

2017 End of Year Course Update

As we approach the end of a very busy 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to give you all an update on how the winter project work on the course is progressing.

Tree Work

The much needed tree work around the 18th tee and 1st green has been carried out and I'm sure you can all see from the photos below, not only is the light now reaching the tees, but it has enhanced the view looking back up to the club house and the Malvern Hills in the back ground.



There is still a lot of brash from the fallen trees to be removed from the left of the 18th tees and the back of the 1st green. This work will be done when the weather is not so nice as we are prioritising the other jobs out on the turf areas.

Leaf Collection

This seemingly never ending job can take up a lot of time during the autumn. We now have a number of machines that help us deal with this task, but sometimes we can spend all day out on the course blowing and collecting and it looks like nothing has been done. The joys of a Parkland golf course!!!



Irrigation system

The new Irrigation System is progressing well, but the ground has been very hard so North Staffs Irrigation are around 12 days behind schedule. This is not going to cause the Club any problems. The mainlines pipe work and cabling will all be in the ground before Christmas so they will start on

the installation of the 63mm pipe work and sprinkler heads around the greens and approaches. It is expected to take approximately 1 day per green.

Any areas on the course that have been damaged as they have been installing the pipe work will be tided up and well recovered before the summer.

This photo shows a pressure regulating valve set, there are three of these installed into the mainline to make sure that we have consistent pressure all around the course.



Drainage Work

Over the past 5 weeks we have managed to install greens drainage systems to the 5th and 6th greens.

The 5th green has been a problem for a while now so it was important to get this green done before the weather turns.

As you can see from this photo the material we removed when we were trenching was not the best!



5th Green

To save hauling this away, we decided to use it to build up the area to the left of the bunker. This area was always very weak due to there being an old path below ground, so in the dry summer months there was very little grass cover. After dumping this sub-soil we then topped it off with a mix of sand and top soil ready to be seeded. If the seed does not germinate we may revisit this area and turf it before the spring, but it's worth a try as the recent temps have been so good.

The front bunker has been reshaped and the Sportscreat has now been dealt with. The second bunker is also going to have some shaping work done to it to stop the run-off water running into it, but not until the greens irrigation has been installed.

6th Green

I have been asked why we have done the 6th green when there are other greens that get wetter. The simple reason for this is that we need to install drainage to all the greens on the course to help us provide consistent putting surfaces over the next few years. The sooner we can get them all drained the less we will have to disrupt everyone's golf, and the better

the greens will become all year round.

With this in mind the 6th green was a nice small green to get done after doing the much larger 5th green. The plan is to only ever have two greens out of play due to drainage work at any one time. Once these greens are back in play (*hopefully this will be before Christmas*) we will assess the weather and ground conditions to see if we can get any other greens drained this winter. The 9th, 11th and 12th are the next to be looked at.



Bunker Work

The other big project ongoing at the moment is to finish removing the Sportscreat from the bunkers. This is again important to get sorted as soon as possible to improve the consistency between all the bunkers.

This is a close up of the Sportscreat that we are now removing as it is breaking up.



At the same time, we are doing some reshaping work to make sure the bunkers can be seen from the approach shot area to help deal with any run off water when it rains. There are some bunkers that are being moved or filled in to make sure they are relevant to our membership.



This leads on to another question I sometimes get asked:-

Why don't we just do one job at a time, finish it and then start the next one?

Well to put it bluntly, although it looks like we start jobs but never finish them its actually a case of trying not to handle materials more than once, for example, if we have to dig a bunker out to remove Sportscreat, where can we use that material? If there is a bunker that is going to be filled in nearby then this is a good way for getting rid of this martial. Whenever areas are being filled in they will also need time to settle down or there will be some sinkage in the future.

Equally if there is an area where a new tee or bunker is going to be built, then wherever possible we will remove the turf from that area and use it to line a new bunker or turf around a bunker surround instead of just buying in new turf at a cost to the club.

I hope this helps to explain why we have so many jobs on the go at once and in the end, once the greens drainage and Sportscreat issues are sorted there will be a lot less disruption to your golf and you will have a course that is much better to play all year round and not just good for the summer months.

I hope this update has helped to explain what we have been up to on the course and why we do things the way we do.

To keep up to date with what's going around the course please follow us on Twitter @GreensMalvern or via the club website.

With that, myself and the rest of the greens staff would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Regards

Steve Lloyd
Course Manager