

Greens Report
Feb 2024

Well with a New Year and a fresh start for 2024 we were hoping for better weather, but yet again the weather hasn't improved much. It has got slightly better but is still causing us issues here and there. We have had a couple more named storms from the Met Office, which again caused damage to trees around the course and at one point the winds were so high, we took the decision to close the course for safety reasons.

	January 2023	January 2024
Rainfall	67mm	97mm
Closed	6 Days	5 Days
Buggies	27 days	26 Days

With the previous mentioned storms, these also brought some extremely cold winds and freezing conditions, which at one point saw a low of -7. With such a cold blast this itself caused a couple of issues. Frozen pipes in the garage and more so, split pipes up the clubhouse which were reported by Mr C. Morrison. The external tap and hosepipe feed the club had fitted from the rear of the clubhouse to the buggy rank froze solid and split the copper pipe. I attended the clubhouse immediately to investigate, but due to it being pitch black, I couldn't identify the leak and unfortunately, when the tap and pipes were fitted no isolator was installed. For quickness I isolated the whole disabled toilet, which was the main feed for the tap. The following day, in daylight I found the split, relocated the position of the tap, repaired break and have installed an isolation valve within the disabled toilet, solely to turn the external tap off to stop this happening again.

Also, the sink drain next to the boiler room had issues. With the recent blast of snow and rain, the drain couldn't physically take the amount of water and subsequently, water was pooling across the office door and main entrance to the club house. The drain was cleared of debris and foreign articles. Mainly the issue was plastic keg tops, grass and mud that were deep in the drain. I have seen people using the tap to wash golf trolleys, could we please ask people to use the air hose provided to help stop the blocking of the drains.

On The Course

As mentioned in the last report we were busy preparing tee markers etc. All the markers are now finished, ready to be put out in the spring. All the course furniture seats have been, repaired (where possible, I think only one was past the point of repair) either stained or oiled, with the name plates cleaned up and polished, again ready to be put out for the new season.

The drain at the 2nd/3rd semi rough has been piped, filled with gravel and soil, the area has been marked G.U.R and when the weather improves, seed will be added.

In the 7th copse near the 150yd marker, you may have noticed a huge pine with a considerable lean on it. This tree was already pre-marked for removal as part of our forestry plan. This tree has now been felled safely, the brash burnt on site with the logs pre-cut and stacked, to be removed when ground conditions become a little firmer. As mentioned, we lost another 6 trees and had some substantial damage to others, because these were safety issues this work took priority and was carried out immediately. Again, the brash was burnt on-site and the logs were stacked. All stacked logs will be removed before the start of the playing season.

The older, wetter greens have been spiked with the tractor mounted Groundsman, with 1/2in solid tines at a depth of 4-4 1/2 inches, we also have spiked drain lines around the course to help surface water percolate from the surface, through the profile and into existing drains to help dry the course. The greens machine was then set to 5mm and we managed to get safe passage around the course and cut all 18 greens, this has proved so beneficial and this will allow us to get some either granular or liquid feed onto them in preparation, to give us a healthier boost to the start of the growing season.

We have also continued to carry out the task of chipping the path edges out, weeding paths and general tidying up, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 16th are complete. The steps are still to tidy and those requiring astro-turf on the steps themselves will be carried out as the process is done.

Once again can I thank the Directors and Members for their support

Regards

David