

Monash Tennis Centre: Feedback Report 3

Golf Survey and Listening Post, 12 March to 18 April 2021

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Monash Council is delivering an 18-court public tennis facility at the Glen Waverley Sports Hub, with \$21m funding from State Government.

The new tennis centre will replace the existing 23-court tennis centre in Boroondara, currently located on land needed for North East Link. The Monash Tennis Centre will be a community-focused tennis facility, supporting club, local and regional tennis.

The tennis facility will be located on the site of the current driving range and off lead dog park at the Glen Waverley Golf Course.

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

The new tennis centre will be located on the existing driving range at the Glen Waverley Golf Course. With the removal of the driving range, there is an opportunity to provide alternative golf practice facilities as part of the tennis centre development. This report summarises the third round of consultation, which was focused on golf practice facilities, and included:

- Survey (online) for golf facility users from 12 March to 18 April 2021
- Listening post at the Glen Waverley Golf Course on 17 April 2021 between 10am and 12pm

The purpose of the consultation was to engage with users of the golf course and driving range to obtain feedback on preferences for golf practice facilities at the site. All users of the golf course and driving range, including members and non-members, were personally invited to participate in the survey and listening post by email. The survey was also promoted on Council's Shape Monash online community engagement platform, via social media, and posters in the golf pavilion.

A listening post was held on Saturday 17 April 2021 at the Glen Waverley Golf Course, staffed by Council officers working on the tennis project and representing the areas of Recreation Services, Traffic and City Design. There was low attendance at the listening post with very few participants seeking to engage with Council on the project. However, Council staff were able to engage with golf users on the morning and encourage their participation in the survey. This resulted in a number of golfers participating in the survey via interview, hard copy and online.

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Summary of Feedback

All feedback was provided via the survey either online (35 responses), in person or in hard copy (29 responses).

Respondent profile

There were 64 participants in total. Participation was mostly among men (83%) with low participation among women (17%).

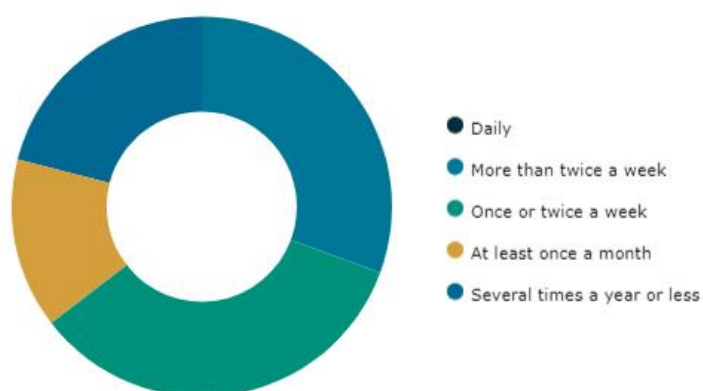
Representation of participants by age group is shown below:

Age group	Percent	Count
Under 15 years	0%	0
15 to 24 years	10.94%	7
25 to 39 years	18.75%	12
40 to 64 years	39.06%	25
65 years and over	31.25%	20
Total	100.00%	64

- Of the respondents, 41% (26 respondents) were members of Glen Waverley Golf Club, and 14% (9 respondents) were members of the driving range.
- About 1 in 5 respondents were not regulars at the golf course, with the remainder playing at least once a month or more.
- The majority of respondents described their golfing ability as intermediate (53%) with 22% describing their ability level as 'beginner' and 25% as 'advanced'.

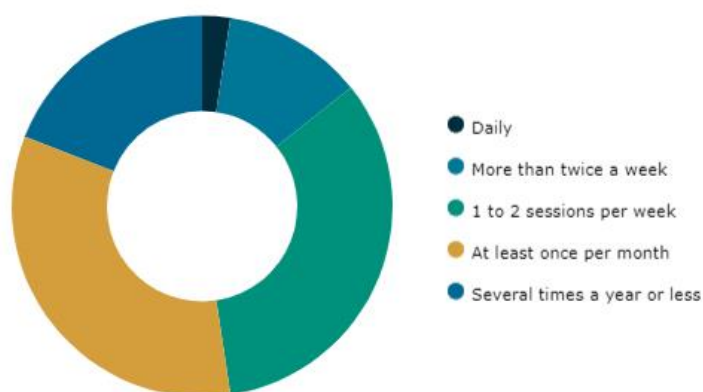
The breakdown of how frequently the 64 survey respondents play at Glen Waverley is shown below.

Figure 1. How frequently do you play a round of golf at the Glen Waverley Golf Club?



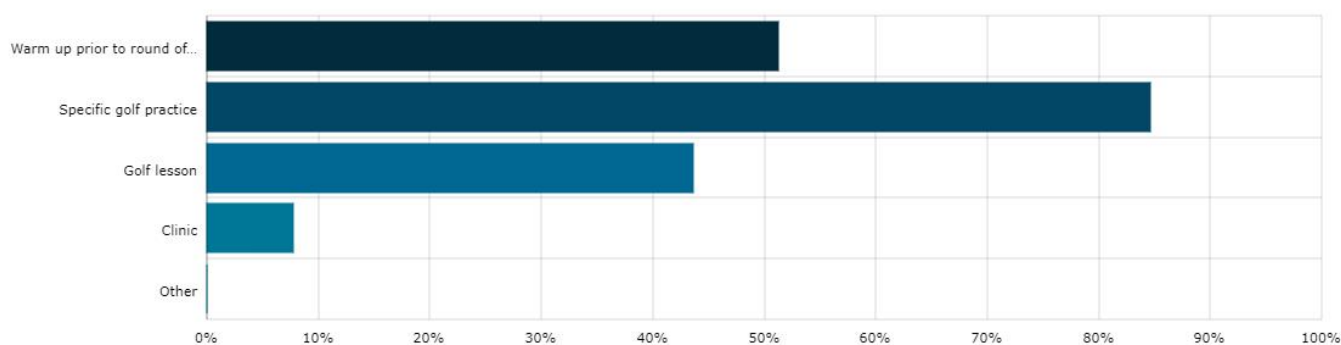
Forty-two participants told us they use the driving range at the golf course, with just under half (20 people) using the range at least every week.

