

GREENS COMMITTEE

September 2019 – Report for Club Members

SUMMER IS COMING TO AN END

As another golfing season comes to an end the hard work begins for the greens staff. Course maintenance, winter program, equipment servicing. Greens have been hollow cored to allow some 50 tonnes of sand to be added. Not great for golf in the short term, but necessary for the ongoing condition of our greens.

As work continues please be patient and respectful to the greenstaff and the ongoing work. Keep an eye out for planned winter program, which will involve re-laying tee(s) (11th with addition of a permanent winter tee, reshaping bunkers on 13th to make them fairer and removal / pruning of a number of trees.

You may have noticed some work undertaken on the trees to the left of the 5th fairway which was necessary to stop them continuing to encroach onto the fairway itself.

GREENS

We recently had a visit from an expert agronomist. A highly respected expert who tested the greens from sampling different layers, measuring speed, trueness, consistency, hardness, moisture content. The subsequent report was excellent which gave the green staff a very good detailed guidance on the level of treatment and top dressing required.

Any maintenance being done on the greens is a result of the recommendations, and is therefore a necessary step to creating consistent smooth and fast greens. Please be patient as the work is being done throughout the year.

PLEASE REPAIR PITCHMARKS

BUNKERS

We have received several moans during the last few months about the state of bunkers. In some respect this is not such a bad thing as it has meant there is not much else to complain about. This is not just a Highcliffe problem, and is a common issue amongst many clubs, even top courses in the area.

We are addressing the inconsistency of levels of sand in bunkers. Some have too much, some have too little. However bunkers will never be perfect. They are a hazard so it would be reasonable to expect a less than perfect lie. One thing i have noticed playing with many members is that bad technique tends to end up as the bunker's fault. It is not!!!

PLEASE RAKE BUNKERS

TEES

The forthcoming winter program will focus on re-laying one or two tees depending on budget. This will also include a mat so that winter wear can be kept to a minimum.

Sprinkler heads will be regularly looked at to make sure they are working and pointing in the right direction.

PLEASE FILL IN DIVOTS and PICK UP BROKEN TEES

FAIRWAYS

The fairways have had a tough time the last couple of summers. There has been a distinct lack of rain, which has caused the grass to burn up and firming up the ground. Be prepared for some upcoming treatment and scarification. We cannot do a huge amount more than treat the fairways during the summer months and wait for the rain. And wait, and wait, and wait..... The divot pots are now out again. Please use them to fill holes in the fairways in readiness for some well needed precipitation.

PLEASE REPLACE DIVOTS OR USE DIVOT POTS

ROUGH

Rough has always been a topic of discussion. Some don't like rough; others agree it should be there to punish a wayward shot. We have tried to find a balance. Unfortunately when trying to make the rough not so penal, it inevitably ends up too short and ends up being easily burnt away in the height of summer. A decent length rough make the course look more defined, and punishes a wayward shot. The rough will come back as it always does when we get some more appropriate weather conditions.

WHAT CAN WE ALL BE DOING?

The golf course is owned by the members. Please look after it;

- Repair pitchmarks – Repair more than one if you see them
- Replace divots
- Rake bunkers – use pull push method so the sand is evened out.
- Do not take trolleys onto tees
- Do not take trolleys in between greens and greenside bunkers
- Stick to paths where there is one.
- Use the divot buckets on teas. It is not down to the greens committee to be out doing this regularly to make up for people not doing it. We are ALL responsible for our course. There really is no excuse for this what-so-ever.

If we all help it will be for the benefit of all.