. Registered Office:
St Mary's House, Netherhampton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8PU. VAT Number 847 1116 36

Appendix MAS 2

Extracts from Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide' (ANOG)

Appendix MAS 2 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide’ regarding research needed for the four overarching measures of ‘Quantity’, ‘Quality’, ‘Accessibility’ and ‘Availability’

Quantity

C11 What facilities there are in your area? How many do you have? Do you have enough?

How much capacity is there?

When looking at the relationship between the amount and nature of people wanting to access facilities and the number and capacity of facilities available, you should think about the following:

- How many facilities are there?
- How are facilities being used? Are they generally busy/full or is there spare capacity?
- Are there any issues that impact on the use of the facility?(this links to Availability below)
- Are facilities experiencing high levels of usage at certain times of the day and on certain days of the week?
- Are all facilities full or are some busier than others?
- What are the possible reasons for these observations and what does it tell us?

C12 Supply information - this will give you:

- A database of all relevant facilities in your area in line with the scope of the assessment
- Information on the name, location and specification of facilities
- Information of any planned provision and provision in neighbouring authorities or catchments which will impact.
- A clear picture of how much capacity there is available for users

C13 Demand information - this will give you:

- An understanding of the population and demographic profile of your area.
- Details of planned population growth which may require new and additional provision.
- The profile of any growth and the demand this will create for any particular facility
- Any trends in sports participation which are likely to increase demand for additional provision.
- Details of any future or latent demand which will put pressures on the existing stock.
- Any specific priorities that have been identified for providing new provision, either locally or through the NGB
- Any trends in terms of participation and usage and whether they will put increasing or reduced pressures on existing facility capacity

Appendix MAS 2 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide’ regarding research needed for the four overarching measures of ‘Quantity’, ‘Quality’, ‘Accessibility’ and ‘Availability’

Quality

C15 Are the facilities ‘fit for purpose’ for the users? Do the facilities provide the level of play needed? Does the quality meet the user expectations?

Gaining an understanding of qualitative issues is also important to building a fully informed picture of supply and demand in your area. To develop this understanding you should think about the following:

- Does the quality of the facility meet the standard required or desired by the user? If not, what is the impact?
- Is provision appropriate to meet the relevant NGB standard of play and competition? If not, what is the impact?
- How is quality a factor in attracting or discouraging participation and usage?

C16 Supply Information - this will give you:

- A picture of the quality of individual facilities within your scope of assessment
- Information on the age of facilities, year of refurbishment etc.
- Any supplementary information on the quality of facilities through site assessments and visits along with any condition survey information

C17 Demand information - This will give you:

- User feedback on the quality of facilities and whether they meet customer expectations
- Provider feedback on quality of facilities and whether they meet provider’s expectations
- The views of the sport and the NGB as to whether the facilities are ‘fit for purpose’ for both their sport, and the level of play they need.
- Any specific priorities that have been identified for enhancing provision (improving quality or making facilities ‘fit for purpose’) – locally or through the NGB.

Appendix MAS 2 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide’ regarding research needed for the four overarching measures of ‘Quantity’, ‘Quality’, ‘Accessibility’ and ‘Availability’

Accessibility

C20 Where are the facilities located? Are they in the right physical location for users? Are there any geographical gaps in the supply of facilities?

Looking at where facilities are located, you can get a clearer picture of their overall distribution in relation to demand within your area. To develop this picture you should think about the following:

- How does accessibility affect how the way in which facilities are being used (or not used)?
- Can demand physically travel to the current facility stock? Are there specific geographic areas where accessibility is having a significant effect on usage?
- Is accessibility a reason why certain facilities are busy while others may have spare capacity?
- How do accessibility issues build on any initial thoughts on whether the number and size of facilities is sufficient?
- In addition to the number and size of facilities – are they in the right place and is there appropriate coverage?
- If there are ‘gaps’ in provision – is there sufficient untapped demand to justify new provision or are there other alternatives to think about?

