

HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE GOLF CLUB GREENS COMMITTEE



April 2019 Report for Club Members

....AND THE SEASON BEGINS

We are into the full golfing season. It is always the Masters that gives the feeling things are blooming.

We hope everyone is putting away the jackets, waterproofs and woolly hats and getting out those golfing shorts.

Many competitions and golfing delights coming over the next few months and the golf course has to be prepared for this.



WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON THE COURSE

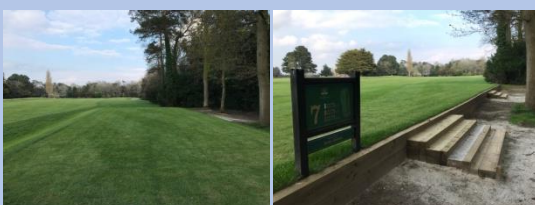
As we are now in the growing season, the green staff have been focusing on cutting grass.

There are 6 different cuts of grass around the course. Tees, greens, fringes, fairways, semi rough and rough. Cutting each involve a different mower and cutting heights. The object to give the course some definition, which brings out the nicely shaped fairways.



There has been a tidy up of some tree areas. Which is an ongoing job.

The 7th tee will be in play soon and the steps have been installed. Just need a last little bit of growth for the roots to establish.



WHAT NEXT

There are still a few areas of poor grass growth. In order to tackle this, we will be hiring a seeding machine to insert seeds into the ground. This will increase the percentage of seeds that will produce grass. Germination will happen 2 weeks after if growing conditions are right. There will also be a plan for continued over seeding in certain areas.

As we continue into the season we want to focus on growth and preparation. The plan is cut, grow, cut, grow. This is the basis for a golf course after all.

Planning for this year's winter program has started already. We are looking at budgets are where we can best allocate funds. We will be listening to the grapevine as to what members would like to see improved, levelled or repaired.

MEMBERS COURSE

There is a definite improvement in the number of pitch marks and divots on the course. Let's all keep this up. As this is a member's course we all can do our part to make improvements. Remember the 3 'R's.

REPAIR, REPLACE, RAKE

Once the growing season really kicks in, we will be putting out divot bags on some holes. Please pick one up from the tee. As you are walking down the fairway fill a small amount of sand into a few divots and drop the bag off near the green. It is not compulsory as we understand the bags can be heavy. So please only do this if you feel you are capable. Do not strain yourselves.

This month is also a focus on trolleys. We all need to be mindful of the traffic the course receives. We will be introducing a rule which will be enforced by our course marshall. No trolleys or buggies within 5 yards of a green. This especially means no trolleys in between green side bunkers and greens.



IN THE NEWS.....WAR ON PLASTIC

You may have heard the term. It is a worldwide problem. I bet we've all done it without realising. Terrible tee shot, pick the tee up and throw it in the trees in disgust..... You've just littered!!!

However we can all do our bit. Please pick up broken plastic tees and put them in the bin. Leaving them or throwing them into the trees is effectively littering. You would not do this in the street, so let's not do it on the course. These little things are a danger to wildlife, they damage the blades on the mowers and look unsightly.

Keep HCGC tidy.....BIN IT.