

Greens Report May 2024

Well hopefully things are now on an upward trajectory, the weather is starting to improve and we can start to get things done. April still threw us some surprises of mixed weather, but it has massively improved since then, it still wasn't without its rain but we were able to manage it and utilise it regards applying fertiliser etc.

	2024	2023
Rainfall	96mm	104mm
Closed	8 days	0 days
Buggies	22 days	18 days

On The Course

Basically over the last month, its been all hands to the pump so to speak. The main objective was to get as much cut as possible and getting the machines onto a soddened course. Many areas are still to wet to cut and have their fore been left.

Greens

We have been cutting greens now for the last several weeks. It started off as 2 to 3 times a week, to more or less every other day and now were cutting them 5 days a week. The greens height we reduced to 4mm, 3 weeks ago. Since then we have applied a granular fertiliser 7-0-14+ca+mg+iron. The iron again will help with moss reduction.

Since applying the fertiliser, Ive sent the units away to be re-ground (sharpened). I took them last Monday and picked them up on the Wednesday with a new height of cut of 3.75mm. This will be reduced again to 3.5mm in the next week.

The greens have all been power brushed and had a liquid feed with a 6-0-6 with Go Green liquid iron and seaweed.

Fairways

Due to the fairways being so long, we have had to lower the semi-rough cutter to start topping them off. This in itself has been such an arduous task, in my 27 yrs of green keeping, I have never had to do this, but we will get there. The fairway cutter has managed to more than half of them now, so things are on the up.

Semi Rough

The semi has been cut where possible at a height of 2 inches, just to get through the length of grass, in this next week we will drop the height to the desired height of 1.5 inches and continue to hopefully cut more and more as things dry out.

Intermediate

The intermediate has now been introduced, this is the 2 to 3 stripes around every green so that any run off has a decent lie. This is now at its desired summer height of 1.25 inches

Green Banksides

These areas have now been cut every week for the last 3 weeks. Again we removed all the height spacer to be able to get through the long grass. Now that we have got them under control, we will add a spacer to lower them to our desired summer height.

Heavy Duty

Heavy duty consists of ditches, hedges, grass mounds, fence lines and anything that the machines cant cut. This has been carried out for a initial clean out on the course. We currently have not been able to do the back of the clubhouse and top car park, as this is part of the heavy duty, but the course has to take priority.

Copses

All copses where possible have been cut. These areas are the tree lines that separate all the fairways. These have all been cut at 2 inches. Next time we cut, the height will be reduced to 1.5 in. The first cut was simply to get the thick grass cleared out.

AV irrigation came at the start of May to recommission the system. We have had a couple of issues with pipe work and heads but im working through those problems in-house. But generally, year on year we are chipping away with years of issues and ticking boxes off. Thankfully the check list is getting smaller. But we need to keep investing and upgrading yearly, but its in a far better position than it was when I returned 7 years ago.

Finally we had a spate of vandalism a few weeks back. A group of about 8 young children, decided to practice their golf technique by hitting irons off the 7th, 8th and 12th greens. The police were involved and luckily caught a couple of the kids. Criminal charges were introduced to them and a visit to their parents was issued by the police. Hopefully this might deter the little cherubs. Sadly we had to patch over 40 pieces over the 3 greens, spike, dress and over seed. Since the repairs, like I said weve liquid fertilised and applied granular fertiliser, so the repairs have been masked and recovered extremely well, but this is time and money we can do without.

Now the season is underway we have put out new flags, cup holes and a full new set of bunker rakes.

I also held a meeting with the buggy users, so I could re-introduce buggies safely and minimal ise damage to the course by following simple rules, of where to drive and where to avoid. For the first few weeks we played a revised shortened course, which I believe was received well by the buggy users. Now things have dried out, we are back on a full course but buggy users are still driving the course using winter rules i.e. stick to fairways, paths where possible. Hire buggies have been reintroduced also, but we need to make sure that the driving rules be mentioned to the hirer on every transaction so they also follow course etiquette and rules.

Once again, can I thank the members and Directors for their continual support.

Happy golfing

Regards David