C21 Supply Information - this will give you:

- The ability to map all the facilities using appropriate GIS including any planned and/or unused facilities
- Ability to apply appropriate catchments to help analyse any accessibility gaps
- To overlay any particular policy drivers e.g. health or deprivation indices

C22 Demand Information - this will give you:

- A clear understanding of the location of facilities in relation to the nature and distribution of the population and participation profiles of the area
- The location of any population growth compared to the where the current facilities are located

Appendix MAS 2 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide’ regarding research needed for the four overarching measures of ‘Quantity’, ‘Quality’, ‘Accessibility’ and ‘Availability’

Availability

C24 Are the facilities available to users who want to use them, when they want to use them?

How are facilities being used?

Once you have begun to establish your thinking around the number, size, quality and location of provision, a further layer of understanding can be gained by thinking about issues of availability and potential operational barriers. You should look to consider the following:

- Are there restrictions on some facilities that affect their availability? An example may be facilities requiring private membership. How does this impact on the supply and demand relationship?
- How does the price of using certain facilities affect how they are used?
- Are opening times or programming of sessions an important factor in understanding the supply and demand picture i.e. are they limiting the availability of a facility or certain facility type?
- Does ownership and management affect the availability of facilities to users, or specific groups? An example may be that specific education facilities are not managed positively to all general community or club use.
- Are there identifiable issues that impact on the capacity and availability of facilities?
- Are there any physical design and layout issues of facilities that may limit availability to or prevent use by specific users?
- How do availability issues expand on or clarify the picture you are building of your local area?

C25 Supply Information - this will give you:

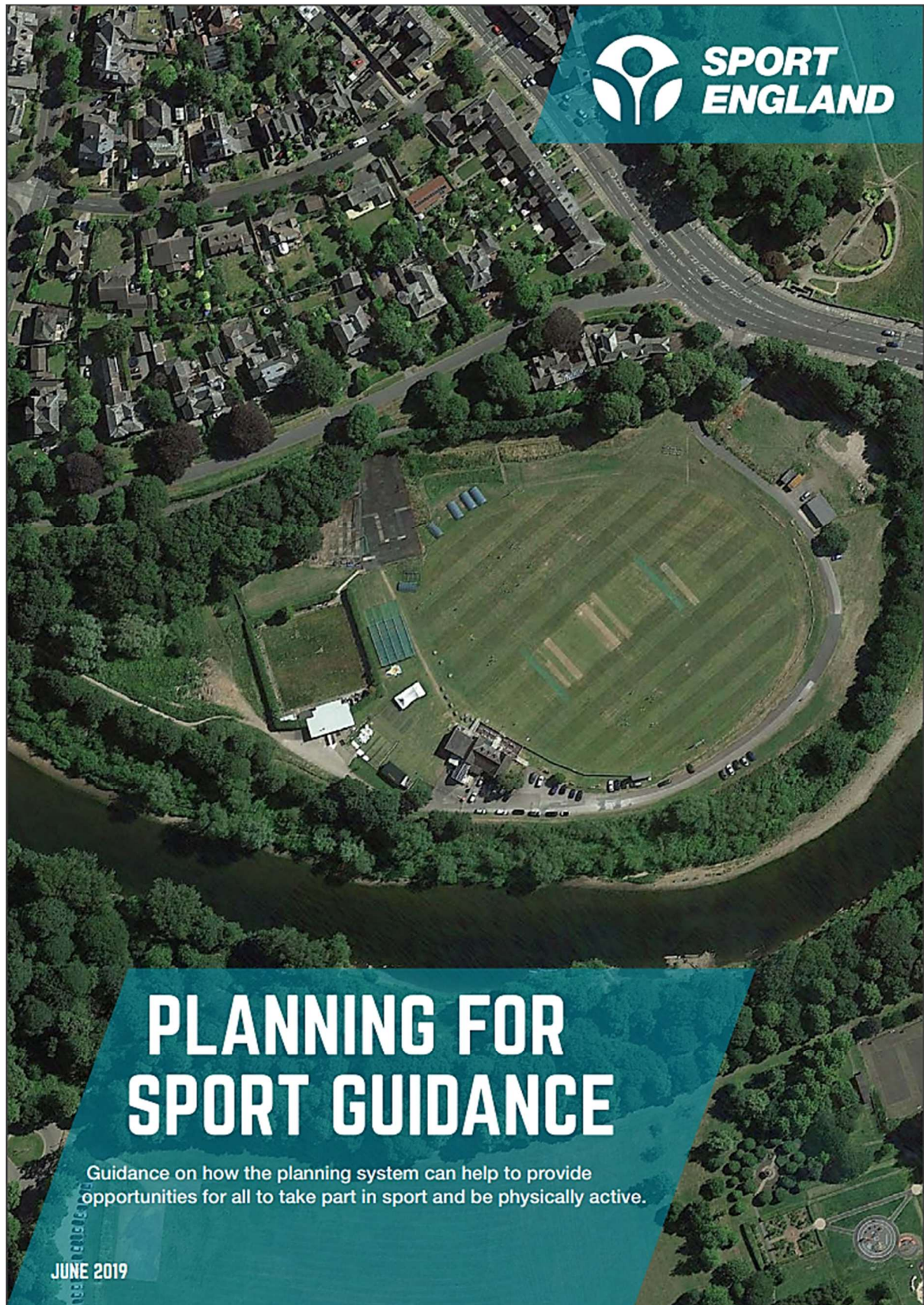
- An understanding of the management, ownership and usage of facilities and the impact on the availability of provision.
- A clear picture from the consultation views on how available facilities are.

