

Greens Report July 2025

Well this month has brought us plenty of mixed weather, cooler temperatures, patchy rain and also some high winds, but generally it's been a good month to help with recovery. We could still do with a good down pour, as the ground is still quite dry, but it is accepting the rainwater, rather than it running straight off.

There is nothing out of the ordinary to report really. We have continued to keep up with our monthly fertiliser, seaweed and wetting agent programme.

We have continued to sarel roll the greens on a 2 week basis, but also this month again we solid tined the greens with the tractor mounted Groundsman. We used the quad heads with 10mm tines and spiked at a depth of around 60mm. This allows us to open the profile for the ground to accept the wetting agent and seaweed into the profile and also allows the water into the rooting system. Again, we have continued to use the thatch-away units on the greens. This helps remove the broadleaf grasses and promote the spread and encourage the finer grasses into the putting surface. It also removes and reduces surface dead matter and moss.

We have continued to hand water greens using the hosepipe and wetting agent tablets to get directly into the areas of dry patch caused by the heat of the sun. As a tester last month, I applied a test bag of fertiliser to the 7th green. The response and recovery has been exceptional and my plan was to get them all fertilised before the county event. There was a slight change in plan due to an irrigation fault. We had a burst mains at the 9th green and a leak on the 10th box. We got these areas dug out and repaired in-house. Upon re-pressurising the system we found we had another leak on the hydrant box to the rear of the first. This area has been wet for a little while now and we thought it was off the passing of the sprinkler heads, sadly not, it was another leak, this time from the mains into the valves. For this we called out AV Irrigation. We dug the box out and thankfully they came out the next day to put a new mains manifold on but used our existing valves. I happy to report everything on the greens side of the irrigation system is working (touch wood). So, due to the burst we couldn't water the granular feed in, so we have left it until next week. In the meantime, we will spray our monthly feed before the county, this will tie us over until the granular is applied.

Jacks' college work is also going well. Not sure how Houghall are running the course, there are no fixed days, dates. They have one lecturer doing agriculture, sports turf level 1 and level 2. But things seem to be going ok.

We have also had the 12 solar panels fitted to the shed roof! I think there has been a few teething issues, as the display was reading a fault. I reported the fault to Kris who has been in contact with the company. I'm not quite sure what the outcome has been but the display board, still regularly shows a fault.

Thanks again for your continued support

Regards David and the team

Update following AGM

Hopefully this will help and explain some of the point that raised following the AGM.

10th and 11th greens.

Over the last 3 weeks that patch appeared on the 11th, upon investigation the patch has been some sort of spillage of some kind. The 10th also showed signs of the spillage. The 10th was more splash marks and you could see the footprints in the mysterious liquid.

It's not been a leak from a machine as the rest have no signs of scorch and has not been from the sprayer, as again we spray the course in 2 half (5th to 16th) second tank (9th bottom corner to 15th). So, if it was a chemical mix issue all the bottom 9 greens would be affected, not just 2 greens. It would also be the whole green and not small concentrated, random patches. The 11th looks like something has been suspiciously tipped on.

We've hollow cored it dressed and seeded it twice with no response. My next only option this week, at the 11th is to take patches from the approach and replace in the green. This process was already done at the 10th, 2 weeks ago and is recovering well. Then when we fertilise this week, that will also aid recovery. Then the hollow coring the following month, will also help.

The wet patch on 11th, I already suggested in my June report, that we add a drain at the end of the playing season, as we did at the 10th, 2 years ago. The 11th is an original green 114 yrs old with no drains in at all.

With the wet winter of 2023 and wet 2024 season this area was constantly sodden. Then with the start of this year needing irrigation from April, sometimes 23 consecutive days this area has been mush. We dug the area out and 6 inches down to find a clay bed. The green needs drained!

Weeds in the 16th green, and others like 6th, 8th is an ongoing thing. Everyday we cut, I've instructed the greens machine operator to remove at least half a dozen. This is an ongoing job

18th Green

These issues have been caused with the hot weather and dry patch, with such hot weather early in the season this green suffered. We upped watering times drastically as we did at the 3rd and the 7th, with that in mind and spot treating, hand watering with wetting agent it is recovering but slowly.

We've continually spiked, sarel rolled to help get water into the profile, Again the application of fertiliser this week and the hollow coring next month will improve the situation.

The fertiliser was planned for 2 weeks ago, but again due to irrigation problems, failings/leaks we couldn't apply with having no system to water the fertiliser in with.

While on about irrigation system, when I returned from Slaley we had to replace the tank liners, it split. The following year, the computer failed. We got a new Bailoy tablet and decoders, all the heads, wiring, cables, valves and pump remained the existing hardware. When this was installed in 2019/20 during covid, the club were asked to sign up for Technical Support, Software Updates and remote access, but declined. We now need that service as our software hasn't been updated for 6 years and is at the point of being out of date with no support. The answer was an aerial, router and a support package. The quote has been sent to Directors for consideration.

Regards the 5th - this always held water as again, is an original green with no draining system. We put a drain across the back and ran it out the side. On the drain line we put a plug system in with a false artificial cap. When we encountered heavy rain, the cap was removed, water would enter the drain direct and drain away in minutes. I was requested/ told, at the time that the plug was to be taken out and turfed over. This was done, so now it takes time for the water to percolate and drain into the profile. With the water draining into the pipe we put in, over time it has started to wash the root zone from underneath away causing the hollow to increase. Over the close of season, we can remove the turf, twice the size of the area level it off and returf.

The 8th path has been chipped out and weeded, along with extra aggregate being added, levelled and then whacked in.