



— Founded 1780 —

## ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

### **BALGOWNIE COURSE COURSE UPDATE JULY 2022**

#### **GREENS AND APPROACHES**

Following on from the recent application of the summer fertilizer growth on greens and approaches has increased as expected but the initial flush has now passed, and growth levels are returning to normal. The fertilizer has improved density overall. Pencil tining and a top dressing with sand was carried out at the end of June to add some much-needed oxygen into the upper soil profile. The greens at 2,3,4,5,12,13,15,18 & putting green were over seeded with an all-bent grass seed to increase the quantities in the sward on these holes. Verti cutting was done to thin out the greens that were not over seeded as they have higher quantities of traditional highland bent grass which had become a little thick after the fertilizer treatment. Mowing (@4mm HOC) and rolling have been carried out daily to maintain smooth firm surfaces.

#### **TEES**

Mowing has been increased to three times weekly as growth levels have increased during the dry warm weather. A summer granular fertilizer (16.3.6) was applied to maintain good grass cover and recovery from divots. All main tees were overseeded with fescue seed mix to further increase the quantities in the sward.

**FAIRWAYS-** Wetting agent and soluble urea were applied to maintain current moisture levels and slow hardy growth in all areas. Regular divoting has been carried out to maintain tidy conditions in the landing areas. Mowing was carried out twice weekly at 9mm HOC.

**BUNKERS-** Daily raking was done with edges and banks cut weekly. Some new sand was added to selected bunkers that had become dirty or short of sand. All weeds round bunkers were sprayed with selective weed killer.

#### **OTHER TASKS UNDERTAKEN**

Irrigation heads in all areas were trimmed. Valve boxes and isolation valves were also trimmed as it is vital, we have access to them should any problems arise with the irrigation system.

Grass paths were fertilized with a polymer coated product (21.0.8) to ensure that there is adequate nutrient in the soil to maintain current levels of grass cover. Weeds present in the paths were sprayed with selective weed killer.

Gravel paths were raked and tidied up and sprayed with total weed killer to remove small weeds and grass that was growing on them.

The holes were changed 2-3 times per week to cover all club competitions that were on during the month.

#### **ROUGH AREAS**

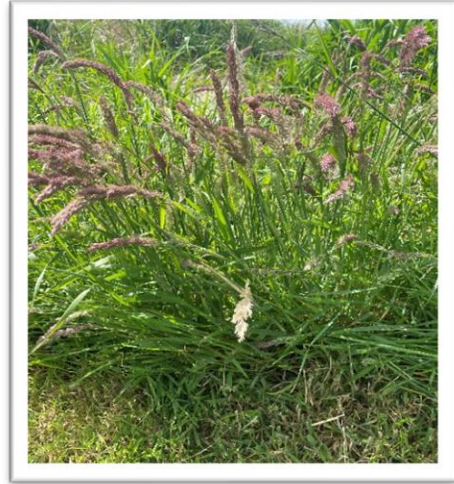
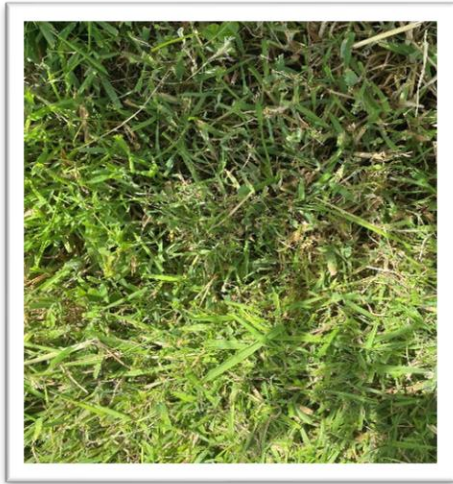
As it has been very dry, we have only cut the areas of rough that require it. The semi rough was cut weekly at 30mm HOC but the secondary rough was done as required. The secondary rough is very burnt and dry in places which is what we desire to ensure we have thin wispy grasses framing each hole.

## WORKSHOP

Our mechanic has been busy giving our mowing equipment a mid season sharpen and service. His role is vital to ensure that the green keepers have well maintained sharp equipment to use every day.

## ROUGH MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Members may have noticed large areas of grass cut left of the 14th tees and green. These areas are heavily invested with Yorkshire Fog (Holcus Lanatus) which is the lush thick grass that we have been busy removing over the past few years. The reason it has been cut is that I don't want it to naturally seed and blow over the golf course investing the fescue rough areas.



This grass is easily identified by the large purple seed head containing thousands of seeds which would eventually find their way into the fescue rough.

The main rough areas round each hole are now dominated by red fescue which is thin and wispy and what is desired. We have large areas of it now and at this point we need to leave it alone until the seed head is dispersed naturally which will be in mid to late August. This process is vital in getting these native grasses into all areas of the golf course where it will survive dry summer conditions. This seed bank is free through nature so we must make the most of it. It looks daunting from a distance but as can be seen from the pictures a ball can be found quite easily amongst it.



Wildflowers have also flourished in this open environment which from an ecology standpoint is great to see.

**Robert N Patterson**  
Course Manager



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### SILVERBURN COURSE COURSE UPDATE JULY 2022

#### **GREENS AND APPROACHES**

Pencil tining work was carried out using 8mm solid tines which opened the surface to allow oxygen and moisture into the profile. Granular fertilizer was applied as the main summer feed which has improved density and general plant health. The greens at 8 and 18 were over seeded with fescue seed as they remain a bit thin after being re-built.

Mowing was carried daily at 4mm HOC with rolling also done to maintain smooth surfaces.

It has been very dry recently with minimal rainfall which has meant that we have relied heavily on our irrigation system on both courses.



This has been a common sight over the past few weeks on both courses, but it has reinforced the investment in a quality irrigation system over the years and is now paying dividends.

#### **TEES**

Granular fertilizer was applied to the tees to maintain good growth and recovery throughout. Regular divoting has been done and mowing was carried out twice weekly at 6mm HOC.

#### **FAIRWAYS**

Wetting agent and soluble urea were applied to maintain current moisture levels and slow hardy growth throughout. Divot filling has been on going to keep the fairways tidy.

#### **OTHER TASKS UNDERTKEN**

Bunkers have raked daily with edges and banks cut weekly. Rough areas have been mown as required as there are a lot of dry areas that have little or no growth on them.

All irrigation heads were trimmed as were the valve boxes. Paths have been tidied and new dust laid where required.

**Robert N Patterson**  
**Course Manager**