

## Greens Report February 2023

Now that January is out the way, we are another month nearer to the season. The weather hasn't been too bad as we eased into February. Day time temperatures have been hanging around late single and early double figures which has allowed us to do a little early preparation.

With the weather being as it was we have continued to apply seaweed to the greens but we have also managed to apply a liquid feed, an application of liquid iron and also a half rate application of some left over granulated fertiliser from the end of last season, a proper autumn winter analysis.

We have repositioned some roped off areas, spread root zone, over seeded and fertilised walk off areas with old left over fertiliser in hope that with the current conditions of warm and damp that maybe we gain some early germination, if not there is nothing lost as the root zone and fertiliser will boost recovery when we do have some growth and we will continue to seed in early spring.

Once we had applied our liquid products the sprayer was removed from the tractor and the Verdi-drain was installed. The verti-drain was set a depth of 8-9 inches and over 3-4 days all the greens were aerated, I started on 10<sup>th</sup> green as it is probably the wettest green and on the final day of aeration I returned to 10 to give it a double spike. The process has gone extremely well and will help with water passing through the soil profile and create new areas for spring time root structure and development.

We have been able to get buggies back on with the ground conditions being substantially drier, which when the course signage and buggy rules are followed allows safe passage around the course, this is still monitored on a daily basis.

While this work on the greens of spraying and aeration was being carried out, the staff were continuing to tidy up the course by trimming lower limbs throughout the copses, trimming back gorse bushes in overflow car park, chipping and weeding the path edges at 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Upon the completion of these paths the final result in my opinion looked really good. We still have small areas to complete but these will be carried out over the following week.

We have also power brushed the tees to remove worm casts and have cut the tees 3 times in the last 3 weeks to tidy them in preparation for spring fertiliser. We have also brushed the greens after the verti drain and cut twice at a height of 4.5mm and also cut once round the approaches.

We needed to replace two irrigation valve assemblies to allow automatic irrigation to be successful, one was 4<sup>th</sup> green 5<sup>th</sup> tee and the second was 9<sup>th</sup> green 10<sup>th</sup> tee. Both these valves were dug out and A.V Irrigation have renewed both valves and we have now back filled and reinstated the areas.

As you are all probably aware Ian and myself try to meet up and have a course inspection every 6-8 weeks to see what has gone on, plan future work and to bounce ideas against one another to improve the course. Well we had such inspection last Saturday and we both agreed that at the end of this season we should plan and look into draining the 10<sup>th</sup> green. What I will do is plan and price up what I feel would be the best options. It won't be a full green rebuild as it was levelled in early 90's it just simply needs some herringbone drainage installed and connected to existing drain system from 15<sup>th</sup>. I will over the next 6-8 document my plans and forward them to the directors.

Finally I have spoken to Ian this weekend about the state of the course furniture. We brought the seats in to dry out in October and rubbed them all down. We have started to stain them, but have

found several are rotting, rotting that badly that the wood is crumbling away. A few years ago ( while I was at Slaley ) Malcolm Allison repaired several seats, about 2 years ago we had to discard a couple as they were unrepairable, after asking Malcolm was their anything we could do. A lot of the seats that are rotting are all over 30 years old and I feel the families may have no connection to the club any more. What I propose is to manufacture like a “perch bench” to lean against with a small railway sleeper top. Then we can remove the original name plates and fix them to the new bench. Not many people at all sit on the seats we have, but to remove them would not be an option without replacing them and to replace a wooden seat comes at a cost of £200 upwards depending on quality. I have priced up for the wood alone and for just less than £100 I can manufacture 4 what I call perch benches. These will be 120cm in length, 75cm in height, the top comes in 2 options, first option 9in x 2 in or 6in x 2 in.

9 x 2 ( 4.8m length ) = £60..... this will give us 4 tops

6 x 2 ( 4.8m length ) = £26..... this will give us 4 tops

8ft 3 x 3 posts halved will give both legs = £9 per bench

I will get a diagram drawn up and get a copy for the directors to be able to visualise for the meeting

Regards David