



## **Greenkeeping Presentation**

**January 2023**

**By Head Greenkeeper: Ian Whiteley**

The greens have been cut on average once every 7-10 days since the turn on the year, we're currently cutting at 6mm to protect the grass plant as we can as we go through winter.

The greens have been rolled a couple of times to keep them as smooth as possible at this time of year.

The greens have micro-tined to a depth of 6 inches to relieve compaction but also to allow some air in to the profile and encourage root growth. They've been sprayed with a winter feed along with a couple of applications of a wetting agent that helps moisture move the surface as quickly as possible.

The holes are changed twice per week, except when we have frosts as that can damage the roots of the grass plant.

Bunkers have been raked twice per week, and other days spot raked where rake out and animal scraping and footprints, this also allows us to place the rakes back in the bunker facing the right way.

Collars and approaches are cut once per week.

The tees have been cut once this year with a further cut scheduled for this week.

The green banks and semi rough have been cut in the past couple of weeks and we've also been blowing banks off as and when needed.

The fairways and practice areas have been cut which has aided good definition for

the time of year.

We managed to get the course rough fully cut, this will be the last full cut before we start to place this seasons ecology rough.

Any areas that we didn't gamble with with the big rough mower were hand cut with our pedestrian rotary mower, this included the mound outside of the pro shop, left of 18 inside the roped off area, right of 13 between fairway and red path, in between yellow and red tees on 14 and then all up the right hand side of 14.

The same mower gave the new tees their first topping off.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> practice area was cut with semi rough mower.

Any time greens or tees have needed blowing off we have done so, this included any debris trailed on to winter tees so these also have been blown off frequently. We also spread salt on the winter tees when they froze over.

All of the tree lines have been cut with the spinneys mower.

The bins are emptied once or twice per week.

The car park has been kept tidy.

The big brush has been taken over the fairways.

The ropes are constantly refreshed and moved with special focus on moving the

paths on 1, 5 and 6.

The big tractor blower has been out to blow any residual leaves that were hanging about.

The remaining gathered leaves at the back of 4 and left of 8<sup>th</sup> fairway and 8<sup>th</sup> green have been collected.

The Hedge on 7<sup>th</sup> tee has been tidied up.

We walked the brook from 12 to 14<sup>th</sup> green and rodded every drainage outlet, we also had to dig a hole left of 12 where we found a blockage.

Red shale has been added to the path on 5, we've done it a little early as it was dry so we could get up there without making mess.

The new paths have been dug on 3/6 and 7<sup>th</sup>, we extended path at side of 3<sup>rd</sup> tee to incorporate the dip to right of 5 as near the fairway bunker on 5 and front right of 5<sup>th</sup> green have been the two worst areas for being worn in my first two winters so this should help going forward, we started to backfill with road planing just to make the dip safe to walk at first and we will be filling rest in in coming weeks.

We've started an intense woodland programme, so far we've either cleared,

removed and/or cut lower limbs in the following areas;

- Left of the 1<sup>st</sup>
- left of the 2<sup>nd</sup> including major opening up of pond
- The pond to the right of the 2<sup>nd</sup> green
- The back of the 3<sup>rd</sup> green
- Around the back of the 4<sup>th</sup> tee then down the left hand side of the carry
- In the dip to the right of 4 behind 3<sup>rd</sup> tee
- The little tree line between small 6<sup>th</sup> fairway and 1<sup>st</sup> tee
- The right of 7 near starters hut
- In between 8 and 18, from ladies 8<sup>th</sup> tee all the way up to red path at back of 8<sup>th</sup> green, including the fallen tree in between 8<sup>th</sup> green 18<sup>th</sup> tee.
- Behind and to the left of 8<sup>th</sup> green, including the low encroaching limbs/epicormic growth
- left of 8<sup>th</sup> fairway
- left of 18<sup>th</sup> fairway from low hang oak near lodge through to bridge

The benefits of this tree work is to improve course aesthetics/views, improve site lines, mean lower limbs wont get in way of golfers swing, all for better access for machinery and most importantly allow light and air in to as many areas of the course as possible.

During this period there have been significant staff holidays used, with myself using 4, Joey 5, Alan 5 and Dan 9.

