

Greens Report  
September 2023

Once again August proved to be a testing month regarding the weather. Luckily it didn't impact too much on work procedures, considering on how much rain fell we just had to adjust our timings and processes to get them completed.

With the poor weather, we continued to spike and aerate the greens to keep the profile open to allow them to drain quicker. With doing this and the continued application of our monthly wetting agent and seaweed programme it has proved beneficial.

August 2023 figures read as:

Rainfall	<b>136mm</b>	(42mm Aug 22)
Closed	<b>0 days</b>	(0 days)
Buggies Off	<b>4 days</b>	(1 day)

As you were all aware Jack has been absent from work, due to an injury he sustained outside of work, rendering him unfit for work. This happened at a time where we were extremely busy, that resulted in us prioritising our tasks and work processes. As a small team it was physically impossible to complete all of our intended weekly tasks, but I do hope the work we carried out didn't have too much detrimental impact to the course. I can now say, thankfully Jack is now back with us now, and is on the road back to full fitness.

Along with our usual cutting and monthly maintenance regime we managed to edge, rotavate bunkers, trim sprinkler heads and clean tee distance marker discs as we had some big competitions. We also had a tree fall at the 12<sup>th</sup> avenue, the night before Durham County Seniors 8man Team event. We managed to tidy it up and make the area safe so play could go ahead with minimum disruption. We cleared it away over the next couple of days and the trunk and stump will be removed over the winter months with the rest of the tree work we have planned.

We also took delivery of 40 tonnes of Mansfield 35mm top dressing in preparation for our main summer maintenance week, which is the first week of September.

This year instead of hollow coring, I decided to solid tine the greens with 5/8 tines and hired in a Sisis TM1000 deep scarifier. For once the weather played into our hands. The tines were used at a depth of 5 inches and then the TM1000 put lineal aeration at approx 3/4 inch. Both processes went exceptionally well and by the end of day one both processes were complete and cleaned up, ready for top dressing.

We applied seed to all 18 greens and added the top dressing over the next day and a half. The dressing and seed was brushed and rubbed in using the drag mat. Again, with the help of the weather, this process went amazingly well. Normally trying to chase the dressing into the holes can take quite some time, but with having the lineal groves the dressing dispersed and rubbed in, probably the best I have ever known. Along with the use of the irrigation system the dressing went into the profile immediately leaving a tidy finished job for the week end. I'd like to thank everyone for their patience while we were carrying out these tasks and we hope we managed to keep disruption to a minimum.

Now the maintenance is complete, the next task this week is to put granular fertiliser on to quicken up the recovery of the work carried out.

Last weekend I had a course inspection with Ian, this was a chance to meet up and discuss some winter work and plans. Obviously, I think it's been agreed that the 10<sup>th</sup> green being drained takes priority this winter. This week I will get a final confirmed price for this work and will forward all costs to J.P. For confirmation.

The materials are not the problem, the issue I have is finding the correct trencher to do the task, effectively and efficiently. The machine we require can be hired from AV Irrigation that we deal with for our irrigation needs. I have spoken to Andy at AV and he will confirm prices and availability. When Ian and I met last week my concern was a start date for the 10<sup>th</sup> green that suits both myself and the club regarding competitions. Once a date is confirmed, hopefully AV Ditch Witch is available for hire.

Finally, again I'd like to thank Paul Charlton Turfcare for the use of their Dakota hopper and Kubota tractor unit, supplied free of charge to help us complete our maintenance effectively. Without their continued help and support these tasks would take a considerable amount of time.

Again, I'd like to thank the continued support of the members and Directors.

Regards Davy