



Course Update

This summer has been a challenging time for the greenkeeping team due to the weather. Record high temperatures and long periods of minimal rainfall have presented significant challenges however, the team have worked exceptionally hard to provide the best playing surfaces possible throughout the summer.

The past three weeks have brought over 100mm of welcomed rain, and the course has now turned green again. As predicted, some small areas of turf have been lost, mainly in higher-traffic areas such as tees and approaches. We have been overseeding these areas and will continue to do so in the coming weeks to encourage full recovery.

The greens have come out of summer in good condition and without any turf loss. This has been achieved through the proactive use of irrigation, aeration, fertiliser and wetting agent applications to see them through the hot weather conditions.

The greens are currently being maintained at a height of cut of 3.2mm.

Fairway heights have been lifted from 16mm to 18mm to allow for more cushioning beneath the ball and to help cover the worm castings that have become more noticeable due to the wetter conditions. The rough heights have been dropped to 2¼" due to exceptionally fast grass growth.

Greens Maintenance

Green's maintenance week will be carried out from **21st–25th September**. Works will include:

- **Monday 21st:** Koro scarification to a depth of approximately 10mm, clearance of debris and verti-cutting to 1mm
- **Tuesday 22nd:** Solid-tining greens to a depth of 8", followed by heavy topdressing with sand and brushing-in
- **Wednesday 23rd:** Pencil-tining, sarrel rolling, seeding, brushing and watering

- **Thursday 24th:** Double rolling of greens and application of a Recovery NPK spray

Works will also be carried out on the pitching green to improve this facility.

Selected tees and approaches will be top-dressed and seeded.

We politely remind all members that greenkeepers have priority whilst these works are ongoing. Please move to the next hole if maintenance works are being carried out!

Machinery

We are currently in the process of sourcing a tractor-mounted aerator for use on tees, fairways and rough areas. This will help improve turf surfaces in the long term, leading to better drainage and improved root growth.

A tractor-mounted (towable) bowser will be purchased in the new year for the irrigation of tees and approaches.

Hole 12 & 13

Works have begun on hole 12 and the 13th tee. Contractors have so far widened and cleared the original ditch on the right-hand side of the path, including the removal of the stone barrier wall.

The large fairway bunker has been filled, and a new ditch is being formed alongside the right-hand side of the fairway and through the old fairway bunker. Self-seeded trees that had become overgrown on the right-hand side of the green have been removed, and the ditch reinstated, with the original culvert unblocked.

This will help prevent water backing up along the ditch and allow water to move off the golf course freely. The newly created ditch will also provide an outlet for future pipe drainage and mole ploughing, leading to significant drainage improvements in what is one of the wettest areas of the course.

The 13th tee will be extended to create:

- Extra teeing positions, helping to spread foot traffic
- Improved visibility of the fairway
- Extra yardage
- Enhanced aesthetics of a dark area

All of these areas will be seeded upon completion of the contractor works. The steps leading to the 13th tee will also be improved, and the base of the old large winter tee will be removed, with the new winter tee repositioned.

Winter Projects

Winter projects will see the continuation of drainage works around the course, including open and piped drains, alongside:

- Bunker installations and reshaping of current bunkers
- Cart path extensions
- Tree management
- Irrigation upgrades
- New tee builds to increase course length for championship events
- Greenkeeper's maintenance and welfare facility improvements

Kind regards,

Greens







