

Below is the most recent Greens Report from our Head Greenkeeper, Scott Vincent, for your information. The Greens Committee would like to extend their thanks to Scott and Tom for all their hard work both recently, and during the coming weeks, in preparing the course for the start of the new season.

Greens

We are now approaching the time of year when greens aeration and maintenance work begins. This essential work is carried out to improve and provide good greens during the upcoming playing season. As of two weeks ago this work began with solid tinning and verti-draining of greens down to a depth of 4 inches. The verti-draining work will continue over the next few weeks with deeper depths being incurred to help pop break up any compaction in the greens.

This week we have an Air2 G2 on site this machine fires pressured air in the ground through 3 probes down to a depth of 6 inches again to help relieve any compaction. It will be used around the outer edges of the greens and surrounds where we do seem to have a major compaction issue.

A Cold start fertiliser will be applied during the first week of March, this will give the greens a much-needed boost of nitrogen and help strengthen the grass plant in preparation for greens scarification, which will be done a couple of weeks later and then will be followed by heavy top dressings and another application of fertiliser.

As at any time during the early and late winter months we do have to take machinery on the greens which obviously are a little softer due to less drying weather this time of year. It is not something we like to do but sometimes essential work has to be carried out, such as brushing of greens to help prevent disease attacks, spraying if disease does occur and aeration work.

it is not something we do lightly as we are always conscious of wheeling marks but sometimes needs must, and let's be honest the machines don't levitate.

Please be aware that while Greens work is being carried out over the next couple of months Temporary greens will come into play.

Course

Aeration

Areas around the course will also be verti-drained over the next few weeks. These areas will be tees surrounds & approaches again at different depths.

Trees

The continuing Tree programme has now been completed for this winter with the removal of 21 crack willows and half a dozen silver birch and sycamores.

Stumps will be ground out the week and then these areas will be soiled and seeded in spring.

15 new specimen trees have been planted around the course on holes 10, 11, 16 and 4. The new trees consist of a memorial English Oak and 14 feathered Limes, Beech.

Bunkers

As most of us are aware the bunkers on the course are well passed their best.

We would all like more bunkers as those on the 15th, but new bunkers are expensive to install and at present this is not an option, so for the upcoming season we will be putting fresh sand in all greenside bunkers, and although this is not ideal, I hope it will give some improvement to playability, until funds become available to install similar bunkers to those on 15.

The Greens Committee, with the Board's support, are currently exploring options to raise funds for bunker improvement.

Pathways

Fresh wood chip will be laid on pathways this week.

Staff

At the current moment in time the only full-time staff on site is Tom and myself.

Kris as of the end of January will finish full time work and go part time for health reason, also Terry is off for the next six weeks with a damaged shoulder and not sure at the moment of the extent of the damage, he is currently waiting on an MRI scan, so could be off longer if an operation is required.

Although I have part time staff as you are all aware they only come into work this time of year when I require them. And will not be starting fully until April as most of their hours are to be used during the cutting season.

We are currently in the process of getting an apprentice, this may turn in to two if Terry cannot come back to work, as you can imagine this will put added pressure on Tom and myself especially over the next couple of months with just us on site trying to get as much done as possible.

I would just like members to be patient with us while maintenance is being done on the course, especially until I get my team back up to its full compliment.

Thanks Scott

Head Greenkeeper.