

## Greens Report January 2023

Firstly I'd like to take a moment to wish the Directors, members and all the staff of Consett & District Golf Club a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. Let's hope 2023 is a good season for us all.

Leading up to Christmas there were a few jobs that we wanted to tie up for over the festive period and also prepare for others between Christmas and New Year.

One of my main priorities was to try and spray the greens, the frosts and snow had put pay to this but the mild spell leading up to Christmas week couldn't have come at a better time. We managed to spray with Stress Buster and seaweed, we still need to spray some liquid iron at our first next opportunity.

I also wanted all the machines cleaned down, degreased and pressure washed down in preparation for the winter servicing programme. All Flymo's and strimmers plus hand tools have been cleaned.

As mentioned in last months' report we had cleared all the damaged trees to the rear of the fourth tee apart from one which is leaning badly, but this will be removed in the coming week. I also mentioned Phase One of our felling licence was near completion at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and this is continuing at present ( 8 trees remain to be felled and 2 pruned ) to work within our dead line for the end of the month and then Phase Two will commence end of Jan to April. Currently with the annualised hours, January we are on a 6 hour day to compensate for our extra 9 hr days throughout September which should be an 8 hour day.

The drain at the 3<sup>rd</sup> has been left open to ensure we have no problems before we back fill the ditch and lay the new pipe. We have extended the ditch further than we initially intended due to the amount of gravel stuck in the pipe. We originally had dug out 15 meters by hand then extended it to 25meters when we saw the amount of debris in the pipe. I kept it to 25m as normally a roll of pipe is 25m, but 6inch pipe comes in a 50m roll so we have now extended the ditch the full length of the green, hopefully this will result in no further issues. The new pipe has been installed and backfilling is nearly complete, we have a wiring connection to finish and the test holes to fill. This will be completed totally this week.

Between Christmas and New Year while the staff were on holiday I managed to get all the fairways deep tine slit with our tractor mounted sisis slitter. Some heavy traffic areas in the semi rough and roped areas were also slit to a depth of about 8-10inches. This continued aeration work on the fairways over the last several years is now showing signs of continued improvement especially in the drainage of surface water.

We are still continuing with our day to day duties of blowing leaves, dewi greens, raking bunkers, moving ropes, sanding wet and worn areas, along with changing holes and gritting car parks and steps when need.

As you are all aware the path from the buggy rank to Jack Temperley Memorial stone was completed in December as a "tester " due to the cold, frosty, wintery weather. The company returned the following day and confirmed it was too cold to continue and would look at returning in the New Year. I didn't hold much hope, as we all know the weather can be brutal in Consett during the winter months. Being nearly 1000ft above sea level and north facing does us very few favours,

but luckily a mild spell hit us and the path installers arrived on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. The weather couldn't have been better. They started at the starters hut and worked back towards the clubhouse, by the end of day one they were at the driving net. Thursday we transported the materials to them and by the end of the day they were at the flag pole. Friday was a case of starting at the 18<sup>th</sup> green and working back to the junction at Temperley stone and connecting all the junctions. Again we transported the materials to the site and by 4pm on Friday the path was completed. It was cordoned off over the weekend to allow the resin to set properly. It was agreed that single seaters were to be taken off on Thursday and Friday again to allow the surface to cure properly, but then on Saturday single seater buggies were reinstated. The finished path looks really good I'm sure you'll all agree.

One final thing I'd like to bring to the attention of the Directors and members, we seem to have a lot of divots appearing on the fairways, can I remind people that winter fairway mats are in use or pick up and play from the semi-rough. Also playing from winter tee mats is not optional, yet again some members feel that it is acceptable to tee up on the grass at the 6<sup>th</sup> instead of using the mat provided! Could I please ask members to adhere to the Winter Playing rules and refrain from causing unnecessary damage to the course, especially when grass recovery at this time of year is ZERO !

Regards David