

Greens Report
May 2023

The last month has posed many challenges for a day in the life of a greenkeeper but this has not only affected us as a club, but for many other clubs around our area. In comparison to 2022:

<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
41mm	Rainfall	109mm
0 days	Course Closed	0 days
3 days	Buggies Off	14 days

Our general day to day tasks of Spring cutting and preparation has been badly affected due to the poor British weather, again being so wet, resulting in machinery being rendered useless. I would just like to stress, as a team we are doing our utmost to prepare the course as best we can, considering the conditions.

We have managed to get the first cuts on most areas of the course, where possible but I'm sure you are all aware that other areas have had to be left as its been impossible to cut. All the fairways have been mown, most have had 2 or 3 cuts and have tidied up quite well. Other fairways, for example 10th and 13th have only had one cut and will be cut as soon as conditions allow. All the fairways have had at least 3 perimeter cuts of semi-rough where possible and other areas have been completely cut, again where the ground conditions allow.

The green banksides have all be cut and flymo'd twice and we have completed tidying 13 sets of tee banksides with the rest to completed again when ground conditions allow. We at Consett have a huge disadvantage to other clubs in the respect that all 18 greens and tees are elevated and require the majority to be hand cut. With such severe banks and so wet underfoot, this is a huge health and safety issue for slipping and causing injuries. Therefore it is a serious decision on when to carry out the tasks. Hopefully over the next couple of weeks things will start to dry out and we will be where we want to be! Fingers crossed.

The front of the clubhouse, overflow car park and flag pole banksides have also been tidied along with edging the patio. We ordered turf in to complete the bunker faces at 6th, 11th, and 15th. The face on 15th was filled in and turfed from top to bottom. This has all been carried out and the remaining turf was used to continue repairing the drain line at the 3rd and 16th greens and some patching around the course like 3rd and 9th tee.

With the wet and warm weather, this has made the turf root very quick and start to establish itself. We can now fill those 3 bunkers with new sand, exactly like we have done at the 6th left side bunker.

It was brought to my attention that the steps at 11th tee were extremely slippy and dangerous. Ian Gregerson and Fraser McEwan had both earlier in the year kindly donated off cuts of astro turf they had left over from jobs in their gardens and we have covered most of the steps around the course to prevent any accidents. Thank you to them for the donation.

The drain that we put in the 5th green last year and left a false cap on as a plug to drain large volumes of water has now been removed and filled in. Now the turf is established we will be able to continually spike it, allowing the green to continue to drain into the profile. Obviously with removing the plug hole, the water has to now percolate through the profile of soil to drain, therefore it will take longer. But as previously mentioned, with continual aeration and dressings with sand it will become more efficient.

Finally, we gave the 10th green an initial hollow core at a depth of 4 inches and over seeded, and applied approximately 2 tonne of top dressing. After a week I decided to then give it another shallow hollow core at 2 inches and also ran the thatch-away units across it and gave another dressing, approximately 1tonne. Once the sand was brushed in washed it within 7 days the seed was starting to germinate. Its currently showing great signs of recovery and is being cut regularly. Now the sand has worked into the profile, I have had the spring regrind done on the greens machine and lowered the height of cut to 4mm. Over the next few weeks with the application of fertiliser and hopefully warmer weather we will start to reduce the height fractionally until we meet our desired height.

Once again can I thank the Directors and the members for their support and understanding in what can only be described as the wettest spring since 2012. Thank you.

Regards David

Greens – Key Indicators - Month on Month

2023

	March	April
Rainfall (mm)	149	109
Course Closed (days)	4	0
Buggies Off (days)	24	14

2022

	March	April
Rainfall (mm)	62	41
Course Closed (days)	1.5	0
Buggies Off (days)	12	3