



Course Manager - Blog

January 2020

Another blog and I'm afraid another report on how extreme the rainfall has been.

There really doesn't seem to have been any let up this Winter, I say Winter, but it feels like it's just a continuation of Autumn.

We're halfway through January and we've only had 4 frost delays since October and very few occasions when temperatures have dropped below zero.

January through to March is usually our coldest months, but with reports of 20 degrees higher than average in Russia and 25 degrees higher than normal average temps in Norway and the village of Sunndalsora recording 19 degrees on the 2nd of January.

It seems unlikely we're going to experience another beast from the east, (famous last words).

What this means is a saturated Course and unusually for us, closures due to waterlogged conditions. We had 4 days out of 7 the week prior to Christmas when there was no choice but to close. With the bridge across the 10th ditch being washed away.

Single seater buggies and trolleys have also had to be banned to protect not only the Course, but also the riders as some areas have been like a skating rink.

To make matters much worse underfoot, the mild temperatures are encouraging worm casting activity, this in turn creates very sticky muddy conditions. This also prevents us from being able to cut fairways as the casts stick to the rollers preventing a clean cut.

The 12th green drainage project is near completion and another small project started on the Putting Green to rectify the flooding issue there also.

All greens treated with a granular moss control as the continuing wet weather create the ideal conditions for it. I suspect many areas will need similar control by Spring.

Turf will be ordered in the next few weeks to repair some minor worn areas near greens etc.

When conditions are dry enough the ditches are slowly being cleared of leaves.

On the 23rd of December the 15th bell including the stand and concrete base was dragged out of its foundations and pulled up the hill and left behind the 10th tee.

As it's so heavy it took 3 green keepers to lift it into our vehicle to replace it back into position.

That's quite a super human feat of strength and determination to do it in the first place and we weren't sure whether to be annoyed or impressed when we discovered it there on Christmas Eve !

It's good to hear positive feed back about the new Instagram page we have set up for work on the Course and we will continue to update regularly.

If you are interested, you can follow us on Instagram:
shirleyparkgreenkeepers

Richard

Richard Evans
Course Manager

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