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MEDIA RELEASE – 23 March 2023

Back in late September 2022, we contacted the SWDC and had a meeting on site to discuss our plans for a new club house and the need to remove some trees.

We had a series of engagements with the nearest neighbours.

We needed to fell the trees during summer otherwise it would be impossible to move them due to likely wet ground conditions.

The new club house site has to move away from the Squash Club and the Martinborough main town water supply which currently runs between the two buildings.

We took the meeting with SWDC staff as agreement with our plans but now accept that we should have followed this up in writing.

Today we have had a very constructive meeting with SWDC to develop a better and more robust process for the tree management.

All the trees that have been removed were either oak, gum or pine (all introduced species). Many of the trees had damage or disease. Of the total number of trees, twenty two were oak of various sizes, two were small wilding pines in a drain and one was a gum that had split. The club has a policy of replacing every tree and only by planting New Zealand natives.

Trees are an essential part of a golf course. They determine the character of the course.

We are consulting with Bio-Diversity groups in relation to new planting as we have in the past.

Local children have been involved with new plantings and is seen as an educational experience.

The club hates having to remove trees but sadly sometimes there is no alternative.

Some of the felled oak will be available to groups to use for example, The Men's Shed, for possible furniture production and projects.

Most of the trees had damage but can still be used to raise money for charity as firewood.

We are keen to provide more updates on the project as they come to hand.

The club community is involved with fund raising and all preliminary drawings have been completed.

The club is, after over 100 years on this site, entering an exciting new phase. A new club house, with the help of the wider community.

### Martinborough Golf Club - New Clubhouse Proposal

