



Great golf, great food, great friends

Course Report September 2021

Thankfully the main heatwave never arrived during July/August, so the course had held up well, over the last week even though we have had some damp mornings the course has started to look very brown and dry.

Tony and all the team have worked extremely hard making sure they maintain all areas around the course, cutting to keep the tees, aprons, greens, and fairways in the best condition with definition, without risking losing any areas with a snap dry spell.

My last report in July, I mentioned staff holidays, and again I had arranged time off to help cover and help to ensure the course was maintained to the standard that members and guests now expect. As with the previous holidays, a schedule of work was left by Tony for me, Marcus, and Phil to work to. The mornings have started pulling in and working with just the lights on the mower rollbar. I will admit that I struggled for the first few days while cutting the greens/aprons. The concentrations level raised considerably, and I have nothing but admiration for Tony and his team and their expertise.

During Tony's week off, he has been monitoring the weather and adjusted the irrigation on the greens and aprons as and when required. He has done a lot of hand watering in several areas which when, the irrigation upgrade on the 1st, 10th & 7th along with the approach to the 12th will help cut out all the time spent doing this, as this can be controlled remotely.

With the irrigation system aging we have sadly had a leak on the 7th during the last week. Luckily it was spotted early on, and Irrigation Services were called in, unfortunately they did not have the fitting required so did a temporary fix which didn't hold when the system was turned on leaving a flood behind and around the back of the 7th green. We can isolate the system, which was turned off on Friday morning, but this means that all greens and aprons are shut down, leaving us in the hands of the weather. The repair was completed during Friday and Tony checked and ran the system Saturday when he was in. As we have been so dry, and no rain forecast until Tuesday/Wednesday he also came in again on Sunday to hand water the areas that were showing signs of burning off.

We have the license number from our Agronomist for the leatherjackets and now Tony has returned from his annual leave, he has put the order through ready to apply during October. We have seen several crane fly's 1st thing and seen some damage to the greens, aprons and tees by the rooks digging for the larvae. Fingers crossed this will only last a few weeks and we don't see too much damage.

Over the last few weeks, we have introduced the 'Blue' tees on the front 10 holes, for anyone who wishes to use them. Sally has produced a scorecard for the blues and blacks, but these cannot be used for handicap purposes.



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The two-day course closure is coming up very quickly. We have already received delivery of some of the materials required just in case we suddenly have some bad weather which could have stopped the lorries delivering the materials required to complete the job, which would have a massive knock-on effect. The grass seed is due into us during week commencing 13th September luckily with materials going up and up, Tony bought this early, and we avoided a lot of the increases. The seed for the fairways has now increased so much that the price we paid, our supplier cannot now buy it for.

I will be asking for volunteers during these two days to help take out sand in some of our worst bunkers, cut out the liners and then refill and level, along with cutting back gorse and over growing brambles on the pathways. Further details to follow, as with the current weather conditions if we see no rain during this coming week, we may have to cancel the work as the fairways will be too hard/dry to core and overseed.

Hole by hole

1st Hole

No work required

2nd Hole

Greenside bunker needs lining taken out and leveled

3rd Hole

The root removal on the left edge of the fairway is still to be addressed.

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

Left hand bunker has 'sand bees in the face' these are harmless

6th Hole

Left fairway bunker needs the liner taken out and sand replaced

7th Hole

Levels will soon be taken ready to cut the swale. Excess soil to be moved to the back of the 6th tee

8th Hole

OOB and GUR to the right of the trees growing back, this will be levelled and tidied.

9th Hole

No work required

10th Hole

No work required

11th Hole

Back bunker beyond the green to be reviewed

12th Hole

1st bunker needs lining taken out and leveled

13th Hole

No work required



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14th Hole

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

15th Hole

No work required

16th Hole

Look at the yellow tee, possibly re-align build tee further forward to allow more tee positions

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

OOB markers need re painting

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.

With the darker and cold mornings approaching this brings with it mist/fog delays. Could I remind all members that prior to the Pro Shop opening it is your responsibility to ensure it is safe to play. The outline of the trees beyond the 1st green **MUST** be visible before play commences. Remember we have a camera now recording the 1st tee so you will be seen if you go off early or if it is unsafe. If there is a fog delay, play will resume in tee booking order, if you leave the course, you lose your position.

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.

Sam Cooper
Course Director
12/09/2021