

# Pride in Tynemouth Golf Club

## Greens Quarterly Newsletter

January 2017



### Chairman's Notes

A warm welcome to the new newsletter brought to you by the Tynemouth Golf Club Greens Sub-Committee. May I first introduce you to the new sub-committee members. The committee is made up of four volunteers, Darryl Ridley, Will Smith, Brian Udberg and myself, David Steven acting as the sub-committee chairman.

We have had several meetings to date formulating our aims and aspirations regarding the development of the golf course. In summary the primary goals of the committee are as follows:

1. To become the best conditioned course in the area
2. Provide a members course suitable for all abilities that remains a challenge but is rewarding to play.
3. To re-instill a pride in our Golf Course.
4. Improve communication with the membership.

The ethos of this year's approach is of evolution not revolution. In short, we have a classic layout that needs care and attention to give a better playing experience.

Rest assured this committee and your green staff will be working hard to give you the course you deserve.

### Primary Aims for 2016-2017

The sub-committee has compiled some initial aims for the forthcoming season. We felt it was important that these aims were both achievable and added a benefit to the course.

1. Define the fairways with a shorter first cut of rough prior to the actual rough cut.
2. Improve the approaches to the greens providing a closely mown area to play to.
3. Provide a fringe cut to all greens.
4. Continue to improve the condition of the bunkers.
5. Improve the design of some bunkers approximately 5-6.
6. Incorporate run off areas around some greens.
7. Completion of the drainage programme.
8. Reconditioning the pond area on the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway.

We have undertaken a full review of the course, especially the green layouts and have compiled a list of changes and improvements to each hole. I hasten to add, none of these are of a radical nature. We have been greatly assisted and directed by our resident professional, John McKenna, with this process. A graphical record of these proposals will be left in the clubhouse for your perusal.

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### Forthcoming Works

The green staff are currently working hard on both the established winter programme and some of the course improvements mentioned above.

#### **Greens**

Verti draining greens with medium sized tines.

Continued cutting of greens (weather dependant).

Preventative disease treatment of fusarium.

Application of worm retardant as and when required

#### **Fairways**

Monthly slit tining as part of the aeration programme (weather dependant).

Cutting and maintenance when required.

#### **Tees**

Monthly slit tining and verti draining as part of the aeration programme (weather dependant).

#### **General Maintenance**

Thinning of trees in designated areas to promote growth on and around greens.

Removal of dead trees.

Servicing of machinery.

Patching of worn areas.

### View from the Shed

We propose to include an article referring to a relevant subject provided by your Head Greenkeeper, Ian Kerr.

This newsletter includes information about Aeration.

#### **Why do we aerate?**

Soil requires air to promote root growth and structure. The soil needs aeration to avoid compaction and improve drainage.

#### **What do we do to Aerate?**

Verti draining is the process of punching holes of varying diameters (19,12 and 6mm, see below). This varies in depth also which frees the compacted soil to aiding the above points.



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Slit tining is mainly carried out on the fairways and tees. Slit tining involves a v-shaped slit revolving on a drum pulled by a tractor (see below).



### What are the benefits?

Aerated soil promotes strong and sustainable growth of the grass. This leads to a better playing surface on the greens. On the fairways aerated soil aids drainage and root growth.

Aeration is carried out on a monthly basis throughout the year. This process typically takes 2-3 days for the greens and roughly 5 days to slit tine the fairways.

We hope this provides and insight into the work of our green staff and provides you with some information on this important subject.

### On a lighter note

This newsletters joke:

A woman goes into the local newspaper office to see that the obituary for her recently deceased husband is published. The obit editor informs her that there is a charge of 50 pence per word.

She pauses, reflects, and then says well, then, let it read "Fred Brown died."

Amused at the woman's thrift, the editor tells her that there is a seven-word minimum for all obituaries.

She thinks it over and in a few seconds and says, "In that case, let it read, 'Fred Brown died: golf clubs for sale.'"

### In Conclusion

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. The format and content will evolve over time. We would welcome your comments and suggestions. Clearly, we cannot guarantee that we can implement all your suggestions but all input will be considered. It is your course after all!

We have set up a dedicated email address which is delivered straight to the desks of all the greens sub-committee, this is listed below.

[tgc.greensinfo@gmail.com](mailto:tgc.greensinfo@gmail.com)

Best Wishes

David Steven