

HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE GOLF CLUB GREENS COMMITTEE



March 2019 Report for Club Members

WE HAVE A NEW TEAM MEMBER!

It is with regret that we have to announce the resignation of Steve Johnstone from the Greens Committee. In his short time as part of the team, we have welcomed the work he has put in. In particular we will miss his enthusiasm and effort he put into the members updates (No easy task as I am beginning to find out!). Under the club rules we are able to co-opt a new committee member for the duration up to the next AGM. We are therefore very pleased to announce that Malcolm Smith has accepted our request to join the team. Malcolm is a lifelong member known to a lot of us. He is also a Trustee of the club. We very much look forward to the input he will bring in the months ahead.

WHY IS THERE NO GRASS AND LOADS OF MOSS?

Well there is always stuff that is going to be high on the priority list, depending on the time of year. At the moment as we get closer to the playing season it's Moss and Grass growth. We all know the weather we endured last summer (lovely wasn't it), but not great for growing grass. We are all fully aware of that and the greens team have been working to get the course ready for the growing season. We will be monitoring areas that need extra attention and when the time is right, preparation and seeding will take place. We will also treat the moss areas, which is ultimately a result of the type of weather we have experienced in recent months. Please rest assured we are talking about these things and will take the steps needed to remedy. What is interesting to note is that due to EU laws certain types of chemicals that used to be available to us, no longer are. This means we need to use alternatives. Our Head Green Keeper is well up to speed on this and makes the changes necessary, whilst making sure we are keeping an eye on expense as we always need to do. The Greenkeeper is happy with where we are at present and is confident come Spring we will get the growth we need.



WHAT DO WE ALL WANT?

At lot of similar things, it would seem. Long rough, errrrr no thanks. So, we won't be having that going forward. As we all know it slows up play and loses balls. We don't want impossible shots to have to hit, (that goes for the single figure golfers in the club as well as the majority). We will have a semi rough and a normal rough (hoping that the semi rough may be a bit wider this year depending on space available). But the normal rough will be kept at a sensible level. Please all bear in mind that when the main growing season starts, it will thicken up, but we will aim to keep on top of it. We will also work on getting some of the banks down to a level where they can be machine mown. It may take a while to get there, so please be patient.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

The Greens team have been busy coming up with lists of things we would like to do. Some easy, some not so easy. We will continue to work with Mike Cartright to discuss and implement these ideas, be it as part of the day to day work during the growing season, or as part of future Winter Program's. I hope you have all noticed the 7th Tee has been renovated and flattened. We are very pleased with the result and will no doubt be looking to do a similar thing with other tees in the future. Hopefully you will also notice the work being done to clear debris under the various groups of trees on the course. We are happy with the results which make the whole place look tidier.

WHATS HAPPENING IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Well thankfully we are getting closer to the season and the greens team will be focusing on getting the course and watering system ready for the season. Scarifying of the greens has been taking place, we will soon be starting up the watering system and seeing what issues there are (apparently there are problems every year that need to be fixed). We should start to see some definition returning to the course as the grass starts to grow. There is nothing better to me than looking down the 8th and seeing the definition of the rough vs the fairway.

WHAT CAN WE ALL BE DOING?

A note of thanks. Pitch marks are being repaired, thank you to all of you that are doing (to be quite honest) exactly what you should be doing. It will have a positive impact. Something else we are guilty of..... not bothering to repair divots. Please do this. No one else should be doing it for you. If you see your partners not doing this, tell them. We should all be marshals for our own course. Final one, please don't take trolleys where they clearly should not be going, across tees, on the fringes of our greens etc. Let's all respect the small amount of land our course sits on and take care of it appropriately. Having read this, if you are called up on the above, expect to be. We should all know better (and most of us do).

