

Greens Report October 2023

This month once again has been challenging due to the weather. With approximately the same amount of rain falling last month in comparison to previous year, the only difference being, both previous months this year (July and August) dropped nearly 4 times as much rain.

Rainfall **118mm Sept 2023**
 132mm Sept 2022

Due to the ground conditions it has been difficult to get machinery onto the course, we have had to cut the areas we can and leave the rest.

Areas that we use the Toro 4500 rotary machine to aid in hand cutting has had to stop due to the poor ground conditions. This machine is used to cut the majority of banksides to tees and greens and the remainder is cut with Flymo's. Sadly every tee and green at Consett is elevated, therefore resulting in having to all banksides manually. This has a huge effect on time and man hours, what can generally take one day to do tees with both Toro and Flymo, turned into two and a half days with flymo's alone. Granted this was general practice, when we had a team of 6 several years ago but now it's a challenge!

Regarding the semi-rough, it was asked for us to lower the height of cut. This has been done and topped off at the desired height as requested by the Directors.

Tee tops were cut where possible with ride-on mowers but the wet tees like 1st, 3rd, 10th, 18th have all been hand cut.

We have managed to cut greens, approaches, intermediate, tees and as much semi-rough at possible at the new reduced height of cut as requested I appreciate the fairways are long, but this will be addressed as soon as the opportunity arises.

Ian Robson who regrinds our cutting cylinders dropped in out the blue on Wed and Thursday (4th, 5th Oct). He has re-ground both our John Deere 2653b tees machine and intermediate machine. This involved us stripping the machines down, removing bed-knife blocks and bottom blades, so that Ian could spin the cutting cylinders on a grinder and surface grinding the bottom blades. Once this was completed it is up to us to rebuild and set up cutting units. With Ian doing this process and us stripping down and rebuilding the units, saves us £200 per unit (£1200 on these 6 units). Ian is planning to return in the New Year to re-grind the 5 fairway units on John Deere 8700, so a big thank you to Ian for his time, expertise and effort.

I would also like to thank for his help Gleave Curley, Gleave offered his services to go around the course and jet wash the winter mats in preparation for winter golf. Due to a mechanical breakdown on the old Kubota we have had to suspend the work until the parts arrives so it can be repaired. Luckily there are only 4 mats left to clean, so thank you Gleave!

Future Weeks

For the last few months we have been planning to drain the 10th green with a herringbone style drain. This work will commence on Monday 16th October. This will involve removing the turf from the planned drain lines, dig drains and laterals, pipe, gravel, soil and re-turf. The amount of drain lines is roughly 175 meters and I expect with decent weather this should be completed with-in

approximately 14 days (weather dependent). We also have plans to relocate the existing winter mat at the 11th as discussed and also renew the winter tee mat at the 6th hole.

We will also continue to cut where possible and continue to maintain the course while the grass is still growing. This will involve our continual monthly programme of aeration, spraying and fertilising.

Forestry

Ian contacted Jonathon Harker from Scottish Forestry about the tree to the front left of the 5th green. After a site visit, it was suggested by Mr Harker that the tree be removed as it is showing signs of decay and could pose as a potential risk of falling. With the buggy path running close to the tree it was decided that it will be removed as soon as possible. Mr D. Robe has been contacted to fell the tree as it needs to be climbed and felled in sections due to its positioning.

Regards David