



# Pleasington Golf Club

## Bunker Update

August 2022



# Current Bunker Status

- 4 years ago we engaged Ken Moodie to review all aspects of our circa 70 bunkers
- This covered playability, drainage, strategic position, the operational time wasted by our Greens Team, & their aesthetic appeal
- The output of that plan became the foundation for our overall course improvement plan – “Good2Great”
- In essence they drained terribly, played poorly, took up too much green staff time, looked un-inspiring and many were in the wrong place due to technology changes!

## In the last 3 Years we have:

- Totally rebuilt 24 bunkers
- Built 5 brand new bunkers
- Removed 4 bunkers completely

## This year we will:

- Totally rebuild 10 bunkers
- Build 4 brand new bunkers
- Remove 9 bunkers completely

Unfortunately, at present we have 3 different types of sand that look and play differently:

- Original (brownny orange)
- Sand used on 1, 2, 3, 12, 16, 18 (beige)
- Sand used on 7, 8, & 9 (white)

- If you have any follow questions please email them to Peter Bedford at [pgcstrategy@gmail.com](mailto:pgcstrategy@gmail.com)



OLD STYLE BUNKERS



NEW STYLE BUNKERS



ORIGINAL



FIRST 2 YEARS



LAST YEAR

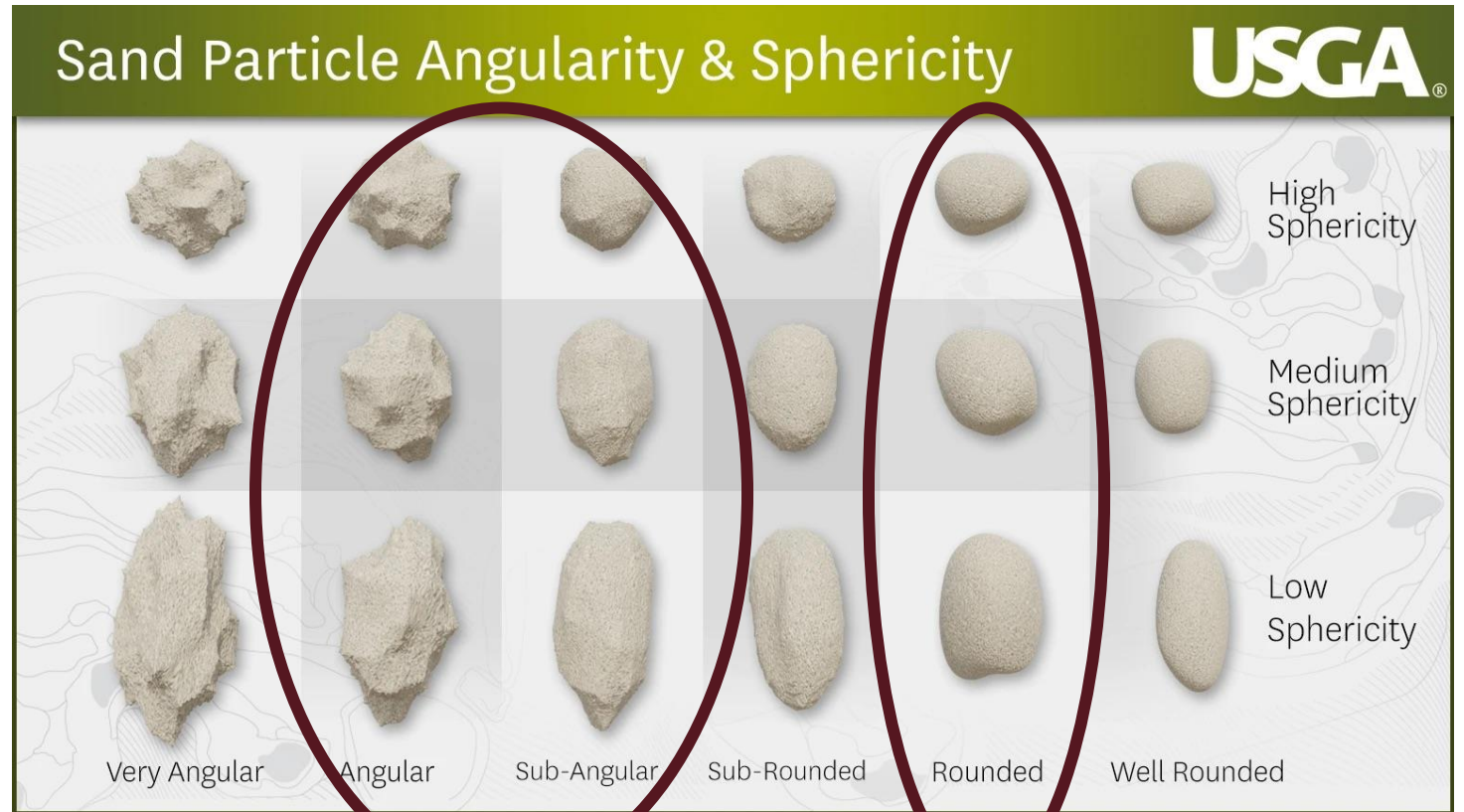
# Current Bunker Status

- **ORIGINAL**
  - The original bunkers have no bases and stones and soil keep coming through
  - During periods or rain the old bunker faces continue to washdown and large puddles form at the bottom making them unplayable
  - They take lots of greenstaff time to get back in play
  - They look weak & some are in the wrong places eg 11<sup>th</sup>
- **FIRST 2 YEARS (1,2,3,12,16,18)**
  - Look better than they play!
  - Sand not staying on the faces & making bases far too deep
  - Fairway bunkers not compacting and sand very unstable
  - Greensides not gritty enough to get enough spin
  - Draining well
- **LAST YEARS (7,8,9)**
  - Early signs are positive as sand more stable and playable
  - Still settling in so some plugged balls
  - Is the white colour natural looking on a heathland course?

# Why all sand isn't the same!!

The shape of the bunker particles has a massive impact on drainage and stability, as does the particle size

- For the first 2 years we used a more rounded sand as we wanted to really improve the drainage
- However, this sand proved over the 2 years to be too unstable and won't stick to the faces or compact enough to give a firm lie or allow a player to get effective spin
- Last year on holes 7, 8, & 9 we used an "Angular / sub-Angular" sand which has proved to be more stable and allow players to get more spin, though it is still compacting / settling
- The whiter looking sand has more impact visually, though is perhaps more unnatural on a heathland style course
- Sand in bunkers that are south facing dry out much faster than other bunkers, and typically play a little differently



7, 8, & 9

1,2,3,12,16,18

# Short term actions

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- Review the performance of the sand in holes 7,8,& 9 at end of the season
- Discuss colour with advisors and Course Committee
- Exchange the sand in the fairway bunker on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the sand used on 7,8,9 to see if performance is improved
- Remove stones again on the 6<sup>th</sup>
- Weekly testing of all sand depths & alter as appropriate
- Continue to rake bunkers at least 5 times per week and move sand to appropriate places



# Longer term actions

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- Standardise on one sand size, type & colour!
- Replace all bunkers by the end of 2024
- Replace any sand from newer bunkers that is not our agreed standard by end of 2024



# Summary

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- We have made great progress
- Need to standardise
- All will be finished in 2 years time