C26 Demand Information - This will give you:

- A clear picture from the consultation views on how available facilities are, both generally and to specific sports or groups.
- What the trends are in terms of participation and usage, how these might put increasing or reduced pressures on the availability of provision
- Details of any identified future or latent demand which will put pressures on the availability of the existing stock
- Knowledge of whether specific priorities have been identified for enhancing the availability of provision – locally or through the NGB

Appendix MAS 3

Extracts from Sport England's 'Planning for Sport Guidance'



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

PLANNING FOR SPORT GUIDANCE

Guidance on how the planning system can help to provide opportunities for all to take part in sport and be physically active.

JUNE 2019



CONTENTS

THE 12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES.....	1
PART 1: THE PLANNING SYSTEM & SPORT ENGLAND.....	3
PLANNING POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	4
THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK	6
STRATEGIES FOR SPORT – GOVERNMENT AND SPORT ENGLAND	8
SPORT ENGLAND’S PLANNING AIM AND OBJECTIVES	9
HOW SPORT ENGLAND WORKS WITH THE PLANNING SYSTEM	10
PART 2: APPLYING THE 12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES ...	12
OVERARCHING: PRINCIPLES 1 TO 3.....	15
PROTECT: PRINCIPLES 4 AND 5.....	23
ENHANCE: PRINCIPLES 6 AND 7	29
PROVIDE: PRINCIPLES 8 TO 12.....	35
APPENDIX A: USEFUL RESOURCES.....	50
APPENDIX B: CONTACTING SPORT ENGLAND.....	52

OVERARCHING	PROTECT	ENHANCE	PROVIDE
<p>RECOGNISE AND GIVE SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT TO THE BENEFITS OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.</p>	<p>PROTECT AND PROMOTE EXISTING SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION AND ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT PREJUDICE ITS USE.</p>	<p>SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED.</p>	<p>SUPPORT NEW PROVISION, INCLUDING ALLOCATING NEW SITES, FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHICH MEETS IDENTIFIED NEEDS.</p>
<p>UNDERTAKE, MAINTAIN AND APPLY ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENTS OF NEED AND STRATEGIES FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION, AND BASE POLICIES, DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE UPON THEM.</p>	<p>ENSURE LONG-TERM VIABLE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF NEW AND EXISTING SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION.</p>	<p>ENCOURAGE AND SECURE WIDER COMMUNITY USE OF EXISTING AND NEW SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION.</p>	<p>ENSURE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO MEETING THE NEEDS GENERATED BY NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION.</p>
<p>PLAN, DESIGN AND MAINTAIN BUILDINGS, DEVELOPMENTS, FACILITIES, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO LEAD ACTIVE LIFESTYLES.</p>	 SPORT ENGLAND		<p>PROVIDE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVISION WHICH IS FIT FOR PURPOSE AND WELL DESIGNED.</p>
<h1>12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES</h1>			
<h1>12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES</h1>			
<h1>12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES</h1>			
<h1>12 PLANNING-FOR-SPORT PRINCIPLES</h1>			

Appendix MAS 3 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Planning for Sport Guidance’ (June 2019)

The NPPF also states that:

“access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities” (paragraph 96).

