

Greens Report
April 2023

Since the last greens report the weather has been less than helpful. With cold temperatures, early frost and rain most days it has made what was a wet course, absolutely saturated in some areas. The greens have taken the water extremely well considering the extent of the weather. I have kept records on file of monthly rainfall, course closures and buggies since I returned in 2017. This gives me a comparison from year to year to see if the work we are carrying out is being beneficial by reducing closures and increasing buggy usage on an average year, but sometimes like 2012 we have extreme weather. To give the Directors a comparison here are the figures from March 2022 and March 2023.

| <u>2022</u> | | <u>2023</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 62mm | Rainfall | 149mm |
| 1.5 days | Course Closed | 4 days |
| 12 days | Buggies Off | 24 days |

Even with the bad weather we have managed to spray greens with a liquid feed and iron, we have also applied another application of wetting agent to the greens and also the tees. I elected to put a liquid on the greens due to the cold temperatures and the uptake of a liquid is almost immediate. I applied this to bridge the gap between now and the application of our spring granular as the greens required a “pick-me up “ This was carried out due to the fact that a granular would be wasted with the frosts and to spray all 18 greens with what we used is about £180 as opposed to granular feed of £680, this is why I need to get my timings right to be cost effective.

With some old liquid feeds, I also sprayed the worn off walked areas, along with the intermediate areas around the greens, to help recovery when spring eventually arrives, and also to use up some old stock I inherited. I have also utilised the weather, looking ahead to next week the forecast is to warm up and stay dry. I have applied the tees fertiliser while it was damp this week and later the same day we had showers that will have broken the fertiliser down and hopefully the warmth will “fire it” away.

As I mentioned in my last report I had some soil samples taken to compare with samples I had done in 2021. The samples in 2021 showed us where we were deficient in some areas and excessive in others. This allows me to make a plan to reduce the high content elements and increase the lower elements to achieve a balanced programme. With the results I can manage my products to get the correct product to keep the plant and soil within the required levels. The recent samples have proved that the areas I need to increase are working but has also flagged up new deficiencies to address this season. I have a copy of the results that I will pass onto the Directors if they wish to have a look.

Again, I mentioned last month that the filters for servicing the machines had arrived. I have now worked my way through the machines, changing oil, air, hydraulic filters on all machines, fresh oil and fully greased. I have replaced several new rolling bearings on the two John Deere 2653b tees machine and intermediate machine. A full new roller assembly is £400 and we required x 2, but buying the parts separate and rebuilding them ourselves cost us just over £200 for both and my time (in total about 4hrs).

On the course we have managed to start cutting greens twice a week when possible, cutting the tees once a week and this week we have managed to top off the intermediate around the greens for the first time. Once things start to dry out we will increase the frequency and start to lower cuts slightly. We have installed the hollow corer onto the Ford 1920 and will hollow core, over seed and dress the 10th green.

We also had a price to remove the tree stumps at a cost of £350 a day. The work to be carried out was estimated to be definitely 2 days possibly 3 as the company quoted about 35 trees a day. We had over 70 stumps to remove at a potential cost of £700+vat for 2 days. I managed to source and price a stump puller from easy hire in Consett at a cost of £200+vat for a full week (5 days). This proved to be fantastic and we removed over 85 stumps. The stump holes have also now been filled with old hollow core material, seeded and levelled.

While the weather has made things difficult on the course it has allowed me to update product data sheets with regards to H&S and C.O.S.H.H. After paying a visit to Turfcare I was told that they had just had a visit from H&S regarding storage of chemicals and fertilisers, along with waste management of chemical containers. We as a club are up to date and always have been with Waste Management Disposal, spray log books and chemical storage, but it was good to have a good check to make sure everything was in place and the products and empties were stored correctly.

Finally, on the course, all the bunkers have now been rotavated, edged and re-shaped. The old sand from the two bunkers at the 6th has been used to dress wet areas around the course. The sand from the 11th right side bunker has been used up the left side of the 11th bunker, the 13th bunker and right side 14th bunker. The bunker sand that was ordered on 13th March, finally arrived at 6pm on 12th April.

Regards David