Figure 2. How regularly do you use the driving range at Glen Waverley Golf Club?



Use of the driving range is described below:

Figure 3. Which of the below best describe your use of the driving range?



Respondents who don't use the driving range were asked to tell us why. The 13 responses are shown below

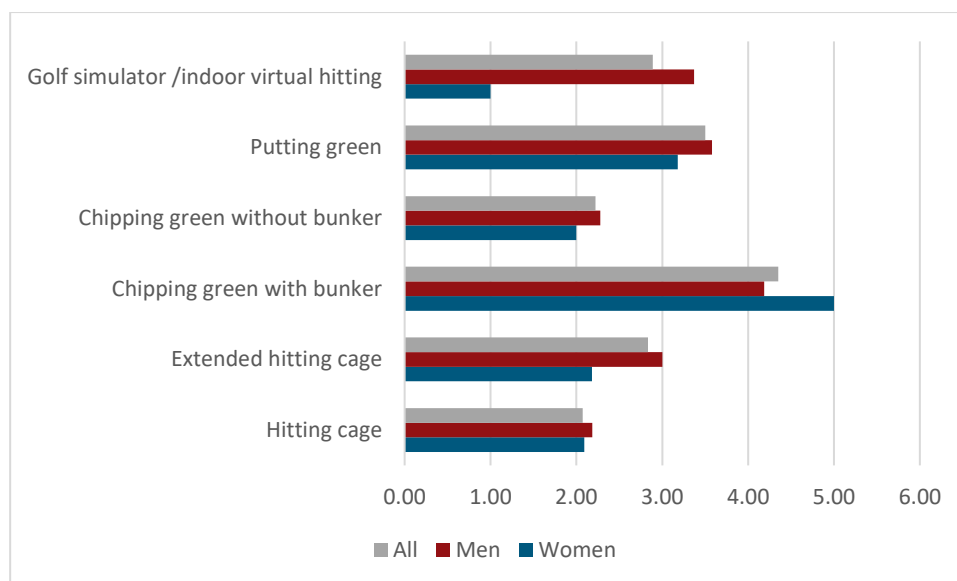
What are your reasons for not currently using the driving range at Glen Waverley Golf Club?

1. First time visitor
2. Rarely
3. Not using lately - used as required
4. First time visitor
5. First time user of the course
6. Don't need it
7. Come because it's low cost. Use driving range elsewhere
8. Not good enough, just come to play golf
9. Not long enough
10. Unsure how to get balls and cost

11. I play and don't do a lot of practice
12. Don't use any driving ranges
13. Prefer to play

Respondents were asked to rank some potential practice facilities. Responses from 54 participants (43 men and 11 women) found a chipping green with bunker was the most popular, followed by a putting green. Least popular options were a hitting cage and chipping green without bunker. A golf simulator was third most popular among men but least popular among women. The ranking positions for each practice facility is shown in the chart below.

Figure 4. Given the re-purposing of the golf driving range for the tennis centre, what practice golfing facilities would you like to see developed at the Glen Waverley Golf Course?



A total of 31 people provided additional ideas for practice golfing facilities, not captured above. The majority (24) made comments in relation to either keeping the existing or creating a new, full size driving range. The full list of ideas is shown below:

Do you have another idea for practice golfing facilities that is not captured in the options above?

1. Driving Range - am not a local
2. Access for Pros
3. access for Golf Pros
4. A Driving Range / New facilities should be underground / Ridiculous with climate change/ parking like Syndal train station
5. Keep driving range -Used by Pro and income generating
6. concrete paths around the course
7. More sand in bunker on course and better greens (faster)
8. New Driving Range 250m
9. Driving Range
10. Mix of facilities - plenty putting, chipping as well as simulator
11. Prefer driving range
12. Proper full length driving range or put a net without full range

13. Night/evening golf range, could be set up on the first hole, allowing drivers, full practice, lessons. Should maintain existing practice green and bunker on practice fairway
14. Keep the existing driving range
15. the best option would be an extended version of the existing facility - providing for irons & driving as is offered at most other courses - required for warm up & practice lessons -
16. Driving range suitable for driver
17. Build an improved outdoor driving range.
18. Move the tennis courts to within Jells Park and leave the range alone!
19. A specific area set aside for golf pro to provide lessons and clinics. This is vital to increasing membership of the golf club
20. We need a driving range considering the amount of people having lessons with the several good coaches at the course.
21. A driving range of at least 200 metre length
22. A driving range is needed, to practice without having to play a round of golf! Find room for it!
23. Course redesign to allow for another practice area. It's one of the ways to properly know how you are hitting.. that is why the professionals use them.
24. Multi level driving range above tennis courts
25. A real driving range is what is needed not simulation.
26. Monash will need create a separate golf driving facility. How will new golfers start playing.
27. A full size driving range to allow instruction and practice for the full range of golf clubs
28. Retain the current outdoor driving, chipping and putting facilities.
29. Keep the driving range and relocate the tennis centre away from the golf course entirely
30. Driving Range is extremely important. It is used daily by a huge number of people of all ages. Without the driving range how are people supposed to learn to play. You cannot learn to play on the course or in a cage!!!!!!!!!!

NEXT STEPS

This feedback will be taken into account in the reference design for the tennis centre and golf practice facilities.