

## Greens Report April 2024

Once again, the last month has thrown us tough weather. It's just relentless at the moment, it seems like 1 step forward and 2 steps back but I'm sure things will start to turn for the better really soon. We have again seen ridiculous amounts of rain, but surprisingly warm temperatures. After speaking to John Kennedy, he informed me that England Golf have extended preferred lies until 31<sup>st</sup> May, this speaks volumes on how all courses have suffered over the winter and early spring months.

### **General**

With the course being so wet at times, we've taken the opportunity to do some more tidy up and repair jobs around the course and clubhouse. Part of the fence to the rear of the first tee had blown down, this fence is the boundary fence owned by Mr A Clyne and his landscaper removed this panel to gain access for a mini digger a few years ago as access wasn't possible via the property itself. We've simply attached some new batons and screwed them together. While we were there we have repaired the driving net and cut down the offending damaged trees and limbs that caused the initial damage. The frame and baffle net has been repaired and new cable ties fitted to suspend the net. The likelihood is we will require a new baffle net this season.

We have also tried to repair and fill the potholes into the car park along Elmfield Road with 6mm to dust gravel and used the whacker plate to consolidate the filling to hopefully last a little longer. We have also edged and scraped the weeds from the patio outside the men's locker room, also gave it general tidy up, along with the buggy bays and next moment we get we will bring our petrol jet wash up to finish off.

We had an electrical fault on a safety switch that was not allowing the JD2500 machine to start. This machine runs our "thatchaway" scarifying units, which we will require very soon, once the weather dries out so that we can physically start to remove the moss. This machine has now been repaired and is ready to go, at the first given opportunity.

### **On Course**

Even with the bad weather we have still been busy on the course, it has just made us change potential jobs and increased spiking, when possible to aid in removing the amount of surface water. We have had trouble with moles down the 13<sup>th</sup> green and 14<sup>th</sup> tee, so my contact Andrew Nelson has been out and set traps, so far so good, it appears he has managed to trap the offenders.

We continue on a daily basis to dew green, rake bunkers, blow greens and a weekly basis of changing holes, white lining and G.U.R areas.

With last week's downpour I sarel rolled the greens but also fitted the Groundsman tractor mounted spiker where I spiked with 5/8<sup>th</sup> tines at a depth of 4in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> greens.

Other work completed during the month has been:

- sarel rolled greens
- spiked greens (groundsman)
- cut tees by hand
- cut approaches
- started to cut and outline fairways, where possible (had to adjust rough cutter as low as it would go to make this achievable )
- removed enough tree stump at 5<sup>th</sup> to build mound
- opened up sections of drain along 12<sup>th</sup> avenue to catch the water
- rotavated all the bunkers and spread the sand ( 12<sup>th</sup> is still full of water )
- sprayed greens with wetting agent
- removed all dead hawthorns at 7<sup>th</sup> tee hedge
- finished edging paths (weed killer to apply next)

While the weather was bad, we had a list of requirements that our new insurance provider requested that we have addressed. We systematically worked through the list we were given, amended the issue, backed up with the paperwork they requested in regards to Health and Safety (i.e. risk assessment, training records, personal development and machinery competence). All this has been sent to them via Kris and we are awaiting the reply to see if we comply to what they need.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Green**

The 10<sup>th</sup> green has again been double cut. It was sarel rolled and solid tined first. The green is showing great signs of recovery and with all the rainfall, it stands firm. I managed to get it lightly top dressed last week and brushed in and will continue to lightly dress each week when possible. But it showing good signs.

Once again, thank you to the members and the Directors for their continued support. It's been a tough few months regards the weather but hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel and spring is here. Fingers crossed.

### Rolling Quarter - Greens Key Indicators

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
Rainfall - 2024	97mm	86mm	97mm
2023	67mm	41mm	139mm
Course Closed – 2024	5 days	3 days	2.5 days
2023	6 days	0 days	4 days
Buggies off – 2024	26 days	25 days	28.5 days
2023	27 days	3 days	24 days

Regards

David