

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> bunkers. We also re-shaped and edged, to remove a deep lip on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

[illegible]