

Greens Report
Aug 2023

This month I have had to keep the greens report to a minimum as time has been hard to come by. The weather again over last month has caused disruption to both course preparation and competition golf. Looking back on last years' facts and figures, what a contrast for the month of July in comparison from 2022 to 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Rainfall	32mm	156mm
Closed	0 days	1 day
Buggies Off	0 days	1 day

We had Durham County Men here, and due to the weather the tournament was played over 18 holes rather than 36. In all fairness they did well to get it played, as on the day it rained from first thing. So I'd like to thank the lads which allowed the day to go ahead in such terrible conditions.

Also, it has been an extremely hard month work wise as we have been a member of staff down due to illness, this has meant we have had to change work programmes and procedures and prioritise what we can. The tee banksides and ditches are what we have had to cut back on to save time, whereas greens, tees and general "in play" areas have been concentrated on. We have been slowly chipping away at these areas and hope it hasn't caused too much disruption to play, but we will be back on top of things soon. Then to add another blow, a second member of staff fell ill which resulted in us being left with a team of 2 members of staff for a week, which I'm sure you'll all agree is just impossible, thankfully next week we'll be back to a full squad (fingers crossed).

Even in such testing times we have still managed to complete our monthly aeration, feed of liquid nitrogen and seaweed along with bio stimulants and wetting agent programme to both greens and tees.

We have also trimmed around tee marker discs, pop up sprinklers, tidied and edged all the railway sleeper steps. We have weeded, edged and rotavated the bunker but with last weekends' rain, the bunkers will need another seeing too!

I have in preparation for our maintenance week, ordered 40 tonne of Messingham Moist 35 top dressing, which is due to arrive Thursday and Friday this week. I have ordered a new set of 5/8th solid tines for the greens and I have arranged the hire a Sisis TM1000 deep scarification machine.

We have never done this process with TM1000 but I feel it will remove an amazing amount of top thatch, along with lateral lineal thinning out of course grasses, along with moss reduction. I'm looking forward to the results as I feel it will be extremely beneficial. Our thatch-away units cut at a depth of 5mm maximum and I'm currently running them at 3mm. The TM1000 for this year we will run at 25mm. Benny the owner of the machine had a site visit last week and has reassured me that for this first time this will be sufficient (it has the potential to go as deep as 100mm).

Once again, this month we have had several breakdowns on our ageing fleet of machines. The worst of which was an oil leak on our John Deere 2653b tees mower. It split a hydraulic hose pipe and damaged 4 tees (1st, 18th, 2nd and 17th). Within 30 mins of the leak, I had watered down with wetting agent, hollow cored the effected tees, dressed with soil and over seeded. I then fed the tees and luckily they have recovered really well and visually the damage was kept to a minimum. I'm aware

accidents happen but when things fail, we need to spot the problem quicker than we did. I've had a word with all the staff to make them aware that they need to be fully conscious of their surroundings and to always be vigilant while mowing. These kind of accidents need to be minimised!

A couple of things to finish off. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate John Kennedy on winning the Tully Cup and also to congratulate Club Captain Paul Newton and the Team for an exciting season. Was such a shame to be pipped at the post in the final 2 weeks, especially after topping the table for the majority of the season. Great effort by all involved and hopefully still some silverware to compete for, for the rest of the season. I would also like to thank the club and Directors for their continued support

Regards David