

# Greens Newsletter - February 2020

What a winter we are having! with 174mm rainfall in December and 120mm in January. I would just like to thank you all for your patience with course restrictions recently. In my first newsletter I touched on how our main playing season is the summer, this is why we have shortened holes to par 3s, roped off areas to control foot traffic, and on some occasions closing holes all together. It is a difficult balancing act between having the course open but restricting damage that will take months to repair. Due to the recent weather conditions some of our jobs have had to take a back seat, but this has not stopped a productive winter.

To those that have played recently you would have seen the extension to the pathed area by the 15th tee, where we also exposed the ditch running alongside the forest where it had become overgrown. The water can now freely run down into the pond which will be a bonus to our resident fish.



**15<sup>th</sup> Tee**



**Cleared ditches**

We have now started to expose old pipework and clear more ditches, as the weather allows, which is helping to drain away standing water. In some areas, such as around the 3rd green, we will be creating a new ditch. All the jobs take time but slowly and surely we are making improvements towards the drainage situation.

In the last week (3rd February) we have managed to get out and do some aeration work on our problem fairways, such as 7, 9, 12, 13 and 14. These fairways have also been hit with leatherjackets, and until recently all products to fight this have been banned. Richard and I are going to a conference later in the month about some new

products on the market to tackle the leatherjacket problem, so hopefully there will be a treatment available going forward.

At the same time the thatch layer on the fairways has restricted the drainage of water, and made the turf hydrophobic. So every opportunity we will be back out slitting and punching holes in these fairways to break up the thatch and help them recover, as well as getting a feed down to help reduce our moss problem.



**Aerating Fairways**



**Feeding Tees (blue sky!)**

At the end of January I managed to get a granular feed down on the greens, which has given them some much needed help in these tough conditions. Along with our continued aeration on the greens, hopefully you can all see a gradual progression from where we were in my first newsletter. The tees and approaches (12 approach especially) have also been getting some treatments recently to try and improve them before our season starts.

Going forward the jobs will continue depending on weather conditions, but it will be mainly aeration and drainage work. Before you know it we will be preparing for the upcoming season, with our greens maintenance on 16th, 17th and 18th March. The team is working really hard to try and provide you with the best possible course considering the weather at the moment, and we really appreciate your help by following the ropes and signage around the course. Hopefully in my next newsletter we will be talking about sunnier times and plenty of golfing.

From all of the greens, team thank you for your patience and recent comments and let's keep moving forward together as a club.

**Tom**