

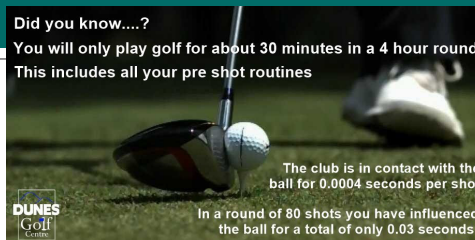
# SPORT

£1.15 ISSN 1362-8402



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### Golf

# Drone footage shows Aboyne golfers what they're missing

**With Aboyne Golf Club closed amid the Covid-19 shutdown, a local man has put together a drone's eye view of the course for members suffering with withdrawal symptoms.**

Lee Coutts has used his spare time because of the pandemic restrictions to indulge his hobby and provide aerial footage of the front nine.

Club president Nigel Bradburn said this week: "I'd like to thank Lee Coutts for sharing with us views of the course using his drone."

"We've had flyover footage before but never as early in the season as this."

"With the glorious weather Lee has used some of his time off because of the Covid-19 virus to Stay Safe out on the course, challenging his flying skills and putting together hole-by-hole footage of the front nine holes."

"This is a hobby to Lee and a first at putting together a video montage. He has done an excellent job. It will let the membership see what they're missing and make them even more jealous and keen to get back on the course when the lockdown is lifted."

The footage can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/aboynegolfclub>



Lee Coutts has put his drone skills to good use in his spare time, to provide a bird's-eye of Aboyne golf course

Nigel added: "With the coronavirus shutdown we have had to temporarily reduce our greens team which is putting a strain on our operations. We are endeavouring to follow the guidelines governing body Scottish Golf have produced to see us through

the Covid-19 pandemic so we have the best chance of the course being ready to play when we get the all-clear from the Government."

Head greenkeeper Colin Forbes said: "The Scottish Golf recommendations include cutting certain areas a

set number of times and also keeping heights of cut slightly higher than normal. This means that it doesn't put any unnecessary stress on the grass plant."

"The recent spell of dry weather and frosty nights has helped, keeping nutrition and

watering to a minimum so the grass doesn't cause too much growth."

Colin added: "We are allowed to apply nutrient, fungicide and water as long as it's to keep the grass plant healthy, to stop the sward from thinning out and reduce any moss

ingress to save the greens from disease taking over."

"The dry weather is helping in some ways but not in others as we could be doing with some natural rainfall to help with keeping the newly seeded area at the sixth hole moist to help with germination."

"I am having to use hoses and sprinklers to manually water in the evenings, thereby giving the water the best chance to dampen the ground. If we were to do it in the middle of the day with all this beautiful sunny/breezy weather the water would dry up as quickly as it was applied."

Nigel complimented Colin, saying: "He is doing a great job managing to maintain the course through the lockdown. Colin is also having to be creative when we cannot get equipment parts or materials from our supply chain which is proving a challenge but we are coping."

"On the positive side with not having much rain it is helping keep the growth to a minimum at a time when we have reduced staffing levels."

"Hopefully we will see a commencement of our golfing operations in the coming weeks and when we do our members and visitors are in for a real treat."

Published by JPIMedia Print Holdings Limited. Registered in England and Wales no. 11573312. Registered Office: Third Floor, 1 King William Street, London, EC4N 7AF. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Printed by DC Thomson at 80 Kingsway Road East, Dundee DD4 8SL.

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