

Greens Report

Eco bunkers

For the eagle eyed amongst you, this week you will have seen tipper loads of sand being put into the Eco bunkers on 1st, 3rd and 16th.

This is in preparation to bring all bunkers and the new turf on these holes back into play on Friday this week. So for players in the Mens Spring Meeting on Saturday, there's no more "get out of jail free cards". You will have to play from the bunker or the surrounds – or both if your game is like mine at the moment.

However, the new turf laid around the 4th greenside bunkers has yet to knit in, so we are planning that those bunkers and surrounds will come into play on Friday 17th May. Therefore current local rule displayed in the Mens' and Ladies' locker room remains in force.

For information, some of the other "normal" bunkers on the course will receive a top up of sand in the next week or so.

Disease scaring on 5th and 6th Greens

During winter we had an outbreak of disease but due to inclement weather we weren't able to treat it. The majority of the greens were unaffected however we were left with scaring. With the greens sward thickening, it makes the bare scars stand out, However thicker sward will help fill the disease scars. The scaring will also disappear with feeding; over seeding and topdressing. This will be done when time and more importantly, the weather, permits.

Uneven greens surfaces

A number of members have commented about bumpy greens and questioned why we have not been using the greens iron.

There are two factors;

- Although it can be warm during the day, ground temperatures drop at night, this gives

a variant in growth between the Poa and Bent grasses that we have on our greens. When the ground temperature is averaging 10°C, there will be uniformity in growth which will improve the surface trueness. This tends to happen mid-late May. You will have noticed that we are still awaiting the bedding plants to line Wellings Way and that's because gardeners don't put out flowers until around now due to chance of frost damaging them. Grass is no different and the cold weather will affect its health.

- The hollow tine holes from Autumn are showing as bumps on the greens. These tine holes are filled with roots and sand giving good pore spacing for drainage, so the bumps are actually spots of healthy growth from aeration. These bumps will fade out with an increase of average ground temperatures.

Greens iron

Greens iron flatten surfaces smoothing the underlying surface. However they can't change different grass growth and it will simply spring back up. We intend to try and iron the greens on Friday this week, so the greens should be smoother and faster at the weekend.

Tees

A number of the White teeing grounds are in need of repair, especially the back of the 1st so that is also a focus in the coming days.

All the tees have been fertilised this week, so hopefully with the warm weather that is just around the corner we should start to see an improvement in the quality and quantity of the grass on them.

Iron on fairways

You will have noticed that a number of our fairways have patches of moss and thatch. Soluble iron and wetting agent has been applied, we aim to scarify the fairways in a couple of weeks to remove the moss and chip away at the thatch layer.

Volunteers

For those who have not been to the course recently or the less observant amongst you, the volunteers have been carrying out some excellent support work on the

course. Perimeter fencing up the 1st fairway has been repaired, branches that protruded through the fence have been trimmed back, all the large stones have been taken away from the areas around the 4th pond, the 6th dip (in front of the ladies tee) and the dips on the 11th just beyond the bear. Additional red stakes have been placed on the course to create new "penalty areas" and a number of areas previously marked with yellow stakes (which have been over painted) have been replaced as red.

The volunteers also did a sterling job helping Darren who trimmed back the poplars on both the 15th and 17th. They acted as his banksmen and loaded the trailer with all the branches to deliver a neat and tidy area.

Roger Hazlewood

Chief Golf Office, May 2019