



Great golf, great food, great friends

Course Report July 2021

It has been another busy month, and we are now entering holiday season which at times will put added pressure on the team as for around four weeks we are one full time greenkeeper down, and a week when the part time greenkeeper is also off.

The work schedule has already been planned and tied in with my holiday so my week off will be spent covering staff and hopefully a week of golf.

We are still having a few issues with people going off early first thing in the morning ahead of their tee times which means the staff are under pressure to stay ahead and not delay the members.

With the holidays coming and, in an effort, to stay ahead and get all the work done, myself and Tony are looking at possibly allowing some overtime during the week on the days when we need pins changed, greens, aprons and rough cut and starting at 05.00am. This will only be through the holiday period and while the course is still growing.

We are also going to build into this some removal of the small scrub oaks that are popping up all around the course.

I am waiting on the license number from our Agronomist and need the Boards approval once I have this to purchase the treatment (approx. £1000.00 + Vat) to apply as soon as possible to apply and help kill the larvae within the greens.

Along with the above we need to look at the track that comes from Clay's roundabout, across the 18th, 17th, 3rd & 13th fairways to our storage area. Last year we struggled to get a full load through and cut up the fairways with deep ruts left by the vehicles. As in my previous course updates we are looking at around £5000.00 + Vat, which includes repairing the storage bays as well.

The upgrading of the irrigation on the 1st, 10th & 7th along with the approach to the 12th has also been left and before long this will start causing us issues as we only have 25mm pipework that is around 35 years old servicing the sprinkler heads. The quotation for this in July 2020 was £5200.00 + Vat. Like the roof over the changing rooms this will increase more and more the longer it is left.

Finally, we have two items of equipment that are due to move into end-of-life lease and need replacing. We still have the bounce back loan and it would be cheaper to purchase out right then start with two new leases for a new rough cutter John Deere guesstimate £24,500.00 + Vat and a Toro out front rotary mower tees and aprons £26,511.00 + Vat. These figures will no doubt have increased as all machinery has gone up due to the machinery shortages and demand.

The work on the 7th green will be done in-house and not included in the course work during the closure in September. Once we have an idea of the work commencing a communication will be sent to members. As we have increased the playing surface area in front of the green, we will be able to keep the green in play.



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With the restrictions now being lifted to help keep ahead I will be out on the course Sunday 18th putting out rakes, removing the foam from the cups and removing the covers from the periscopes. We have suffered this week with wind so have had to rearrange spraying which will now take place on Monday 19th.

The pathways have been cut wider from tee to fairway to give members a bale out, but for those that are still struggling we need to encourage them to use the forward tees.

1st Hole

No further work required at the moment.

2nd Hole

The rough has now grown up and in places is very penal. The re-shaping of the fairway has been well received.

Listening to members the valley is being kept at a fair height for those not able to carry across into the green in two (in line with the fairway and green)

The apron having now been cut regularly is also taking shape.

3rd Hole

The root removal on the left edge of the fairway is still to be addressed, the ropes have with a nice lush apron.

4th Hole

Priority over the 14th tee is still in place and members need to allow those teeing off the 4th to hit their shots into the green as well as allowing them to walk to the green and not stand and wait while those on the 14th play their tee shots.

5th Hole

General daily work to continue, along with scrub oak removal in places

6th Hole

General daily work to continue, along with scrub oak removal around the right-hand bunker and the humps, along with the tee box being re-shaped/aligned.

7th Hole

Within the next couple of months planning work will start in preparation to cut the swale in the back of the green. Pins will be on the front/lower level while the work is going on.

8th Hole

The dip is growing and starting to punish people leaving approach shots short.

The OOB markers have now been put back and it will not be long that the area will have grown over again.

9th Hole

General daily work to continue, the scrub oak on the slope above the bunker has been removed.

10th Hole

General daily work to continue, the ragwort has also been removed between the 10th and 1st fairway.

11th Hole

The white/yellow tee box is being re-aligned.

12th Hole

The apron extension is coming along and the area roped off is punishing those that play short.



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13th Hole

The bench has now been replaced, and the tee box is being re-aligned.

14th Hole

The 4th still has priority. Please allow players through before teeing off.

15th Hole

No further work required, general daily work to continue.

16th Hole

No further work required.

17th Hole

Players still need to remember to leave trolleys visible for the groups behind, don't leave them round the corner towards the 18th.

The fairway has now been cut into the middle of the two bunkers left and right along with the fairway cut to bring them both into play, for those going for the green in two.

18th Hole

The top level is nearly ready to bring into play, and the area in front of the periscope is being built up.

Practice Area

Could I please remind all members that the practice area is closed every Thursday from 9.00 - 11.00am

Also, if you use the practice area during the evening, please clear the chipping green before you leave, allowing the greenkeepers to go out and cut first thing.

All members must start on the 1st, play is not permitted from the 11th tee, unless by prior arrangement with the Course Manager/Professional or a two-tee start.

Sam Cooper
Course Manager
15/07/2021