



Northop Golf Club

2022 Review of the Year

As we move into 2023, we have some taken time to review the considerable progress that we have seen in the last 12 months, some of these improvements are highlighted below. This has been reflected in the positive comments that we have received from guests, visitors, and our members.

Rest assured, we believe that the course can always be improved, and we are working on our plans for our 2023 project calendar.

Our fleet of machines has been strengthened during 2022 with the addition of a replacement primary greens mower, a semi rough mover, and a utility vehicle. We have also agreed operating leases for a mini digger and tractor that will commence in Jan 2023.



Danny's Course update:

I think it's important that I take this opportunity to firstly thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the period when the course was closed due to frost.

When the plant leaf freezes, water within the cells expand putting the membranes under excessive pressure. Walking on these can cause bruising. The cell barrier's rupture and the plants are killed from the inside out. When temperatures rise and the surface thaws any damage is then visible with a black to growing/ yellowing colour. This is the plant dying back and thinning out. The damage will last until as late as Spring. The less stress the plant is under during the winter period, the healthier it should be when the weather warms up. Finer grasses are currently in a semi dormant state and we as the Greenkeepers need to nurse and protect them into the growing season, this allows us to have truer greens for the beginning of the 2023 playing season.

The course has been relatively dry, and this reflects the benefits of mole ploughing that we carried out during the Autumn and the ropes protecting our wettest areas, such as the 4th fairway which is much firmer than in previous years. We are working to ensure that the existing primary drainage is running freely and clearing areas which have become blocked for example beyond the dew pond on the 8th hole.

We plan to continue mole ploughing our fairways during the Spring ahead as we believe this will deliver further improvements in future years. Let's hope the weather in the next few months is kind so that winter play can continue as normal, and our course can start the new golfing season in a strong and healthy position when Spring arrives.





The repositioning of the driving net adjacent to the practice putting green has meant that most golfers take a few practice shots before starting their rounds.



The area by the putting green / to the left of the 10th white tee has been cleared, flattened, and turfed. This area had always looked untidy and often flooded during the winter. It now looks kept and means this whole area creates a much better first impression.



The new patio area proved a popular addition to the club house and is a pleasant sunny location to bask in your golfing glories or just drown your sorrows.





All hole signage has been updated and duplicate signs were removed.

A special thanks to all our new hole sponsors.

The course has looked in fantastic condition throughout 2022, with most fairways getting a bonus cut during December.

Hole modifications on the 1st, 7th, 12th, and 17th holes have all bedded in well and were quickly in full play.

We now have completed 9 new / upgraded winter tees. In the last month these have been added to the 2nd, 3rd, 10th, and 14th holes. These ensure that we have consistent teeing surfaces during the winter months, whilst enabling play can move back on to our rested grass teeing areas in early Spring.

Next winter tee will be on the 18th.





The 12th hole has seen a new approach layout and the removal of the front bunker. This has allowed golfers to play a range of recovery shots up on to the green from behind the trees. Whilst giving the green keepers some new tricky pin positions.

Our volunteers (Jim, Mike, Steve, and Andy) have worked to improve the non-playing areas and have cleared areas which had become overgrown and untidy.

There isn't a hole on the course that they haven't 'trimmed', and this means that overall appearance of the course is much improved.

In December work has been carried out on the 4th tree line (right) and 1,500 spring bulbs have been planted.





2022 has been a challenging year for maintaining greens. A dry summer, followed by a damp warm Autumn is not conducive to healthy putting surfaces.

Therefore, the excellent condition of our greens is extremely pleasing, and this reflects the skill and dedication of our greens team.

Overall levels of moss are much reduced and green speeds were quicker than last year. This is a continuous program of works and we have already planned greens maintenance weeks for late March and early Sept 2023.

The new 5th tee continues to bed in. Seeded areas have been growing well. We have more work to do once the mini digger arrives. We are hoping to open this towards the end of Spring 2023 depending on weather conditions.

