

# TURFCARE LEISURE SERVICES LTD

## MOWSBURY GOLF CLUB MAINTENANCE REPORT JUNE 2018

### INTRODUCTION

As we are approaching Captains Day weekend, I am pleased to report that we are in a very favourable period of weather and forecasts indicate good conditions for Captains Day. A lot of preparation and maintenance work has been carried out so that the course can be enjoyed by the members participating in this important event of the clubs golfing calendar.

To ensure that the event preparation is carried out prior to the shotgun start, additional staff will be onsite above our normal team to accommodate the early tee off time across all tees.

As you are aware the spring and early summer period has been challenging with the exceptional grass growth caused by heavy periods of rain and warm, mild conditions. Nevertheless, the course has now dried out allowing our team to ensure that members and visitors alike are able to enjoy the facilities at Mowsbury.

### GREENS MAINTENANCE

The spring renovation work was completed during the period 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 4<sup>th</sup> April. Although the spring programme of work on the greens is intense we are pleased to report there was minimal disruption to general play and the policy of accommodating the needs of the competitions and societies has worked well.

Summer maintenance on the greens has consisted of the following;

- Verti-cutting on a regular basis (fortnightly)
- Micro-tining to assist irrigation penetration
- Application of fertilizer 13-0-46
- Applications of liquid fertilizer on two occasions
- Monthly thatch removal using thatchaway units

As the greens have started to dry out we are now able to focus our maintenance on increasing the playing speed in preparation for summer play and the big competitions of the year. Currently the greens are being cut at 4mm, these will be slightly lowered for Captains Day and Presidents Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Once these important competitions have been played a midsummer programme of maintenance will be carried out which will consist of aggressive verti-cutting, micro-tining and a light application of top-dressing. This will be followed up with an application of potassium nitrate to give the greens a little boost in mid-summer.

### TEES MAINTENANCE

Currently the tees are being cut at 14mm. The recent vigorous growth has meant that our team have had to cut them on three occasions each week. Now with hotter and sunnier weather prevailing the mowing frequency has been reduced to two cuts per week.

Shortly we will be applying selective herbicide to control any spread of broad leaved weeds or white clover. Naturally this work will be carried out when weather conditions and course usage is favourable.

Tees are being irrigated on a nightly basis to ensure that seed used to repair divots on the tees has a good chance of development during the warm sunny days.

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## FAIRWAY MAINTENANCE

The vigorous growth and the wet ground conditions have all proved to very favourable to the presentation of the fairways. Although additional cutting over and above the normal programme of twice per week has been necessary to control the upsurge of growth this spring and early summer.

After the Captains Day weekend an application of selective herbicide will be applied to the fairways to control the encroachment of white clover. This work will be carried out early morning in favourable conditions to avoid any disruption to day to day play.

The current height of cut is 19mm



## ROUGH MAINTENANCE

After a challenging start to the season with exceptionally wet ground conditions and high grass growth the rough is currently being cut at 60mm. It is our intention to lower the height to 50mm once grass growth has slowed down. Setting a policy for the rough height on a golf course is always tricky as some members prefer it short which also speeds up play and other often more advanced members like the challenge of longer rough which presents more of a hazard. Some clubs like to have semi-rough around the fairway and others like areas that are allowed to grow very long to encourage nature/ wildlife.

Parts of the rough that had become particularly waterlogged this spring due to problems with drainage are now under control and after regular cutting and the use of a specialized blower and collector has resulted in these areas returning to normal.

## BUNKER MAINTENANCE

The re-modelling of the six bunkers that form part of phase two of the bunker upgrading programme is now entering its final stages. After recent rotavating and seed bed preparation we will be applying grass seed and water to establish these areas and bring them into play. Naturally, next year we will be doing the same with further bunkers on the course. The new position of the bunker on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole has been favourably received by the members as it is further into the fairway bringing it into play and making the hole more challenging.

Regular maintenance has been carried out on the bunkers around the site with edging, weeding and strimming taking place as part of our ongoing programme. Following spells of heavy rain, we have carried out additional work to encourage through

drainage of water and re-distribution of sand around the bunkers. Sand bunkers are a labour intensive part of golf course maintenance, however when presented well they provide enhanced presentation and an important hazard.



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## HEALTH & SAFETY

We are concerned that there has been an increase in trespassers onto the course during late evening and in the night. This has resulted in occasional periods of vandalism. As always, the first things to be affected are flags and tee markers. We have checked the boundary and have found no evidence of broken fences. However, and increase in vigilance in this area by the Course Marshall may be a deterrent.

## DRAINAGE/IRRIGATION

This year has shown up some deficiencies with our underground drainage system. The persistent and heavy rainfall coupled with the problems has resulted in localized water-logging. These areas have been noted and based on our findings an in-depth drainage report has been compiled so that a strategy can be formulated to rectify these problems and hopefully reduce the effects and implications of localized flooding in the winter months.

Discussions will take place between the members committee and the management team to find a way forward to rectify this problem.

## Rainfall Totals;

**January 2018**  
**48mm**

**February 2018**  
**26mm**

**March 2018**  
**70mm**

**April 2018**  
**76mm**

**May 2018**  
**56mm**

## CONCLUSION

With it being almost mid-summer, the warm summer evenings are a perfect time to play golf and enjoy the facilities at Mowsbury.

The green-keeping team would like to take this opportunity to wish the Captain all the best for his forthcoming day on Sunday.

*Turfcare Leisure  
Services Ltd*

