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## ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

### **BALGOWNIE & SILVERBURN COURSE WORK UPDATE**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

#### **GREENS AND APPROACHES**

Growth levels have slowed slightly in the last 3 weeks due to less daylight hours and cooler overnight temperatures. Mowing has been carried out daily on greens at 4mm HOC twice weekly on approaches at 6mm HOC. Rolling was carried out 3-4 times per week on the greens to maintain smoothness and trueness. Granular fertiliser was applied to the greens and approaches on holes 2,3,4,5,12,13,15,18 & PG. The annual meadow grass content on these greens was becoming very stressed and weak, making it susceptible to disease attacks. Liquid seaweed, manganese and magnesium were applied to all areas to give the plant some added natural protection to disease attacks.

Scarification work was done on greens 1,6-11,14,16,17 and all the approaches on Balgownie to a depth of 7mm to remove some fibrous material from below the surface.

#### **TEES**

Hollow coring work has been carried out on all tees using 16mm diameter tines to a depth of 70mm.



This has removed some fibrous material just below the surface as shown at the top of the core. All the tee grounds have been fertilised with (4.0.8) invigorator to aid recovery from the coring and general play prior to the winter months. Mowing has been carried twice weekly at 6mm HOC.

#### **FAIRWAYS**

We have reduced mowing (9mm HOC) on the fairways to weekly due to a drop off in growth levels. Wetting agent, liquid N and herbicide were applied to maintain the existing grass cover and to control some annual weeds that have appeared over the summer months. Divot filling has been on going to keep the landing areas tidy.

#### **BUNKERS**

Daily raking has taken place with edges trimmed and the banks fly mowed as required.

## **ROUFH AREAS**

Growth in the semi and secondary rough areas has slowed considerably in the past 3-4 weeks. The semi has been cut weekly to 30mm HOC with the secondary areas only cut as required. We have started to cut and collect all grass from the wispy rough areas. This is part of the rough management process to ensure that these areas remain thin and wispy as they have been this summer. The Super 500 flail machine was used to cut and collect everything. As can be seen in the pictures large quantities of material are removed leaving a clean finish below. Some of these areas are now being contaminated again with rank grasses which we will spray in late October to remove them.



## **LEATHER JACKETS**

It will be obvious to all playing the golf courses the amount of Crane Fly (daddy long Legs) that are around now. There are literally tens of thousands of them laying eggs into the turf on all areas. Once the eggs are planted the larvae will grow over the next 6 months into the leather jacket grub that can be very destructive to fine turf. The only product that was available to control these insects was removed from the market about 7 years ago. There was no control of these even in agriculture in that time hence why there are now so many. Thankfully there is now a product we can use that is sprayed shortly after the eggs are laid to eradicate most of them before they hatch.



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