In providing specific detail on planning positively for open space, sport and recreational provision, the NPPF is clear that:

- planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for new provision (paragraph 96);
- information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate (paragraph 96);
- existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless one of three specific circumstances are met (paragraph 97);
- planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access including, providing better facilities for users (paragraph 98); and
- land of particular recreational value to a local community can be designated as a Local Green Space affording it greater protection (paragraph 101).

Proper consideration of open space, sport and recreation is essential in ensuring that spatial development strategies and local plans are found to be sound when they are independently examined. To be sound they need to demonstrate that they meet the four tests set out in the NPPF¹⁰ in that they have been positively prepared, are justified, are effective and deliverable and are consistent with national policy.

The NPPF is supported by the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹¹. The PPG provides additional context and guidance on a range of topics including health and wellbeing, along with open space, sports and recreational facilities. The PPG also includes details of the types of planning applications that Sport England should be consulted on¹², as well as pointing to Sport England’s guidance on assessing the need for sports and recreational facilities¹³.

¹⁰ [The Government’s NPPF \(2019\)](#) – paragraph 35 Examining Plans.

¹¹ [The Government’s Planning Practice Guidance](#).

¹² See the ‘[How Sport England works with the planning system](#)’ section of this guidance (page 10).

¹³ See ‘[Planning for Sport Principle 2](#)’ within this guidance (page 18).

Appendix MAS 3 – extracts from Sport England’s ‘Planning for Sport Guidance’ (June 2019)

PLANNING FOR SPORT
PART 1: THE PLANNING SYSTEM & SPORT ENGLAND

SPORT ENGLAND'S PLANNING AIM

Sport England's aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active.

PLANNING OBJECTIVES: PROTECT, ENHANCE, PROVIDE

This aim is supported by three objectives:

PROTECT – TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACES.

Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.

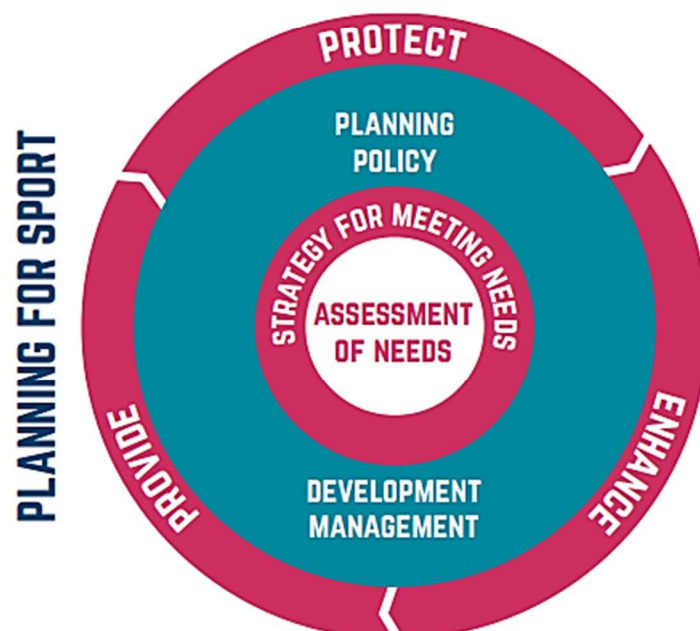
ENHANCE – TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH BETTER USE OF EXISTING PROVISION.

The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.

PROVIDE – TO PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

Understanding people's needs is central to meeting the objectives and planning effectively for sport and physical activity. An assessment of needs should inform a strategy (for example playing pitch strategy or built facility strategy) to meet the needs. The assessment and strategy should then be positively applied in both the Planning Policy and Development Management aspects of the planning system¹⁷.



