

Greens Newsletter – June 2020

Slowly we seem to be coming back to some sort of normality now and I hope everyone is happy to be back out on the golf course, and the golf swings are not too rusty after lockdown, I know mine is. This newsletter will hopefully bring you up to date with everything that's been going on post lockdown.

As most of you will know during lockdown we as greenkeepers had a lot of restrictions on what we were actually allowed to do. We went down to 2 staff through this period, 3 just as we opened and now going into the 15th of June back to full strength. This will now allow us to focus more on attention to detail as we have been playing catch up from that lockdown period. We have had various helpers during this period, the regulars Richard Preston, Colin Howe Brian Hobbs, Keith Trevett, along with new helpers, Jamie Purser, Chris Mayes, Stuart Kennedy, Den and Pete Cheeseman. These gentleman have been a massive help, allowing the team to concentrate on the main jobs on the course.

We have gone from the wettest winter on record to the driest spring on record, where we went 35 days without rain, which has obviously dried the course out drastically. Meaning a lot of hand watering during the day and using the irrigation system to water the greens and tees at night which runs for a total of 3 and half hours. Hopefully the rain we have got over the last few days will help, we are trying to utilise wetting agents on greens, fairways and tees to try and keep the moisture levels as high as possible.

We have undertaken work on and around the 12th green in the last couple of months, including re-seeding of parts of the fairway. This has improved massively as you can see from my pictures attached.

We have also undertaken major drainage work on 12th Green, this was a massive problem when I took over in November. The area was under water and we had pretty much lost the green. Hence the new drainage ditch. We have to plan for the future now, and with recent weather patterns we are getting wetter winters and drier summers. The ditch will help us move the water on when needed, but at same time help to divert water from the main ditch to fill the pond during the drier periods.

The green has recovered well after a lot of work in the spring renovations. The before and after photos of fairways and greens show how far we have actually come on in the last 3 months.

Since changing over to Rigby Taylor (supplier of chemicals and turf treatments) at the start of the year I have seen a massive improvement in our greens, not just visually but cultural as well. Again please look at the photo page as I will let them do the talking for me. But when I started using this new program our root depth on the greens were no longer than 10mm, we are now looking at a minimum of 2 inches. This put simply will create a healthy green which will perform for longer periods of the year and give us better greens through winter.

Now we are back to full strength we will continue to raise the standards on the course from week to week, trying to give you members the best course we can provide. We have a massive list of jobs going forward, and as a team we will get the course back to where it was, and then take it onto the next level. This is not going to happen overnight but I believe in the processes we are using to ensure the long term health and playability of the course, and hopefully from the pictures you can see where we were and the challenges faced to get the course back to where we are.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for your continued support through the last few months, the helpers that have come in and made our jobs easier, and to my team that have gone above and beyond.

All the best
Tom and the greens staff.

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February 5
10:25 AM



7th Fairway in February



7th fairway now



new 12th ditch



January 13
7:44 AM



17th fairway in January



17th fairway now



12th green February and now