



Nelson Golf Club

Head Greenkeeper Report

October 2018



Rainfall: 71mm | Average Temp: 10 degrees | High Temp: 21 degrees | Low Temp: Minus 4 degrees

Greens

- The height of cut has been gradually increased through October and now we are mowing at a height of 5.5mm and cutting the greens weather dependant twice a week.
- The greens have now fully recovered from the hollow tining, sand and a verti drain.
- Seaweed and iron has been applied on one occasion helping with root growth and turf grass strength.
- On 2 occasions a dew dispersant has been applied. This time of year the dews in a morning are very heavy and aid disease on the greens. The dew dispersant prevents dew forming on the greens. This also means a member of staff can do other jobs instead of brushing the greens each day.
- The greens have been sprayed with a fungicide preventing any fusarium outbreaks. Especially at the moment with disease pressure being so high.
- We have also applied a slow release granular feed to the greens, this will drip feed them through the winter as and when temperatures allow.

Tees

- Winter mats are now on all the par 3s and number 10. Going through winter we will monitor each tee and add a mat if necessary. However we will aim to stay on them if we can or certainly as long as possible.
- Tees have been divoted a number of times and received a heavy divot this week, especially those that suffered in the drought. This will probably be the last chance we have for any seed to germinate.
- We have also applied a granular slow release feed. As with the greens, this will drip feed them throughout the winter months, helping them recover and help against wear and tear.

Fairways

- Unbelievably fairways received a cut this week, which is great as we are still being able to present decent definition even going into winter.
- Fairways 1,9 and 18 have been vert drained, helping to de-compact them after all the traffic they received through the season.
- Landing areas have been divoted.
- Front of the 5th green has been heavily soil and seeded again to help it recover from the damage through the dry spell.
- Normally by now there would be a number of areas with ropes and stakes. However with the course taking the rain so well and grass still growing there hasn't been the need. This will change over the coming weeks and we will look to protect areas, wherever necessary.
- Winter greens are being cut weekly and white lined.

Miscellaneous and Winter Work

- 🔧 Back in October during a storm we had to clear up 6 fallen trees around the course.
- 🔧 We had Philip Dixon in to remove the whizz wheel from our trencher and instead fit the chain. This now allows us to trench to depths greater than 14 inch and use 80mm pipe. Drains ideally need to be at a depth of at least 18inches. The deeper they are, the greater the area they draw water from.
- 🔧 Our winter work has now started. A turf cutter was hired from Balmers to cut the turf on greens 4 and 12.
- 🔧 Drainage on the 4th green is now complete. We will now allow them to settle for a couple of weeks before we put the turf back. The 12th green is also very near completion and the same will apply regarding putting the turf back. Each green has been drained at 3 meter centres, and 18 to 22 inch deep. We then lay 3 inch perforated plastic pipe, back filled with clean drainage stone, followed by 10 inch of rootzone.
- 🔧 A number of machines have needed repairing. The sidewinder needed a new safety switch. The toro triple we use for our tees and aprons is waiting for a spring to be fitted to the throttle cable. Also, our large Kubota tractor has a slight oil leak from its transmission; this is waiting for a new gasket to be fitted.
- 🔧 Over the next month we are looking to turf the drains on 4 and 12. Once complete we will start to drain the 16th green, which with excessive rain becomes very wet and soft. To do this we will also need to hire the turf cutter again from Balmers.
- 🔧 As some of you may of noticed, some of the soil removed from the 12th has been tipped in the practice bunker. This soil will be used to e landscape the bank with had eroded away. Enabling us to cut it to a decent standard.
- 🔧 As well as other projects over the next few weeks we will start slitting the fairways and verti-draining high traffic areas. It is the ideal time with the soil underneath still being relatively dry.
- 🔧 The greens over the next week or so will also receive a vert drain with a little bit of heave ready for the frosts to help break up the soil underneath.
- 🔧 We will continue with dew dispersants and preventative fungicide applications, helping against disease. Whilst also maintaining as healthy a grass plant as we can.

