

ENTRY HILL GOLF COURSE

A £70,000 loss and few members. WHY?

Because Entry Hill has been starved and neglected.

GLL* takes all the money generated by golf course and cafe, does not promote golf and then bills the Council for any claimed losses. £38,000 this year. Yet GLL's website seems to show it is impossible to join Entry Hill Golf alone, but golf is included free with Gym and Swim memberships, both individual and corporate. It looks as though **Entry Hill has been starved of revenue and members**. And remember it is also a Pay and Play Course.

The course has been neglected by the Parks Department. It suffers from badly mown fairways, bunkers without sand, essential machinery missing to prepare the course for weekend golfers. Complaints are ignored. Yet the Parks Department estimate this cost £30,000-35,000 last year.

So, split between GLL and the Parks Department Entry Hill is no one's responsibility. No one pushed for the sponsorships which improved Bath Leisure Centre, or Odd Down Sports Hub. Entry Hill hasn't benefited from being part of the successful Heritage Lottery Bid to develop Bath's Green Strategy.

And Entry Hill is proud of being part of Bath's green lung. It has many trees, a variety of wildlife. Entry Hill would welcome the opportunity to improve its green credentials and open safely to residents.

All Entry Hill lacks is an energetic person based there and tasked with realising the potential of the Golf Course and cafe. Someone to liaise with a university, such as Bournemouth which is looking to place golf management interns. Someone to teach golf, to increase membership; contacting schools, families, students, the NHS in its drive to encourage sport among the elderly. Someone actively attracting visiting tourists.

Entry Hill is unique. It is a manageable but challenging, 9 hole **handicap rated course**, unlike other public courses in Bath. It is affiliated to Golf England. It offers affordable golf, is beautiful, accessible, and near the centre of a tourist magnet.

Finally in January this year the Times reported a large study found regular golf "led to improvements in cholesterol levels, body composition, wellness, self esteem and self worth."

Affordable Entry Hill should not be under threat.

* GLL, Greenwich Leisure Limited, or Better, which runs all leisure services.