¹⁷ See 'Planning for Sport Principle 2' within this guidance (page 18).

PROTECT

PROTECT AND PROMOTE
EXISTING SPORT AND
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
PROVISION AND ENSURE
NEW DEVELOPMENT DOES
NOT PREJUDICE ITS USE.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (PARAGRAPH 97):

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (PARAGRAPH 182):

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs).

The Government is clear that existing sport and recreational provision should be protected unless one of three specific circumstances are met. This protection is afforded to all provision irrespective of whether it is in public, private or educational ownership and regardless of the nature and level of use. It also relates to ancillary facilities including clubhouses, changing rooms and parking facilities. In relation to the first circumstance set out in paragraph 97 of the NPPF, it should be noted that:

- i. a lack of use of sport and recreational provision should not be taken as necessarily indicating an absence of need in an area; and that
- ii. school plans and assessments showing an excess of playing field provision for the purposes of Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 or Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 (or their replacements), do not provide an adequate assessment as they do not assess the wider sporting and community need for provision.

SPORT ENGLAND – A STATUTORY CONSULTEE

Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications for development affecting playing fields. Sport England’s playing fields policy and how it assesses such applications is set out in its Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document³⁹. The policy and supporting guidance are in line with the Government’s commitment in the NPPF to the protection of sport and recreational provision. The document also provides helpful clarification and additional guidance to assist all with assessing related planning applications and protecting provision. The guidance in the document, for example on assessing proposed replacement provision, may also be of use for assessing proposals affecting other sporting provision in line with paragraph 97 of the NPPF.

AGENT OF CHANGE

Existing sport and physical activity provision may give rise to effects that could be deemed a statutory nuisance to proposed development planned in close proximity to it. These effects could prejudice the use of the existing provision, for example due to the risk of a cricket ball being hit into a development proposed adjacent to an existing cricket ground, or noise generated from an existing nearby artificial grass pitch. However, the Government is clear in the NPPF⁴⁰ that in such circumstances the existing facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed upon them and it is for the applicant of the new development (the agent of change) to secure suitable mitigation ([Principle 12](#)).

³⁹ See the ‘How Sport England works with the planning system’ section of this guidance (page 10). [Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document \(2018\)](#).

⁴⁰ [The Government’s NPPF \(2019\)](#) – see paragraph 182.

⁴¹ [The Government’s NPPF \(2019\)](#) – see paragraphs 99 – 101.

⁴² [Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document \(2018\)](#).

Appendix MAS 4

Extracts from the R&A's 'Golf & Health 2016-2020' report



Golf and Health 2016-2020.

Contents.

Introduction

The health benefits of golf	3
-----------------------------------	---

Scientific Papers

The Scoping Review	5
The Spectator Study	7
The International Consensus Statement	9
Strength and Balance Study	11
Other papers and research	12

Case Studies

1. The Open	15
2. Wales Golf and the Stroke Association	17
3. Golf for the Disabled	18
4. Monique Kalkman	19
5. Policy makers	20
6. National Federations	21
7. Social Prescription	22
8. Golf and Health Week	23
9. The Home of Golf	24
10. Golf Memories	25

The Future

The future of golf and health	26
-------------------------------------	----

The health benefits of playing golf are significant.

It is a sport that can be played from the age of four to 104. It can be played in the fresh air in the great outdoors, in many different forms and even indoors too. It allows golfers to enjoy a form of exercise, as well as boosting their mental wellbeing in a social environment. Even following your favourites by walking at golf events is good for you.

These facts alone have long been known by golfers themselves. However, it is important to educate those beyond the sport about its many health benefits, including non-golfers, public health professionals and governments.

As two-time Champion Golfer of the Year, Padraig Harrington, said, "People who play golf do realise the benefit of it. But the wider public doesn't understand it – the health benefits of playing golf for your physical and mental health. I have seen how impactful golf can be on peoples' wellbeing; now it is time to get the message out there."

Put simply, golf has underplayed its health benefits. Against a background of busy modern lives, competing interests and more sport and leisure pursuits than ever, golf has perhaps not effectively positioned itself as a health-enhancing activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Nevertheless, an opportunity exists for golf. An epidemic of physical inactivity-related disease in most of the world's populations – physical inactivity is responsible for more than

three million deaths worldwide – has led to the World Health Organization (WHO) calling for action by sports.

