

Course Report March 16

After what has been a fairly wet winter, the last couple of weeks of March have seen the courses dry out quite significantly. Because of this lack of moisture along with low soil temperatures we have so far seen very little good, consistent grass growth as we enter spring.

The growth we do have is in the more coarse grass species as these are the first to respond to seasonal changes. Unfortunately this is causing some uneven growth particularly on Old Course greens. Regular brushing and grooming of the greens is taking place before mowing in an attempt to produce a better more consistent cut. But care must be taken to not be too aggressive so early in the year particularly as we are still seeing early morning frosts.

A granular feed has also been applied to the greens of the Old Course. This is the first of the seasons base feeds and will give the grass plant the necessary nutrients to kick start the growing season. A similar product will be applied to the Wandlebury Course in the coming weeks.

Aeration was carried out to the greens of both courses in early March with a pencil tine used to a depth of 14 cm This was carried out with very little surface disruption caused and within a day or two all evidence of the operation being carried out was gone.

A good deal of time has been spent in the bunkers of the Old Course in recent days, redefining edges, decompacting bases and adding fresh sand where needed. The Wandlebury Course will be done in the next week.

During April we have the first of our maintenance weeks on the courses. Week of 4th -8th Old Course and 18th -22nd Wandlebury.

During these weeks the greens, tees and aprons will be scarified, deeply aerated using the Verti-drain and heavily top-dressed. This work is essential to the long and short term health and condition of the playing surfaces and will be disruptive to play for a short time whilst work is carried out and during recovery after. Every effort will be made to aid recovery as promptly as possible but much of this will depend on growing conditions at the time.

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