

TURFCARE LEISURE SERVICES LTD

MOWSBURY GOLF CLUB MAINTENANCE REPORT APRIL 2018

INTRODUCTION

Since our last meeting in February we have carried out a lot of important maintenance on the golf course, not least the spring work on the greens. It has been a tricky period for us and for the game of golf as we have experienced periods of frost, heavy rain and snow. The most recent snow occurred on the 17th and 18th March 2018 and in fact on one occasion the course had to be closed for 7 days simply because ground conditions were so wet.

More recently we have experienced unusual amounts of rain which have caused waterlogging and even flooding across areas of the golf course. Hopefully this can now be put behind us as warmer weather has launched us into spring thus encouraging growth and presentation.

To give a comparison between the rainfall of 2017 and 2018, see table below;

Month	2017	2018
January	51mm	48mm
February	50mm	26mm
March	36mm	70mm
April	8mm	53mm (so far..)

Despite the troublesome weather conditions detailed above we were able to carry out spring maintenance on the greens, complete work on bunkers and apply products to the greens and tees.

GREENS MAINTENANCE

The spring period is a key time in the course maintenance calendar and enables us to carry out work that is important to ensure that the greens are in good condition for the main playing season.

This spring the following programme was carried out on all greens between the 26th March – 4th April 2018;

- Solid tine aeration
- De-thatching – Double Pass
- Mowing
- Application of Spring and Summer fertiliser

The greens were fertilized with a “Cold Start” 11-5-5 + 8%Fe fertilizer especially designed to promote growth in cold weather conditions.

On the 3rd April the height of cut on the greens was lowered to 4mm so that we can start to pick up the pace as weather conditions allow.

The greens are now being cut on a daily basis

TEES MAINTENANCE

The Tees are now back in play (since 13th April 2018) and mowing, seeding and divotting is an ongoing part of their maintenance. As with the greens the height of cut will be gently lowered to provide good summer presentation.

Recent fertilizer application had to be delayed due to water-logging however this will be carried out shortly to all tees.

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FAIRWAY MAINTENANCE

Despite the adverse weather conditions, we have been able to carry out the cutting of the fairways recently. Although the fairways have been very wet it is apparent that the constant work carried out on the drainage system and the winter aeration has helped the movement of water through the soil profile and encouraged a more extensive root system to develop. During late May, selective herbicide will be applied to the fairways where required to control broad leaved weeds and pockets of white clover that sometimes occur on various areas of the course.

The height of cut is currently set at 19mm and this will be further reduced to 16mm shortly. As requested we will also be reducing the length of the “carries” from the tees to the fairways for the Ladies. A first cut around the fairways will be carried out once the drier ground conditions prevail.

ROUGH MAINTENANCE

One area that has not received much maintenance in recent weeks is the rough. The recent weather has caused a number of wet pockets of ground to develop. Any large pieces of machinery such as the rough cutter travelling over these areas would have a negative effect on presentation. Therefore, the topping of the rough that normally takes place in mid to late March has had to be delayed.

Once drier ground conditions prevail the rough will be cut at a height of 75mm and gradually brought down to the normal height of 50mm

BUNKER MAINTENANCE

As mentioned in our last meeting this year's re-construction programme to build on work carried out in 2017 as part of our 5-year plan to improve in excess of 25 bunkers through the period began and included;

- Re-construction of the 10th fairway bunker (left side) forming two smaller bunkers and reducing the height of the bunker faces. Installation of new drain.
- Reduction in size (by 50%) of the 10th fairway bunker on the right-hand side.
- Complete re-construction of the 8th fairway bunker (right hand side) and installation of new drain.
- Formation of a grass mound to replace 14th fairway bunker (left hand side) with a small bunker inserted in the mound on the right-hand side.
- Reduction in height of the 13th fairway bunker (right hand side). Bunker moved left into the fairway to create more of a hazard. Installation of drain.

In addition to this, work was also carried out on the 15th bunker, lowering of height and a decrease in the size of the hazard.

You will have noted that this work is almost completed but has been affected by the wet conditions. Some of these areas are marked as G.U.R but once the ground conditions have dried more thoroughly we will finish off this work as necessary and then apply grass seed.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

We touched on our annual update for CHAS in our last report. I can confirm that our application was successful again and all of our paperwork relating to course maintenance is up to date.

Our waste control contractor has removed used chemical containers, waste oil and old batteries as part of the legal requirements for the disposal of hazardous waste materials.

DRAINAGE/IRRIGATION

The recent wet weather has highlighted a couple of areas that need attention at some point;

- Just short of the 1st fairway (currently roped off) water-logging due to a collapsed drain.
- Drain on the 13th fairway near bunker. Recent investigation revealed that the pipes are full of clay. Once the water level has dropped we will rod this drain to clear the problem which will also help the re-constructed 13th fairway bunker.

Use of the irrigation system is not necessary at the moment, maintenance of the system is ongoing and currently repairs to the 6th green and 7th tee are under way. Recently a significant water leak has developed in the pump house and will require an investigation by an irrigation engineer prior to the system being operated

A.O.B

Over the winter months we have made up a complete set of new tee markers from used tree stakes which were cut to size and painted accordingly. These have proved very successful and were put out on the tees on the 13th April.

We will shortly be putting out new 150 yard post and hazard markers.

Turfcare Leisure Services Ltd

Rainfall Totals;

January 2018

48mm

February 2018

26mm

March 2018

70mm

April 2018

53mm

