



## **Course Manager - Blog April 2020**

**We're into our fourth week of lock down and furlough for many people, life is tough for everyone at the moment.**

**On the course we haven't escaped the financial and very restrictive impact of the situation that's affecting the whole country.**

**From April 1<sup>st</sup> we've had to reduce the staffing levels to three green keepers and as of 22<sup>nd</sup> April we'll be maintaining the course with two.**

**There have been guidelines produced via the R&A and BIGGA (greenkeeper association) about the type of work that has been permitted by the government (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport).**

**Only essential maintenance can be carried out.**

**The term "essential" has provoked a lot of discussion and debate within our industry and this is why the guidelines have been produced.**

**An updated version was set out on April 17<sup>th</sup>, which allows for the increase of frequency of cut on some areas of the course if necessary.**

**For example semi-rough is now allowed to be cut once a week instead of once a fortnight and tees/surrounds twice a week if needed.**

**Other important aspects like fertilising, aeration, topdressing and weed/disease control have been added if deemed absolutely necessary.**

**One thing is clear though; the industry must be seen by the government to be self-policing in a responsible manner and not to be flouting these sanctions. Otherwise the risk will be that the government will impose stricter controls on golf courses and reduce even further the type of work that can be carried out.**

**With all that in mind many jobs out with regular cutting have been carried out or are about to be.**

**The various open drainage holes that were dotted around the course through the winter have all been filled in except for two near 18<sup>th</sup> fairway bunker.**

**After a few leaks and repairs the irrigation system is up and running and given the dry conditions has been in regular use.**

**A wetting agent has been applied to the greens to aid the movement of water into the sward more effectively.**

**Verti-cutting and top dressing of the greens was carried out just as lock down started. With approx 15 tons of sand applied.**

**Greens also sprayed with a cocktail of seaweed and nutrients.**

**Tees to have a long life granular fertiliser applied to help them recover from the wet winter and to supply nutrients slowly throughout the playing season. (Hopefully sooner rather than later).**

**Areas that were over seeded last September will also have a granular long life fertiliser applied to supply nutrients over the next few months in an attempt to help them survive the dry summer conditions eg from the corner up to the 6<sup>th</sup> green including fairway and rough.**

**The pond has had its Spring clean with the removal of leaves and dead foliage around the edges. As I write its just had its first Algae bloom which happens this time of year as the temperature of the water rises.**

**Unfortunately the fish have suffered greatly, perhaps as a result of the very wet and mild winter bringing in a disease of some sort, but in the first week of March two of the large carp were found floating on the surface and a few days later the other two also. There doesn't appear to be any sign of the smaller fish either and I can only assume whatever has affected the carp has also taken its toll on them too.**

**On a personal note and contrary to what you may think, the golf course is a very strange place to work under these difficult times. We actually miss the interaction we have with many of you and look forward to having you back as soon as possible.**

**Keep safe**

**Richard**

**Richard Evans  
Course Manager**

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