

Course Maintenance Winter 2018-19

As we approach the end of 2018 the golf course has come through the year very well under the extreme conditions that we have experienced. We started the golf season back in April with Arctic conditions, that were then followed by one of the hottest and driest Summers' on record. The amount of water evaporation that we saw was quite astounding. If you noticed the reservoir level on the 4th drop by over a metre, that is a fair few cubic metres of water to replace.

There are still a number of fairways that have not recovered from the drought conditions, but I am confident that with the recent aeration of the weaker areas we will see an improvement moving into Spring.

We have completed the bunker removal on the 2nd and 5th holes and the new turf that the team laid looks very sound, and has knitted very well.

We will be amending the colour of some of the hazard posts (penalty areas) and out of bounds posts at the end of the year to follow the new golf rule changes that take effect January 1st 2019.

Once in the New Year we will continue as last year with our tree maintenance program, with the removal of weaker trees and the thinning of plantations.

We will then try to rebuild a number of bunkers during February and March, weather permitting.

I plan to carry out aeration of the greens at a different time during 2019, weather permitting we will tine the greens in January/February, but we will not top dress at this time. This will allow air to get into the profile and at the same time allow any moisture to filter through the surface. As soon as we see some warmer ground conditions that enhance growth we will then top dress. My aim is to produce a better putting surface earlier in the season.

We will then further hollow tine and top dress in the latter part of August, thus maximising a much quicker repair of the surfaces at this time of the season.

We will also use the winter months to carry out a full service of all our greens equipment, fairways mower, rough, and greens machines in preparation for the new season.

Kevin Pickett

General Manager