



Course Manager - Blog November 2019

We were desperate for rain at the end of September to help with the fairway seeding and aid recovery from the drought conditions.

Although we got our wish, which at the time was welcome, the rain unfortunately doesn't seem to have stopped for the past 8 weeks.

As you know some areas of the Course suffer more than others at times like these.

The addition of the wooden posts and ropes helps to minimise some of the damage from Trolleys and buggies by keeping them as far away as possible from greens and surrounding areas.

Ironically the areas of the Course that gave us issues during this and last year's drought are actually thriving and recovering very well in this wet period.

This only highlights the extreme contrast in the types of subsoil beneath the Course. Ranging from heavy clay (around 17th tee) to gravel (4th / 6th approach).

On a positive note the continuing drainage project we started in the bunkers last year is proving to be successful. The majority of bunkers have now had drains and Aquadyne installed and have remained puddle free during this very wet period of late.

It's planned this winter to continue the project into the remaining bunkers with the addition of new sand after completion.

We also hope to install a liner into the 5th fairway bunker to solve the stone contamination issue. This will prevent the stones working their way through to the sand from the subsurface.

With a variety of liners available at ever-increasing costs, we are currently sourcing one that will be effective, but also fit realistically within our budget. The work will be done in-house to also reduce costs.

Another project that will be carried out by the green staff is to install drainage in the 12th green. The lower end of the green has been gradually holding more and more water and becoming waterlogged, particularly noticeable over the last 8 weeks.

The water is very slow to drain from this area and the health of the turf has been affected as a result.

At present Autumn is well underway with our blowers and leaf collector constantly on the go in an attempt to keep on top of what seems a never-ending task of clearing greens, tees, fairways and rough.

This has proven more difficult this year because of the wet/soft conditions underfoot, which can prevent us running the heavy machinery over certain areas.

To help with communication and to remove some of the mystery of jobs that take place, we have now set up an Instagram page dedicated to the variety of work that takes place on the Course by the green staff.

Follow us on Instagram: *shirleyparkgreenkeepers*

As they say a picture (or video) is worth a thousand words.

We aim to update the site regularly and hope you find it useful and informative.

If there are any tasks that we do and you are a bit unfamiliar with and are interested in how it is done, please don't hesitate to let myself or any of the green keepers know and we'll try to include it in future posts.

Richard

**Richard Evans
Course Manager**

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