



## **GREENS REPORT APRIL**

The new season is now underway and the weather it's usual unpredictability as normal for this time of year. Cold easterly winds at the start of the month to the monsoon conditions over the last few days (25mm rain over the weekend) all of which has an effect on the growth throughout the golf course.

The spring time is a difficult time to improve the greens speed and consistently level playing surfaces. These are a few factors to take into consideration:

- Different grass species growing at different rates of growth
- Greens still filling in from winter damage, disease scars
- Soil temperatures being very low. We need above 10 degrees for a period of time to initiate and maintain good growing conditions. Dunfermline greens are old soil push up greens that take longer to heat up in the spring months.
- Weather conditions with cold easterly winds dry out the top surface on the greens which checks back the growth.
- There is always a danger that we may experience an early morning severe frost and so we maintain our cut levels at 4mm until the growth is sustainable and the frost threat is minimal.

The water system has been used during this cold dry period to maintain moisture levels in the top surface of the greens. However, we must be careful not to apply too much as this has an effect on soil temperatures.

We monitor moisture levels, amongst other functions, through the green as with our Pogo moisture meter, measured on a regularly basis and building up a complete data map of our greens. We have set a 25% to 30% moisture level for our soil-based greens which are currently averaging the high end of 30%.

We still have a number of bare areas to address and repair such as winter tees, tees in general and surrounds of greens. These will be sanded and seeded over the next few weeks to encourage further growth.

### **The Halkett**

The Halkett course has now been rerouted with new signage at the tees. A new naming sign has been purchased and will be placed at the first tee. More information of the relaunch and events coming up for The Halkett course will be sent out in due course.

Hopefully over the next few weeks' temperatures start to rise and give us good growing conditions for the rest of the season.

**Kenny Duncan  
Head Greenkeeper  
Dunfermline golf club**