Greens Report - May 2025

Where to start, firstly it has to be the weather!! Who'd have thought, this time last year we were unable to get on the course to complete regular cutting and were having to pull machines out with the tractor due to the ground being so soft, they were sinking to the axles! This year we have now had an 8wk spell with little or no rain, an absolute polar opposite to last year.

We have, over the past several weeks been able to get the machines out and get on-top of all the aspects of grass cutting. All the green banksides, tee banksides have been flymo'd. The semi rough has been cut several times, with some areas been widened. The fairways are also on top of and all the areas that we widened over the winter have responded well. The copses have been cut several times and all the trees within the copses strimmed round.

We have also weeded the bunkers and riddled them to remove stones. We have topped up 7th, 9th, 17th bunkers. We also re-shaped and edged, to remove a deep lip on the 9th bunker.

Generally I think the course looks tidy for the time of year, again we need to selective weed kill the fairways for daisies, but as mentioned last month, I can't spray this product in drought conditions.

The tees have been fertilised and also the greens. We got the greens granular fertiliser on 2 weeks ago, 8-0-0 (3%mg + 3% Fe) and the response has been good. I followed up the granular application immediately with the first of our 5 liquid top up feed. This liquid is a 33-0-0, in this I mixed liquid potassium and seaweed.

With the drought we are encountering at the present moment the greens irrigation has been working overtime, along with spot treating areas with a hose pipe and wetting agent tablets. Again, the response has been good.

We have sarel rolled greens on a weekly basis, the reason for this is to break the surface tension of the greens and to allow the water from the irrigation to filtrate through the holes and into the soil profile, to help aid and alleviate localised dry patch.

I have also been in at 8pm at night to apply a highly concentrated application of wetting agent through the tractor mounted sprayer. My reasoning behind this is due to the fact the product needs to be watered in after application, to get it into the soil profile. Rather than waste time hand watering after application, through the day, I came in late and used the irrigation system to wash the product in. With the irrigation timed to start at 9pm, it was a case of staying in front of it. It did save a lot of time, but if this dry weather continues, this will be my approach to applying this product, if that's what it takes.

The new cylinders, bearings and seals have arrived for the greens machine. We ordered new units, as due to the age of the machine (11 years old) with getting them sharpened on a grinding stone, after time the blades are so worn away there is very little metal left to re-grind. The current cylinders are a 9 bladed cylinder, the replacements are an 11 blade which will improve the cut quality due to more blades per inch when cutting.

The plan is to cut on Bank Holiday Monday, strip them off the machine, then drop them down to him first thing Tuesday morning and hopefully have them back, late Wednesday or first thing Thursday.

It was reported after the last meeting that the water fountain at the 10th was needing turned on. Last year someone vandalised the fountain and snapped both the drinking spout and the side tap. The whole thing was isolated. The fountain at the top has been capped off, but a new tap and valve has been fitted on the side. This is now up and running and the broken fountain will just be removed. But yes, we have water, from the tap!

Regards

David and the Team

Course Monitoring Detail

Below is an overview of key data to reflect on current and previous conditions. To the same point in both the two previous years, rainfall so far this year is 50%.

Rainfall	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Apr	Year
2023	64	67	139	104	64	27	154	136	118	257	219	189	374	1,538
2024	97	85	97	96	184	48	148	36	116	130	31	87	375	1,155
2025	89	51	35	11									186	186
Buggies off	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Apr	Year
2023	27	3	24	16	0	0	0	4.5	6	12	21	31	70	145
2024	26	25	28.5	22	4.5	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	102	120
2025	4	7	1	0									12	12
Course Closed	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Apr	Year
2023	6	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	6	4	9	5	10	35
2024	5	3	2.5	8	2.5	0	1	0.5	1	3	2	3.5	19	32
2025	13	1.5	0	0									15	15