



Greenkeeping Presentation

March 2022

By Head Greenkeeper: Ian Whiteley

Course Maintenance

We have now increased the frequency of Greens mowing to twice per week. After we had dryer weather, we used the roller once or twice. We have continued to rake the bunkers, twice per week, weather permitting. The holes have been changed twice per week also, weather permitting.

All the green banks have been cut for the first time this year, now this has dried out. The Tees have been cut again at their new shape at a slightly lower height of cut to enhance the definition and presentation. The collars and approaches have been cut to a similar height.

The delivery of the bottom blades was delayed, for the fairway mower and should be delivered within the next week.

The Tees and Greens triple units have been away with the mechanic and have been sharpened and any parts replaced after general wear and tear, from last season.

Four of our six ride on mowers have been fully serviced as part of our Winter Maintenance program.

The Greens have received their final winter feed and also sprayed with winter wetting agent.

Each week we have been moving the ropes and paths to spread the wear.

We've spent time blowing areas that were made a mess by the 3 storms, notably 3,4, 7,8,9 and 16 we cleared up from the storm damage, this involved cutting up 4 felled trees, numerous big branches and blowing of all green and tee boxes..

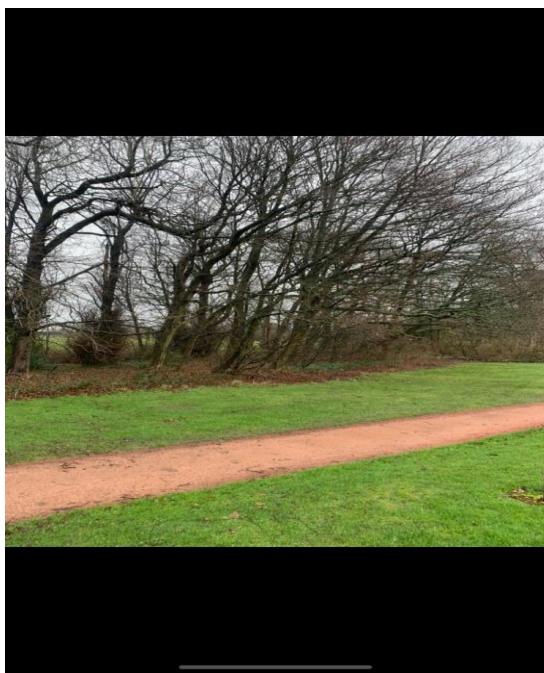
For the majority of the past 4 weeks we have been operating with a team of only four greenkeepers.

WINTER PROJECTS

The hedge on the left of the 7th Green has been reduced by roughly two thirds. This will improve the view from the Tee and increase the airflow around the area and also allow sunlight to come through to the Green, the 7th back Tee and the wet area on the left of the 6th Green. We also gave the Oak tree on the left of the green a haircut.



Once we had completed the work on the 7th Tee it highlighted how messy and overgrown the left of the 7th hole had become from Tee to Pond. We methodically worked through the trees removing lower limbs, saplings and self seeders. The logs from the trees we removed, were used to build ecology houses.



We also tied up the overgrown holly near the 7th Tee.

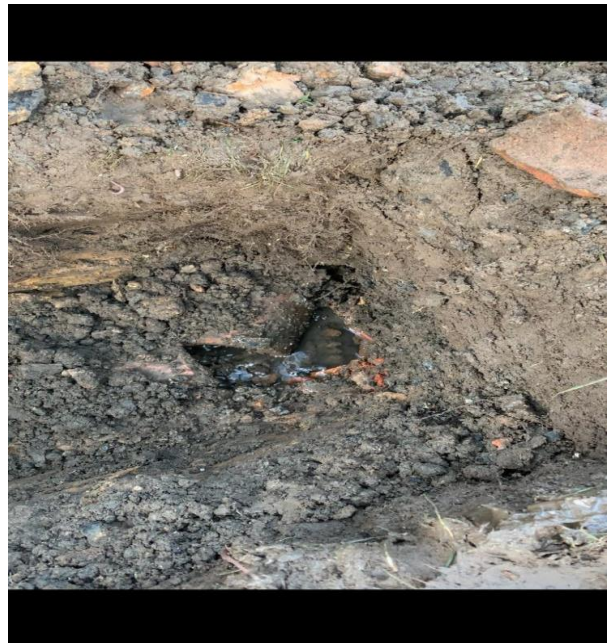


The outlet that we found going in to the 6th Brook we dug out and found two more blockages. This was causing a backup of water, up between the 1st Tee and 6th hole.

We reconnected the two blockages and that allowed us to get 100 rods from the outlet in the brook to the right hand green side bunker on the 6th Green, this is now running free.

