

# January Course Report

**Harvey Sims**  
**Deputy Head Greenkeeper**



Firstly, I would like to say on behalf of the team Happy New Year to you all. We understand the latest course closures due to the pandemic is not the news we all wanted, however, we will be committed to maintaining the course to the levels you expect in readiness for the re-opening.

## **Furlough**

As per the previous correspondence from Shah, we will be on a rotational basis furloughing two members of the team during this lockdown. Our 3-man team have a comprehensive work plan and will endeavour to complete these whilst the course is empty of golfers.

## **Course Conditions**

Prior to the latest lockdown, the heavy rain played havoc with our normal practices but also with you the golfers. We have had several days in December where we were forced to close the course, I must stress this decision is not taken lightly however the safety of our members must take priority. We understand that introducing a trolley ban is not welcome and again for the protection of the course it was necessary.



## Course presentation

The first day back was very productive. As this meant, we were able to get the big guns (machinery) out. This allowed us to cut and redefine areas of the course including:

- Tees
- Fairways
- Semi-rough
- Tee banks

When the lockdown ends, we are hoping to have all areas on the course looking and playing well. Let's hope the weather stays kind.



## Greens

In December we noticed fusarium (disease) on the greens. Initially the disease was only in small areas, it however started to spread quickly. Due to the wet conditions, we had to use our knapsack sprayer and our walk behind sprayer (pictured below) treating the infected areas with a fungicide application.



The first day back after the Christmas break, we saw to relieve the greens of compaction and to get air into the soil, we used our Toro Procore. This should produce better condition of the greens prior to the spring.



## Car park

The car park over the years has been a little neglected and getting overgrown from the surrounding trees and hedges. This is something we want to try and transform and keep on top of, after all first impressions go a long way.



It was decided that the Oak trees running along side the fence side of the main car park would need pruning and had to remove some of the over hanging branches. By doing this has cleared the car parking bays with the view to reduce the risk of a damage to vehicles.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Hut

Unfortunately, due to a few unwanted visitors over the festive period, we had to say goodbye to the hut by the 6<sup>th</sup> tee. You may have noticed empty bottles and clearly it become an area to have a party and by the damage to the 5<sup>th</sup> green 'have a good time'. To try and stop more damage to the course, we did not see any other choice but to remove the hut.



**Before**



**After**

## **14<sup>th</sup> Project**

We have carried on with work on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This has included, starting to top the bramble left hand side of the green to help encourage growth for the coming season. We plan to plant saplings from the woodland area on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> along the left side also to help create more protection for the housing that runs parallel to the hole.



## **Thank You**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that congratulated me on my recent promotion. I am very excited to be part of a great team and club. If you see me on the course, please stop and say hello and welcome any ideas on making the course better. All feedback will of course be fed back to Kevin and team.

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