

Greens Report March 2024

Well, February hasn't really showed any signs of giving us a break in the weather! It has continued to be wet, with any signs of slight improvements, it then hit us back with snow and more rain.

Temperatures have actually stayed quite warm for the time of year, so that I suppose is a positive. Even with the poor weather conditions, it hasn't stopped us making progress on the course, it's just hampered and slowed some processes down.

	2023	2024
Rainfall	41mm	85mm
Closed	0 days	3 Days
Buggies	3 Days	25 Days

General.

The pot holes on the main drive were starting to pose a few problems again, a few members had commented on them so we brushed the loose gravel and water from the holes and filled with crushed road planings and used the wacker plate, so far they have held up alright. I was asked by Kris, could we relocate some of the sponsor signs that surround the carpark. This has also been completed.

The flexible air hose for the foot cleaner has split, which in-turn made the compressor run non-stop. Luckily Brian noticed the problem and turned the compressor off. While it was off, someone also broke the air nozzle. A new solid rubber air hose and metal trigger was ordered and has now been fitted and repaired.

When we had the leak at the rear of the clubhouse last month, I realised how slippy and over grown the path was and this path is the fire escape route for the rear of the building. We tidied up all the leaves, cleaned and rodded the blocked drains from the guttering. We also scraped off with a spade the moss, slime and algae that was making the path slippy, applied washing up detergent, brushed and washed it off. It has made the exit route far safer.

On the Course.

As mentioned in my last report, we managed to get certain greens solid tined. This month has seen us solid tine all 18 greens, meaning some have been done twice in the last 4 weeks. This has helped with removing surface water extremely well, allowing the water to percolate through the profile. We have continued to sarel roll also, this again helping to break the surface tension of the turf.

After this I have been successful in having the greens sprayed. Its either been too wet or too windy. But 2 weeks ago, we hit lucky and got a window of opportunity to spray ICL Stressbuster (low nitrogen winter feed) seaweed and iron. This has responded really well. The iron has given us some colour and has started to react with the moss. The moss treatment will commence when conditions allow. Moss removal is more of a cultural method of remove rather than chemical, but the two do go hand in hand, so first chance to get the scarifier units on, this will begin. My spring granular fertiliser has 4% iron, so after its applied and the moss reacts and growth is steady, then we will begin a continual cultural programme, the liquid iron is to slowly start the process.

All the paths have now been chipped out and edged, along with the crossing points at 3rd and 4th with only the 9th path still being worked on as we speak. The remaining steps that required astro-turf have been completed, tidied.

Many might have noticed that a small hollow in front of the 9th green has gradually been getting larger. After inspecting the area I wasn't sure if it's been an old mine shaft/ pit fall. We dug the area back, pushed steel rods down to break up the soil compaction and it didn't look like mine working. We backfilled the hole with gravel, topped it off with soil and seed and roped it off as G.U.R. I used My3Words to locate the are and sent it to NCB who I've dealt with in the past. Their records don't show any shaft but as they said, that doesn't mean it's not, as the course literally has 100's but we will monitor the area.

We have also managed to tidy and cut some areas where ground conditions have allowed. Here is a list of tasks, other than day to day, bunkers, dewi, squeegee, holes etc

- Greens cut twice at 5mm
- Cut surrounds and approaches
- Cut tees by hand
- Sprayed Greens
- Sarel Rolled Greens (twice)
- Trim Pop-Ups (73 in total)
- Trim Tee disc distance markers and wipe down (72 discs)
- Had a course walk, rubbish pick up (1st/18th path, 5th hedge, farmers field 16th)
- Burnt remaining brash from tree work
- Fertilised worn, walked off area with old fertiliser.

10th Green.

The 10th green is now complete, as you are aware the main green was drained and turfed back in November. All that remained was the drain line along the approach. That is all now turfed. When we spiked the greens, I inspected the 10th and it looks in good shape so I decided to spike it with tractor mounted groundsman, it took it extremely well. I have since then, double cut it to a height of 5mm, and again it responded well. I even left it until last when I sprayed as I was unsure whether it was advantageous to spray, but with leaving it until last, the weight of the sprayer was at a minimum, so I decided to spray it. It has received a half rate application of low nitrogen winter fertiliser every 10-12 day for the last 6 weeks. I will be starting to apply light dressings to the green, to true up any small imperfections, probably from this week. But I'm pleased with the progress, considering the weather.

Finally, I have spoken to John Kennedy several times, in recent weeks about the launch of the new Greens Development Committee. We have also met up and discussed my thoughts on what direction we should be going in, what my needs are from a practical point of view. John has since met the individuals of the committee and discussed what they feel is the direction. I have a bit work and answers to send John, then we will discuss the next step.

Once again, thank you to the members and Directors for their continued support.

Regards

David