Since 2016, The R&A and its partners, including the World Golf Foundation (WGF), the United States Golf Association (USGA) and the European Tour, have sought to: raise awareness of the health benefits of golf to encourage interest in participation by people of all ages and abilities; improve the sport's image; and increase advocacy for golf by government agencies and public health bodies.

The Golf & Health Project, supported by The R&A and the other WGF partners, was formed to achieve these aims by producing and publishing high quality science that evidences golf's physical and mental health benefits to target existing golfers, non-golfers, golf bodies and policy makers in government and health.

Dr Roger Hawkes, a sport and exercise physician and former Chief Medical Officer of the European Tour and Ryder Cup Europe, is the Founder and Executive Director of the Project.



"People who play golf do realise the benefit of it. But the wider public doesn't understand it – the health benefits of playing golf for your physical and mental health. I have seen how impactful golf can be on peoples' wellbeing; now it is time to get the message out there."

PADRAIG HARRINGTON
Two-time Champion Golfer

Knowledge is power.

It was Francis Bacon, one of the leading figures in natural philosophy, who coined this now-famous phrase in 1597. For golf to accurately highlight its physical and mental health benefits (and any illness or injury), it was important to research and review the existing scientific evidence.

The Scoping Review.



A scoping review to identify key concepts and gaps in research was published in October 2016 by the BJSM, the world-leading sports medicine journal, and proved crucial to understanding and raising awareness of golf's health benefits. It was one of the most read and used scientific research papers of the year, generating interest in the health benefits of golf on a global scale.

Conducted at the University of Edinburgh, researchers reviewed 5,000 studies into golf and wellbeing and analysed in detail over 300 of the most relevant. The main findings from the Review highlighted that golfers enjoy longer lives, particularly as the sport can help prevent chronic diseases, improve mental health and boost social wellbeing.

Summary of findings

On average, golfers live five years longer than non-golfers

- Published in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports, a landmark study found a 40% reduction in mortality rates among 300,000 members of the Swedish Golf Federation, corresponding to an increase in life expectancy of about five years (this applied for both genders, all ages and all socio-economic groups)

Golf helps combat disease

- Golf, as a physical activity, can help prevent and treat 40 major chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart attacks, stroke, breast and colon cancer, depression and dementia. Other studies highlighted that risk factors for heart disease and stroke, such as cholesterol and blood pressure, are reduced in populations who play golf

Golf is a moderate intensity physical activity

- Highlighted by most sources, including the renowned international publication of physical activity quantification, 'The Compendium of Physical Activities', and recommended by policy makers worldwide including the WHO, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and UK Chief Medical Officers
- Moderate intensity activities are those that get you moving fast or strenuously enough to burn off three to six times as much energy per minute as you do when you are sitting quietly, so the acceptance of this for golf was significant
- Balance and muscle endurance in older people are improved by playing golf, while golf is also likely to improve cardiovascular, respiratory and metabolic health

Appendix MAS 5

Extracts about the significant boost in UK golf participation post Covid

Appendix MAS 5 – extracts illustrating the boom in golfer demand from Covid

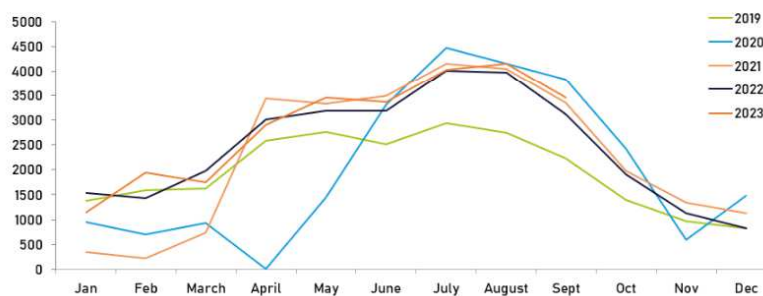
Rounds played remain strong through the third quarter of 2023



After a sluggish start to the year, 2023 rounds played across Great Britain remain well clear of pre-pandemic numbers, in the latest sign that golf's pandemic participation boom has reset the baseline appetite for the game. Only January of the first nine months of the year saw a dip against 2019 figures, while the remainder of the year has so far seen 2023 track and often exceed the booming totals seen outside lockdowns during the period 2020-2022. September was the quarter's strongest performing month, both against 2022 (up 10%) and against 2019 (up 55%).

