



Course Update

As we head into July, I would like to take the opportunity to keep members updated on current course conditions and recent challenges facing course maintenance.

The recent heatwave has been a significant challenge for the greens team. Many golf courses across the country have been working hard to manage the extreme heat, record breaking temperatures and prolonged periods of minimal rainfall.

Through careful planning, well timed aeration practices before the heatwave to improve water infiltration, regular wetting agent and fertiliser applications, and 5am starts each day to hand water greens. We as a team have managed to keep the greens in good condition.

The team has to water the greens through a combination of hand watering and turning on greenside valves located at each green. We purchased and installed 14 new sprinkler heads early in the spring and these have made a huge improvement cutting down watering time and improving green quality. We will continue to make more upgrades to the system before next summer.

I would like to thank the entire greenkeeping team for their dedication, professionalism and hard work throughout this challenging period.

The effects of the prolonged dry spell will continue to be felt in other areas of the course for some time. Recovery will take time, and we ask for members' understanding as the team continues to focus on encouraging healthy turf growth while presenting the course in the best condition possible.

Where possible, we will also carry out hand watering to other areas of the course, such as the tees. However, the priority understandably being the greens, we would certainly welcome a little help from the weather.

All areas of the course will be mowed this week to maintain presentation standards. The greens have also received a wetting agent and soil feed, followed by a foliar application containing a preventative fungicide, as disease pressure remains high and is expected to continue.

The height of cut on the greens has temporarily been raised from 3.2mm to 4mm to help reduce plant stress during these extreme conditions. We will look to lower the height again as soon as it is safe to do so.

As temperatures begin to rise again towards the end of this week, we would ask members who choose to play early prior to the bookings on BRS being open you must skip to the next hole if you encounter greenstaff watering a green this is not optional. The team aims to complete this essential work as quickly as possible and ahead of the first booked tee times, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Hole 1



The pond on the 1st hole has now been filled in. This has created a more forgiving opening tee shot while also significantly improving the overall appearance of the hole. As the pond rarely held water during the summer months and often looked untidy, it was decided that this was the best long term solution.

A narrow drainage ditch and culvert will be installed alongside the roadside, with the area being turfed when weather conditions are suitable.

Pond Hole 7



A substantial section of the pond on the 7th hole has recently been cleared of many tonnes of silt and bullrushes after becoming heavily overgrown. The contractors did an excellent job of reopening the pond while somehow managing not to bury their excavator in the process! This will look great when the water returns!

Greenkeepers Facility

A huge thank you goes to Steve Bowden, who has voluntarily given many hours of his own time to transform the external area around the greenkeeping facility. Steve has cleared vegetation, reorganised machinery storage areas and significantly improved the overall appearance and organisation of the site, making it look far more professional.

His efforts have allowed the greens team to concentrate their time and resources on maintaining the golf course. Work will continue in this area, and we have already made a start on constructing new material bays for storing sand and path materials to ensure the car park does not become overwhelmed in the future.

Winter Plans

We are currently finalising plans for an exciting drainage project on the 12th hole, with works expected to commence in September. This project will help improve drainage and playing conditions.

Further details of our winter programme will be shared with members during August. Current plans include additional drainage improvements, course lengthening through the construction of new back tees, bunker additions and redevelopment, together with an ongoing programme of tree management.

We hope members have been enjoying the course so far this year. Despite the challenging weather, the greens team will continue to give their very best efforts to provide the highest possible standards for the remainder of the summer.

Thank you as always, for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan



