

GREENS REPORT
February/MARCH



WINTER WORK PROGRESS

Woodland Management

Some instances of the Woodland Management Plan have progressed with pruning, planting and tree removal. The tree population has not been managed for many years. Mid 2017 we took professional advice from Alasdair Hood, Curator of Dundee Botanical Gardens (See report on website) to assess our tree population. Quite a number of the Leylandii, were originally planned to provide shelter for the deciduous trees planted at the same time. Many of these Leylandii have storm damage, either snapped, or have outgrown their usefulness in some areas. We have therefore taken the decision, supported by professional advice, to remove primarily Leylandii where:

- Trees are damaging, limiting, or stressing integral areas of the play, i.e. tees, greens, overhanging branches
- Where exposed roots may cause damage to player.
- Where Deciduous trees are being damaged or limited.
- Where some lower limbs are a risk to staff.

In parallel we have planted 30 new trees of varies types from Oak, Birch, Rowan, Limes and Beech around the course and one Monkey puzzle tree in view from the club house.



**New planting at the right-hand side of second.
Silver Birch trees at the 4th and 5th holes.**

We have cleared the area along the 7th tee with some new deciduous trees planted. This will allow much more light and air to the tee and 6th green area.

Further removal is to the rear of 17th green and 18th Medal tee.

The green was experiencing some disease and remained extremely soft on the right-hand side and rear. Removing the Conifers now allows the valuable winter sun light into the green and an increase in airflow to help the green to dry out. We have already seen a major difference in moisture reduction to the rear.

In addition, the deciduous Ash and Lime trees can now flourish. From the photo below, you can see how stunted the growth is when compared to the Limes along the 3rd.

Here we can see good sun light getting into the 17th green Friday 23rd February 10.30am



Winter shadows over the green previously



Bunkers

The bunkers at the 5th and 6th are now complete with just a little minor adjustment to the depth so we can start putting in the new sand. The bunkers will remain GUR until the turf is more established.

Over the next few weeks we intend to start edging and tidying up bunkers adding new sand for the start of the season.



6th right-hand bunker. We have lowered the entrance off the bunker to make it easier to access in and out. We have also installed additional gull pots and a small swell to try and catch surface water from flooding the bunker.

The next step for us will be adding the new sand.

GREENS

Now that we are getting near the start of the season we will be increasing the maintenance efforts on the greens with.

- Verti-draining {deep tining} relieving compaction air into the green to encourage deeper root development and water percolation.
- Sand top-dressings – this will be light dressings and more frequent to firm up greens and also for organic control.
- An early cold start fertiliser will be allied to encourage early growth this also has a high percent iron content to check back any moss.
- The turf iron has been out regularly to try and smooth out the surfaces.

These efforts are designed to give us better surfaces at the beginning of the season. However, as always, we do need a little help from the weather man to get us going.

PATH WORK

Paths at the 16th and 13th will be renewed with new AstroTurf matting. The 13th path has had a new frame work built round and will be contoured in.

As we head into the spring with temperatures rising and the growth starting we will be out with cutting machines putting back definition on the course.

Kenny Duncan
Head Greenkeeper