ROUNDS PLAYED YEAR TO DATE | NATIONAL

Average number of Rounds Played per course in each month - 2019- 2023



Quarterly rounds played across Great Britain were up 5% compared to Q3 2022, pushing the year to date total 3% ahead of 2022. The year to date average of 2910 rounds played per course per month means there are 646 more rounds per course per month being played, or an extra of 21 more people per day.

Continued congratulations for such a strong and consistent growth in play frequency should go to everyone involved in the sport, including to the clubs and their teams who are clearly successfully engaging and retaining golfers of all standards. Praise should also go to governing bodies, with initiatives like the iGolf, Openplay and Flexigolf schemes for independent golfers in England, Scotland and Wales respectively also bearing fruit in providing routes for non-members and newer golfers to track improvement and access competitive golf, helping those people to stay in the game. [2022 figures from England Golf](#) showed that only 6% of iGolf subscribers had previously been golf club members, while the average age of the scheme users was younger than golf club members.


Since 2000, Sporting Insights has tracked rounds played at commercial golf courses across mainland Great Britain. For more information or to purchase the full report, contact [Richard Payne](#).

GCMA
GOLF CLUB MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Join Now

Subscribe

New statistics show the golf boom is still going strong



Categories:

EDUCATION

GCMA UPDATES

FEATURES

02
AUGUST
2023

We've been wondering when golf's post Covid participation boom might finally start to stall. But new figures from BRS Golf – revealed in the latest GCMA Insights podcast – and The R&A have revealed a pretty buoyant picture for the first half of 2023

Crippling energy bills. Rising interest rates and high inflation – the cost-of-living crisis was tipped to end golf's Covid participation boom. But new figures suggest it's still showing no signs of slowing up.

Intriguing numbers released by BRS Golf reveal more 'member rounds' were played in the first half of this year than in the entirety of 2019.

The company, which provides tee time and booking services for some 1,500 clubs in the UK and Ireland, reported 13.6 million member rounds in the first half of 2023 – 6.7 million ahead of the comparable year before the pandemic.

In a GCMA Insights edition of the [Golf Club Talk UK podcast](#), BRS Golf's Kevin Murray said: "To put it into slightly more context, we had more member rounds played in the first half of this year than we had in the whole of 2019."

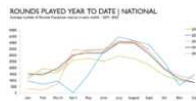
‘Rounds Played’ remains strong in Q3 as post-pandemic golf boom continues

10:57am 15th November 2023 - Management Topics



September was Q3's strongest performing month, both against 2022 (up 10%) and against 2019 (up 55%)

New golf participation data for the third quarter of 2023 in the Great Britain has revealed that more rounds were played for most of July to September than in any previous year with the exception of 2020.



After a sluggish start to the year, 2023 rounds played across Great Britain remain well clear of pre-pandemic numbers, in the latest sign that golf's pandemic participation boom has reset the baseline appetite for the game.

According to a report issued by Sporting Insights, only January of the first nine months of the year saw a dip against 2019 figures, while the remainder of the year has so far seen 2023 track and often exceed the totals seen outside lockdowns during the period 2020-2022.

September was the quarter's strongest performing month, both against 2022 (up 10%) and against 2019 (up 55%).

Quarterly rounds played across Great Britain were up 5% compared to Q3 2022, pushing the year to date total 3% ahead of 2022. The year-to-date average of 2,910 rounds played per course per month means there are 646 more rounds per course per month being played – or an extra of 21 more people per day.

The report suggests that initiatives such as iGolf, Openplay and Flexigolf schemes for independent golfers in England, Scotland and Wales were playing a significant role in providing routes for non-members and newer golfers to track improvement and access competitive golf, helping those people to stay in the game.

