



*Trees would be saved when this bunker is converted to a putting green under the council plan to shorten the fairway by about 50 metres.*

# Golf rancour par for the course

By **BRET CHRISTIAN**

**Sea View Golf Club is heading for a clash with the local council over golf-ball danger from a fairway that runs close to the local rugby and football grounds.**

The club is considering appealing to a higher authority after the council voted two weeks ago to pressure it to change the layout of the eastern edge of the golf course, to make it safe for non-golfers.

Errant golf balls from the fairway have hit footballers and dog walkers on Harvey Field and Cottesloe Oval in Broome Street, with the second fairway of Sea View Golf Club running alongside.

Cottesloe council voted to over-ride a golf club expert's

plan to make tee-shots at the dual 2/11 fairway angle away from the sports ground, then back again.

The council imported its own golf course designer, Richard Chamberlain, to come up with a design it says is much safer and eliminates the need to put a high, unsightly fence between the sports field and the fairway.

Golf club officials are angry that the council has adopted the Chamberlain design, because it reduces the hole from a par 4 to a par 3, shrinking the status of the course to host competitions.

Club president David Rogers calls this "putt-putt golf", reducing Sea View to a par 69 course, when it needed to be par 70 or 71.

# Rancour par for the course

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Modifying another hole to increase the overall par figure was a big and expensive job, he said.

The council also opposes the placement of the tee-box for the next hole, identified by Mr Chamberlain as "a very awkward situation".

Male golfers tee off across Jarrad Street, the entry road to the golf club.

"It looked very unsafe," said Mr Chamberlain who photographed a car parked in the firing line.

The council vote is for that tee-box to be closed and for all players to tee off in what is now the women's tee on the north side of Jarrad Street.

The council sees the present set-up as safety and insurance problems.

But the club believes its own plan is safe and the council's change would additionally de-

grade the competitiveness of the golf course.

The plan accepted by the council would shorten the 2/11 fairway and build a new putting green alongside a stand of trees to the southwest of the present green, requiring golfers to tee off in a direction away from the sports ground.

The council also wants a 5m-high, 30m-long fence between the tee-box and the sports field, directly to the east of a single tee-box in the corner of the fairway.

The council rejected the club's plan to keep the fairway as a par 4 by making it a dog-leg hole, helping to keep balls away from the sports field.

This would entail removing up to 100 old trees on the golf course, councillor Chilla Bulbeck told a previous council meeting when convincing councillors to reject the golf club's design.

Mr Chamberlain said the club's design would be less safe, and might require a high fence between the fairway the sports fields.

The Sea View land is an A-class reserve vested in the council, which leases it to the golf club.

The council and golf club are negotiating another 10-year lease, with the council wanting to resolve the safety issues before the current lease expires in July 2026.

It has asked its CEO to liaise with the club and report back by April next year.