Greens Report
July 2023

June had been a far more favourable month in regards the weather. It has been a mix of warm and wet conditions, this along with extensive automatic irrigation, hand watering, spiking and product application has help the course recover from the extreme heat and drought conditions we had endure over the previous month.

We will continue to carry out the same cultural and physical methods of micro tining, sarel roller on a monthly basis, along with the chemical applications of wetting agents and bio-stimulants, including seaweed to help with recovery and stress management.

We applied the "thatchaway" units to the John Deere 2500 machine at a depth of 3mm. This appliance is used to help reduce unwanted build-up of organic matter in the top layers, including the cultural aid of reducing moss, allows the plant to regenerate and recover, removes broad leafed grasses, aids in quicker uptake of nutrients into the soil profile and quicker water exchange from the surface, while also offering a quicker and smoother surface.

We have also continued with our monthly liquid fertiliser programme, along with seaweed and things are progressing nicely. The 10th green has had a more aggressive approach and has been treated slightly different to force and encourage growth. This green is being fed with a granular feed at half rate (15gms per m2) every 3 weeks in addition to our liquid fertiliser programme.

Many of you will have noticed also, that we have put a temp. drain and gully pot to remove the standing water. As you are aware, we hope to drain the 10th green at the end of the season (finances willing) and it is planned to install the gully drain as part of the completed system as a permanent fixture.

I have renewed some sprinkler heads around the course that have failed or have faults on them. I replaced sprinklers on 2nd, 9th, 14th and 18th greens. Where possible I increased the nozzle size to allow a greater output of water. I have checked all the rotation arcs on the sprinklers and adjusted to maximise efficiency.

We had a suspected leak at the 8th hydrant box, upon investigation the box was full of water and was flowing quite freely across the semi rough. All the valves inside were shut and after digging it out, there was a slight weep on the mains elbow into the valve, but so slight not to cause the amount of water we had around the valve box and surrounding area. I order the parts required and monitored the area, it is now 10 days later, the system has been on 8 of the last 10 days and no signs of the amount of water that caused us concerns to dig the box out, it really is a mystery. The only sensible conclusion is that someone had or has tampered with and turned on the hand watering point causing the problem. I will continue to monitor it as I don't really want to cut pipes and repair if not needed, but equally if we do have a genuine issue, I now have the parts in stock to repair.

During the dry period of last month, cutting slowed down with the heat and this time allowed us to do some other tasks around the course that we normally don't get time for and leave to pre season or post season. We trimmed the tree line back from the right of the 2nd tee up to the holly bush. There was a beech tree and a silver birch hanging right over and impeding the line and sight of the tee shot. All the ditch bottoms and paths were strimmed off and total weed killed.
We have continued our general work of maintaining fairways, semi-rough, tee banksides, green banksides, ditches, tee tops and intermediate mowing.

After the last meeting, we had feedback about the new sand in the bunkers, especially the 11th. It was requested that we remove some, especially up the face of the bunker as it was quite deep. We have removed 2 Kubota loads and spread it about both bunkers on 14th. With the remaining sand in the compound, we topped up 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th 14th and 17th bunkers. We currently have about 1 tonne remaining that we will spread out as needed.

Regards David