Last month saw BRS Golf, golf's leading provider of tee time management booking technology, report a strong first half of 2023 for both member play and visitor play in the UK and Ireland, with more rounds played so far this year than in the whole of 2019.

Sign the Sustainable Golf pledge today and express your commitment

Click here to join the movement

Sustainable Golf — Pledge —

GOOD Directory Updates

- Bailoy Products Ltd
- Creative Golf Design
- Huxley Golf
- IMG UK Ltd
- intelligentgolf
- John Greasley Limited
- Seventy2 Golf
- Skyhawk Technologies UK (SkyCaddie and SkyTrak)
- Syngenta
- Lobb + Partners
- Wiedenmann UK
- ZEN GREEN STAGE

Latest Golf Industry News



Club Car 'future-proofed' growth in new and existing markets

Club Car Vice President EMEA Marco N... that Club Car is extremely well equipped for the future following consecutive record year and 2023.

Appendix MAS 5 – extracts illustrating the boom in golfer demand from Covid


GOLF NEWS

THE UK'S NO.1 GOLFING PUBLICATION Est. 1994

NEWS +
INTERVIEWS
EQUIPMENT +
TRAVEL +
COURSE REVIEWS
COMPETITIONS
LATEST ISSUE
GOLF GUIDE
SUBSCRIBE
CONTACT US

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT → DJ HOLDS ALL THE ACES IN VEGAS

Home > Featured



GOLF BOOM SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING

© 21 December 2023

New golf participation data for the third quarter of 2023 in the UK has revealed that more rounds of golf were played between July and September than in any previous year with the exception of 2020.

After a slow start to the year, mainly caused by bad weather, rounds played across the UK remain well above pre-pandemic numbers, in the latest sign that golf's pandemic participation boom has reset the baseline appetite for the game.

According to a report issued by Sporting Insights, only January of the first nine months of the year saw a dip against 2019 figures, while the remainder of the year has so far seen 2023 track and often exceed the totals seen outside lockdowns during the period 2020-2022.

September was the quarter's strongest performing month, both against 2022 (up 10%) and against 2019 (up 55%).

MORE ROUNDS BEING PLAYED

The year-to-date average of 2,910 rounds played per course per month means there are 646 more rounds per course per month being played – or an extra of 21 more people per day.


The report suggests that initiatives such as iGolf, Openplay and Flexigolf schemes for independent golfers in England, Scotland and Wales were playing a significant role in providing routes for non-members and newer golfers to track improvement and access competitive golf, helping those people to stay in the game.

BIG CHANGE IN AFTERNOON ROUNDS

BRS Golf, golf's leading provider of tee time management booking technology, report a strong first half of 2023 for both member play and visitor play in the UK and Ireland, with more rounds played so far this year than in the whole of 2019.

Another big change in golf participation since the pandemic has also been the noticeable shift in the patterns of play, with games played from midday onwards representing 60% of all rounds, up for 50% in 2019, while the number of rounds played on weekdays has gone up to 59%, compared to 56% four years ago. Both figures reflect a change in work patterns, with more people working from home or operating flexible working hours, which enable them to clock off early to play golf during times that were once considered 'office hours'.

LATEST ISSUE & GOLF GUIDE 2023



GOLF NEWS

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR LATEST NEWS & PROMOTIONS

[CLICK HERE](#)

LATEST LEADERBOARDS ON TOUR

PGA TOUR	DP WORLD TOUR	LPGA TOUR	LET T
PGA TOUR - MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA			
Player	Total	Thru	
1 + Valimaki, S	-11	F	
T1 + Wallace, M	-11	F	
T1 Ortiz, A	-11	15	
4 Rooyen, E	-10	F	
5 Novak, A	-7	4	
6 Rodgers, P	-6	F	
T6 Jaeger, S	-6	F	
T6 Moore, R	-6	F	
T6 Fuente, S	-6	16	
T6 Lipsky, D	-6	4	
T7 Nishikubo, R	-6	2	

Sort by your country Powered By

GOLF NEWS

THE ULTIMATE GOLF DAY GUIDE

2023