



MESSAGE FROM RSGC CAPTAIN

Monday, 19 July 2021

Dear Members,

In response to several requests, The Committee (TC) held an emergency meeting last week to discuss members' concerns. As you may be aware, the situation in Malaysia is extremely fluid, with work and democratic processes profoundly disrupted by lockdowns and observance of the many versions of SOP imposed by the authorities to contain the pandemic. When TC met in early June to defer the AGM from June 19th to 31st July 2021, we believed that a two-month postponement would be sufficient time for Covid cases to subside, allowing a physical AGM to be held; unfortunately, this was not the case! By mid-June, it became apparent that a virtual meeting was the only way to go and preparations were made (a decision that has been vindicated, with many Corporations and Organisations worldwide holding AGMs virtually). With regard to a request to further defer the AGM, the TC has the view that a further deferment will not guarantee the ability to have a physical meeting in the future and that proceeding with the planned 31st July Virtual AGM provides a firm date so Club Business can progress.

Life must go on; We have to move forward and leverage technology to minimize the impact caused by the pandemic. This is also the case for our resolution to upgrade the golf courses – including the restoration of the Suleiman Course – where the planning process has taken more than two years. When we renovated the 1st Hole Green, New Course, we replaced all the grass with Zoysia within 30 yards of the same; this gave us a much better playing surface. We then replaced and sand-capped our tee-boxes with Zoysia, our driving range, and our Suleiman 1st and 2nd holes. These multiple trial initiatives were successful and have empirically proven that Zoysia is the right grass. Apart from articles published in our Circular, we also displayed our proposal on our electronic boards; and most importantly, held a town hall meeting in March, earlier this year. More than 40 members attended and I must say the feedback from them was encouraging. A pre-meeting site visit to the Suleiman Course was an eye-opener!

I am delighted that the overwhelming majority of members who have spoken to me are in favour of the upgrading exercise per se - the primary concern is about its

timing: Should we embark on such a self-serving exercise when many Malaysians are enduring hardship from loss of income and prospects? Due to the existing RSGC governance and processes, it would take at least 7 to 12 months (coinciding with the end of this Captaincy's tenure!) from tendering to award and mobilization before the upgrading works can even start should the resolution be approved! The whole process is likely to take another 3 years and the RM30 million Capital Expenditure would be a welcomed economic activity, creating jobs, downstream goods and services - a positive contribution to the industry recovery!

The upgrading works are not just about replacing the existing species of grass with the homogenous Zoysia but also includes laying 4-inch thick sand capping over a 500,000-square meter of fairways, adding and redoing some of the 150 km of subsoil drainage to both our fairways some of the high traffic rough areas, renovating and reshaping some of the 36 greens, and also restoring (including subsoil drainage) the 9-hole Suleiman Course. Works will be carried out 9 holes at a time, so members can continue playing on the remaining 3 nines at any one time over the next 3 years, as we try to minimize disruption to our golfing routine.

TC is mindful of the large sum that we are investing in our golf course – which is our core asset. Presenting the proposal for members' approval is the culmination of two years of work by the Green Subcommittee, comprising technical discussions, studies and on-site trials to obtain feedback and gather data. All steps taken were done through careful deliberations so that TC can recommend the investment with confidence. In this message, I enclose an annexure FAQ by the Green Subcommittee, together with inputs from our golf course consultant. It is my sincere hope that interested members will take time to read the attachment and we would be happy to answer any questions raised by them during our second Town Hall Meeting (albeit a virtual one) at 3 pm on Friday, 23 July 2021.

Please click on the link below to read the **GOLF COURSE UPGRADING FAQs** that we hope will answer some questions you may have regarding the project.

<https://www.thersgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Golf-Course-Upgrading-FAQs.pdf>

Warmest regards,

**TAN SRI EDDY CHEN LOK LOI, CAPTAIN
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