



Greens and Course Report – May 2016

A major change from April witnessed the temperatures rocket on Sunday 8th of May to 27°C followed by 17mm of rain on the Tuesday and then the mercury back up to 24°C on the Thursday this resulted in an explosion of growth and this has been the pattern for the rest of the month.

Historically the greens are always slow after the spring renovation work is carried out and this year was no exception, but now that we have new plants established we can work on improving the green speeds for the summer. Work intensified on the greens throughout May using the groomer units over a ten day period to reduce the annual meadow grass seed heads and true turf rolling for trueness of ball roll. The thatch reduction units have been in use to remove as much thatch as possible. The difference between the thatch reduction units and the groomer units (which are both verti-cutting/scarifying) is the space distance between the blades and the angle of the blades. The Thatch reduction units are thicker vertical blades tungsten tipped for a aggressive cut 10mm apart where as the groomer units are spaced 5mm apart with blades angled to remove horizontal growth and seed heads.

As well as the fertiliser programme for the greens we often combine it with other additional products, for example, adjusting slightly to adapt to the weather and ground conditions but as a general rule we will apply a treatment each week combining fertiliser and growth regulator. This combination encourages root strength and plant health but restricts the vertical growth to help regulate the speed of the green. This is followed by bio stimulants (Disease Resistance and Healthy Plant) then an Oxygenating agent (Additional treatment for aeration of the soil) Seaweed (Helps maintain Colour!) and lastly a wetting agent (Maintains a healthy moisture profile – prevent dry patches). The Fertiliser programme for the Galley Hill course has been designed to produce as little growth as possible for the major tournaments such as the Captains Weekend and Club Championship.

Tees and Fairways are at present being cut twice a week with the semi-roughs being cut early in the week to allow definition between the semi and fairway by the weekends. Aprons are cut three times per week. The tees have been treated with slow release fertiliser (reduces number of applications) which will be topped up through out the summer. The fairways are in the process of being treated with fertiliser and an herbicide to treat the weeds. The temporary greens have been grown out; to allow the course to be played as normal but the hole cups will remain just in case of emergency use. Rabbits populations have been reduced but will always be an on going problem as we are now witnessing the new batch of youngsters.

Tom Hooper
Course Manager

South Beds Rainfall 2016

