



Great golf, great food, great friends

Course Report January 2022

We have seen a lot of rainfall and some mild weather which has helped the course in some areas but has also given us a problem on some of the greens showing signs of 'fusarium patch' this is due to mild temperatures and wet conditions over several days. Tony noticed a few small areas so has already sprayed before the Christmas break it will be continually monitored.

Cutting has reduced and depending on the weather conditions the greens are being cut once, possibly twice a week, aprons once and the tee boxes have been left now for a few weeks. We are struggling with worm casts (on the tees especially) as we can no longer spray for these. A few complaints were received, for a couple days, the sixth tee especially, was covered in dead worms that had come up and been caught by the sharp frost.

The cut on the tees has now gone from 11mm – 25mm due to the continued wet weather.

During the last week of November, Ross returned to verti-drain the fairways and we tined the greens. This work is essential as we need to continue to get as much air into the fairways and to try and help the seed establish root growth, along with breaking up the thatch growth.

With growth reducing we will now continue work removing scrub oaks and gorse in areas around the course following the agronomists report.

Work on the 7th has started with the low-level branches on the left being taken out and cleared. The next area to be cleared and tidied will be beyond the 6th green removing the scrub oaks and brush allowing increased light and airflow from the 7th green through to the 8th tee.

Moving off the tees on the par 3's is already showing some signs of recovery, thanks to Rob Holmes for his weekly seeding and divoting.

This has now caused the issue of not being able to play 'Casual rounds' due to the course being shortened.

I was asked to look at costing for additional tee mats so we could look to try and keep the full-length course while coming off some of the tees. I've spoken to Huxley Golf who supply our mats and we will be looking around £831.36 plus carriage per mat including vat, Chris is also speaking to one of his TGI suppliers.

All the work that is carried out over the winter months is for the benefit of the course as set out by our Agronomist, so the course is at its best through the main playing season. We all saw and have benefited from all the extensive work carried out this time last year and the results of all the hard work have given us a course to be proud of. Now we have set a high standard we have to continue to maintain and improve what we have year on year.

Tony was due to travel to Harrogate for BTME & Continue to Learn Conference at the end of January but due to Covid this was put back to March, with lots of back-and-forth Tony's courses and hotel reservations have been changed.



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Hole by hole

1st Hole

General cutting and maintenance. The irrigation and sprinkler heads have been upgraded.

2nd Hole

General cutting and maintenance. Liner removed from green side bunker.

3rd Hole

The root removal on the left edge of the fairway is still to be addressed.

4th Hole

Moving onto the mats is helping the tee box recover, saving the tee now will prove beneficial during spring/summer. With the approach in front of the bunker growing well it would be good to build into the budget an additional sprinkler in this area to save all the hand watering.

5th Hole

General cutting and maintenance. Liner removed from fairway bunkers.

6th Hole

Left fairway bunker work has started on the liner. This has now been removed. Following the Agronomists schedule of 'winter work' scrub oaks, gorse, brambles and brush has been cleared from around the back of the 6th green allowing more airflow through to the 7th green.

7th Hole

The channel that was cut as a trial at the back of the green has worked well following several heavy downpours. The additional sprinkler has been put on the front apron. The 7th tee box has and is still very wet and the only way to improve this will be to take the tops of the firs on the back and left hand side of the tee box. I am in the process of getting quotations for the work.

8th Hole

The leaves have now almost gone but we are still having issues with debris (fallen branches etc). With the Lataminia being used almost daily for several weeks we had several issues, with chains breaking, bolts shearing thankfully thanks to Mark Spalding it has limped through. This will be the next piece of equipment that will need to be replaced as it's used daily during the autumn/winter months even though purchased in 2018 but like the Toro's it is one of the most used items of equipment. Liner removed from fairway bunker

9th Hole

General cutting and maintenance. The liner from green side bunker has now been removed

10th Hole

General cutting and maintenance. The irrigation and sprinkler heads have been upgraded

11th Hole

Clear the lower branches on the left of the 11th fairway, beyond the ladies' tee on the left, along with the lower branches on the right of the fir.

Back bunker beyond the green to be reviewed as this will now start to flood and be out of play for most of the winter months.

12th Hole

The bunker lining has been taken out and leveled, and the irrigation has been extended onto the apron.

13th Hole

General cutting and maintenance.



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14th Hole

General cutting and maintenance.
Liner removed from left hand fairway bunker.

15th Hole

General cutting and maintenance.

16th Hole

The gorse has been trimmed and cut back to give the higher handicap players less of a carry.
Members are enjoying playing from the forward tee.

17th Hole

The area in front of the ladies' tee box and Hartley's Hollow has been tided.
Players still need to remember to leave trolleys visible for the groups behind, don't leave them round the corner towards the 18th. Sadly, members are still walking down the bank to the green.

18th Hole

OOB markers need re painting.
The top level of the green has now been used for the first time in competition. As with most changes that have been made, we have good and bad comments. I have received quite a few positive comments and suggestions, it's just a shame that those with negative comments feel they need to air their criticisms to the Clubs social media/Facebook Page, rather than directly to myself. The difference in cut is less than an inch, a few days growth and it would change back if no improvement/benefit seen, and with no real cost, so hardly a major course change.

Practice Area

Is still currently closed and will remain closed as the water levels are slowly rising. Even though it looks ok balls are now plugging and we are unable to get any machinery onto collect. All the flags apart from the green have been removed.
If it does dry out members must book in with the Pro Shop and use their own balls and collect them afterwards.

We are still having a few issues with the small Kuboto tractor, Mark Spalding and our mechanic Richard are working very hard to keep it running and solve the issues. Following a visit and recommendations from CPS Fuels we have started to put additives into our diesel tank to try and help stop the issue of diesel bug/algae.

Our aprons/tees mower is currently in bits in the workshop as we are having problems with the units dropping, this has happened a couple of times and Richard is trying all avenues to solve the problem, he is currently replacing all the bushes.

During February we will verti-drain the fairways again, looking at the fixtures we are looking to do this work during w/c 28th February. This work is needed as it will give us another opportunity to break up the thatch on the fairways, and encourage further root growth.



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I would like to thank our greenkeeping team of Dean, Marcus and Phil lead by Head Greenkeeper Tony Moore for all their hard work, and taking pride and care in the way they are now presenting the course for you as members, along with all our visitors and guests.

For members safety it is not advisable to stand behind tractors while the greenkeepers are working. If you have any questions as to why the work is being carried out, we pay an Agronomist, along with a Course Architect a substantial amount of money to plan a working schedule for us to follow each year, so if you are not happy please direct your questions to myself as Course Director.

Sam Cooper
Course Director
15/01/22