Unfortunately, that is the main for the now old and perished drainage system on the 6th Fairway (green side). All the laterals that run in to that main are blocked/collapsed, which explains why the

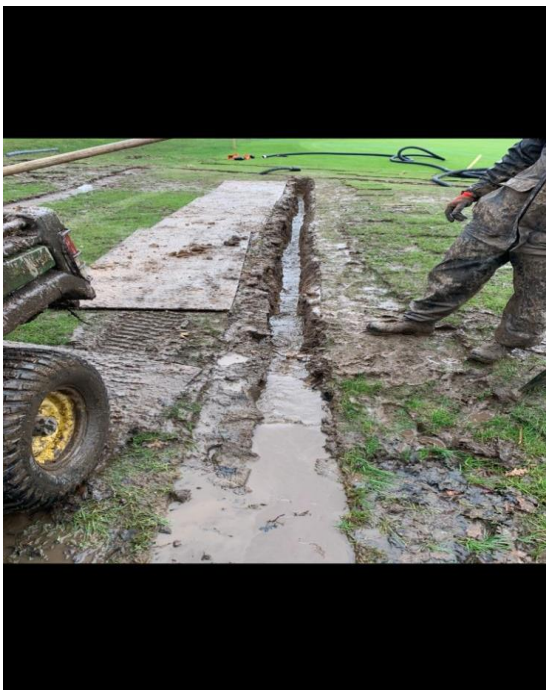
6th fairway is so wet.



The left of the 6th showed itself to be one of the wettest areas on the course, certainly green side areas. We knew there was an outlet coming out in to the pond left of 7th yellow tee, but the system we found to try and help that area was minimal and again the stone used wasn't good enough for the water to percolate through to the pipes, so we hand dug roughly 60-70m of drainage lines, connected it to the outlet and backfilled with better materials, we also used new drainage pipe, the area was pure clay, we also found a couple of old clay drains falling in to that area which came from the left of the 6th green, we cleared them and let them flow in to our new system, this may help that green although these drains, which could be 50+ years old were too shallow, in my opinion. We got rid of the worst of the turf and used turf from the practice area on 9.. We've allowed it to settle and have since fertilised the area to help the area recover.



To stop the water from gathering, we installed a flood grid at the end of one of our drainage laterals, in the low spot near the Oak, to stop water building up there. The image on the left here shows how much water was being held here and the image on the right, shows a side profile of what the water was facing to get through to the pipes.

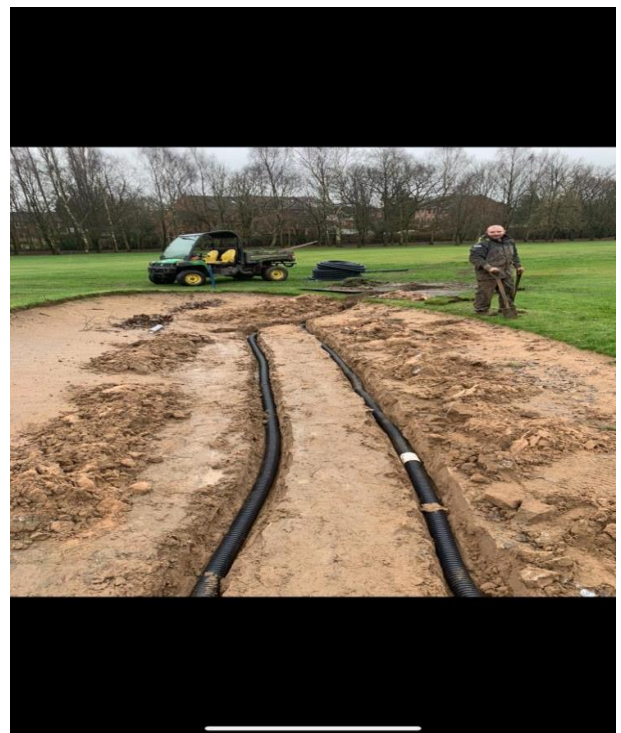


These photos were taken a few days after the final winter feed. Andy and Dan are now fully up to speed with hand mowing, which is a positive as we head in to the season.



The bunker on the right of the 9th Fairway has had a new drainage system installed, which we connected to drains which were approx. 5m away from the bunker itself.

The bunker on the right of 18, has had a succession of boreholes dug in, to a depth of 2ft which we then backfilled with drainage stone and topped up with sand. The night after we completed these two jobs, we had 11mm of rain and both were dry the next morning and easy to rake. In the past this would have held water and GUR.



These were the two bunkers the next morning.



Our Tree Surgeons visited for a second time they concentrated on the Ash on 17, the overhanging limbs on 16th Green and the hung up Ash limb in between 12 and 13.

They also identified a dead tree on the treeline, right of 17, which was identified as dangerous, being right next to the road, this was felled. Three of the team chipped and tided behind them. To increase productivity, whilst they were working, we visited every tree down the left of 17, removing the lower limbs and giving a general tidy up, including the Oak which overhangs the modified bunker on the 11th Fairway.



This picture shows the modified trailer to increase its capacity and really shows the chippers worth as the equivalent would have been 5 or 6 trailer loads of branches.



The new Tee on 17 and ladies 15th where given their first cut and shaping.



The worn area right of 15, which we have been using as an access point to our

dumping ground, needed tidying up, so we raked out two tonne of rootzone and used turf of the 9th practice area to speed up its recovery.



The project on the right of 16th Green is almost complete. The frame has been built, the Oak trees overhanging have been crown raised and branches chipped. The frame has been back filled and roughly levelled with grit sand. The surrounds have been re-turfed and landscaped. The path at the back of the 11th Tee has been raised to meet the edge of the frame, this just needs a final levelling. To complete the project, we will lay the astroturf.

