



## **DRIFFIELD GOLF CLUB – COURSE REPORT JUNE 2019**

### **1. GREENS**

The unusually dry winter was a boon to both club golfers and the greens staff as it meant that a longer course could be maintained and the use of temporary greens was kept to a minimum. The back end of the dry winter turned into almost summer-like conditions with much higher than average temperatures in late February through to Easter. This dry spell has now definitely come to an end and June is already proving challenging for the greens staff due to wet and cool conditions.

However, the fairways in particular have largely recovered from the effects of the long hot summer of 2018 and the greens are coming into their own despite the increase in seed heads from the meadow grass varieties. These seed heads may suggest that the greens have not been cut but this is certainly not the case. Greens are now being cut to 3.5mm; to reduce the cut lower than this causes undue stress to the turf leading to deterioration and possibly disease.

Soil sampling was carried out on all greens in April to determine the soil composition and nutrient levels and at the last meeting of the Greens Sub-Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> May members received a presentation from a Technical Manager from Rigby Taylor Ltd, a Mr Tito Arana, on the results of the soil sampling.

The samples indicated that the current maintenance regime was working towards providing adequate nutrients for the turf on the greens although some residual levels could be improved although at a higher cost to the golf club.

The greens staff are currently carrying out a monthly programme of aeration by pencil tining or dynacoring followed by top dressing with sand. This has the effect of improving the soil profile and reduces thatch thereby ensuring that the grass remains healthy and golfers get a smooth, consistent roll when putting on the greens.

A number of members have queried why we carry out top dressing into the playing season. Research has shown that greens that are not top-dressed have a poorer turf quality and become thatched and puffy which can result in scalping during cutting and shorter ball-roll distances.

Top-dressing has several benefits:

- It produces a smooth, firm putting surface;
- It reduces the thatch layer;
- It allows reduced mowing heights;
- It protects the crown, and;
- It increases ball-roll distance.

Light, frequent top-dressing is more effective than heavy top-dressing at the beginning and end of the growing season and allows members to play on the greens immediately after top-dressing has been carried out.

This aeration and top-dressing programme is essential if we are to achieve and maintain the good putting surfaces members want.

To assist in the maintenance of the greens the club have recently replaced two of its hand mowers with two new units. The two units that we replaced were nearly 20years old and were proving difficult to maintain.

In addition to regular aeration and top-dressing, all greens are treated every four weeks with a liquid fertiliser and Primo Max as well as an application of wetting agent which helps maintain and manage the moisture content.

***Members and visitors could greatly help maintain the quality of our greens if they ensure that all pitch marks are repaired as soon as possible. Please be a responsible golfer and ensure that you repair any pitch marks you cause and any others you find when entering the green.***

## **2. Tees**

All tees received a treatment of granular fertiliser in April and will have an application of liquid fertiliser and Primo Max every four weeks to promote and regulate growth. The tees have been treated for weeds and divots repaired where necessary.

***On all par three holes we provide divot boxes filled with compost and grass seed. When a divot is taken it is very helpful if the damaged area is filled with the mixture, the divot must not be replaced.***

## **3. Fairways**

All fairways are now treated with Primo Max. This has led to improvements in the sward giving a tighter and thicker sward which provides a better playing surface and aids consistency. The fairways have had a weed treatment

Fairways are now being cut to their summer height of 16mm and divots are being filled in regularly. It would improve the course if all members, their guests and visitors could repair or secure any divots they may have taken. Many members are using the Macdivot Pegs which are available at the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee, where a replacement is not possible a repair with sand from the divot bags provided is a good alternative.

## **4. Rough**

The grass has started to grow out on the course and this soon becomes evident in the rough areas. The rough is being cut to a height of 50 mm to ensure a marked differential between the band and the fairways

## **5. Request to members**

We would ask all members and players to do their bit in helping us to provide a golf course of which we can all be proud. **Please:**

- i. Rake bunker marks.
- ii. Place litter in the bins provided or take it home with you.
- iii. If you see anything wrong, damaged, dangerous or missing on the course please report it to the office or Professional and we shall attempt to put things in order as soon as possible.

## **Report from the Greens Sub-Committee 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019:**

Peter Marshall (Chair of Greens), Allan Carlton, Tim Beachell, Brent Halder, Chris Long, Will Adamson, Andy Anderson (Head Greenkeeper) Eugene Maher (Gents Captain) and Kenton Wright (Director of Golf)