



Course Report September 2021

Greens – As mentioned in last months report, we planned to carry out renovation works to the greens. Since then we have deep pencil tined the greens with 8mm solid tines to a depth of approx. 6-7 inches, following this we also overseeded & top-dressed the weak areas of some of the greens. Monday 13th September we applied our last granular feed to the greens for the season. The humid wet weather we saw this week lead to a flare up of fusarium disease, but as the weather was so unsettled there was little point applying a fungicide to treat this because the cost is far too expensive just to be washed away in a downpour. Instead we applied a penetrant wetting agent to the greens, which reduces the surface tension thus speeding up the penetration of water (rainfall) through the profile of the greens helping dry the tops quicker to reduce the spread of disease. We could have applied a fungicide this week, however the greens are already showing signs of recovery so we have applied 20ltr of liquid iron instead which acidifies & strengthens the grass plant, aiding further recovery. Over the coming weeks the last of the renovations will take place on the greens & this will be the sand banding of the 16 soil-based greens we have, excluding 1, 2 & 3.

Total Rainfall – recorded for August was 63.5mm against an average of approximately 78mm.

Tees & Aprons – Plans are in place to hollow core all the summer tees commencing Monday 27th September on the weakest ones, we will then over seed & lightly dress them. We may also granular feed some of the weaker tees if growth continues as it is at present.

Fairways – 1st & 18th Fairways have been treated with a selective herbicide, along with the short game practice area. Plans are in place to treat all fairways & the trees to the RHS 2 with a selective herbicide in spring to ensure we have sufficient growth & recovery of grass to take place where we have any broad leaf weeds or clover. We are looking to sand band the 18th fairway over the coming 4 weeks if weather & resources allow after carrying out the works to the greens, we may also look to sand banding the 9th and parts of the 16th fairways too. All other maintenance continues, and we will be looking to move towards the winter height of cut on fairways within the next 3 months depending on growing conditions.

Rough – Harvesting of the long rough will take place when time allows, in and around carrying out the more crucial renovations works.

Bunkers – as mentioned in the last report the bunkers were all strimmed, with growth we will plan to carry this out again over the coming month, however I will be prioritising the renovation works whilst we have the better weather. We have also now sprayed all the weeds in the bunkers with a total herbicide (weed killer) in the hopes that this will reduce the frequency of growth compared to just pulling the weeds out by hand. The bunkers currently out of play will be the first worked on over autumn.

All Bunker rakes now have new handles fitted, as the wooden ones were starting to rot & snap, I have opted for the aluminium handles as they were only £1.00 each more expensive than wooden. However even though the Covid restrictions have now been reduced significantly & the golfer is once again allowed to pick out the flag pin, pick out the ball from the cup & also use the ball washer, (of which we have taken delivery of 7 new ball washers, different design) members & visitors still seem not to be raking out their own footprints from the bunkers! Please not only for your fellow golfer, but also to aid the greenkeeping team in keeping the standard of the course to one of which



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we can all be proud of, please rake out your footprints, leaving the bunker smooth for the following player.



Machinery – No changes from the previous reports

H & S – Players are also reminded to allow the greenkeepers time to get out of the way before playing your shot along with allowing the greenkeeper to acknowledge you are there and wave you through.

A quick reminder, to say every now & then we also have external contractors working on the course, please be aware of this & show the same courtesy as you would to your fellow golfer or greenkeeper.

Other – The water leak from the old swindlers fountain has now been repaired & we have also replaced the old leaking fountain on the 16th with a tap for filling bottles. Thanks to a donation from the Swindlers, we have also fitted a drinking fountain to the side of the halfway house, where the men's toilets are.

There are going to be many different tasks taking place over the coming months so cutting frequencies may be reduced where necessary to carry out other crucial works.

Regards

Head Greenkeeper

G. Anderson

Gary Anderson