



Greenkeeper's Report March 2018

The Beast from the East, followed by storm Emma certainly brought some very cold and winter conditions to both the course and the whole country.

Whilst the ground was frozen solid and no frost on the surface, we took advantage of the conditions to cut some fairways and greenbanks before it started to thaw.

Normal service has resumed with the terrible wet weather which has been on-going now since July. It has been very frustrating as normally at this time of the year, we start to up the maintenance on the course ready for the start of the season. Weather and ground conditions are affecting this, but we are doing what we can considering the conditions.

Below is a description of what maintenance has been undertaken in the past month

Drains

During the recent heavy rainfalls, the main drain that runs under the back 9 practice area, collapsed. This drain is linked to the 10th, 11th, 16th and 17th fairways. We hired an excavator to sort this problem out. Whilst fixing the drain, we discovered another blocked drain that was not on the drainage plans; this drain was coming from the direction of the 11th and 17th holes, so hopefully now we will see improvements on those holes.

Whilst we have the excavator on hire for the week, we will be carrying out inspections to the current drainage on the course. We also will be dredging the small pond between the in/out drives.



12/03/18

Aeration

The Greens and Approaches have all been solid tined to relieve any compaction and allow for gaseous exchange to take place.



Penetrant Wetting Agent

All the greens have been sprayed with a Penetrant wetting agent. This aids in getting moisture through the soil profile and increase oxygen.

Fertilise

Greens have been sprayed with carboplex. This product is used as a soil conditioner designed to stimulate resident microbial activity, maximise soil nutrient solubility, and increase rooting.

Greens have also been sprayed with a product call PK Plus. This product provides phosphite, derived from potassium phosphite (K_2HPO_3) for plant health and phosphate for increased energy transfer and root development. It also provides potassium for cell strength and rigidity.

Servicing

Servicing has continued on our fleet of machinery, this will be completed this month.



12/03/18

11th Green and Approach

Early last month, improvements have been made to the approach on the 11th hole. The contours in the approach have been re-graded to direct surface water away from the green and help prevent standing water on the front of the green during heavy rainfall. This has proved a success with no standing water on the green following the recent heavy rainfall.



Trees and debris

We have continued to clear the debris and damaged trees that were caused by Storm Emma, this is still on going as ground conditions haven't be favourable. We have also continued to remove dead trees, and trim low hanging branches on the course as part of the tree management programme



12/03/18

Plans for next month

- Fertilise Greens and Tees
- Solid Tine Greens
- Hollow Core Greens
- Top Dress Greens
- Overseed and Topdress Bare areas
- Raise all sprinklers to correct level
- Prepare the irrigation system ready for the season
- Routine Course Maintenance
- Tree Maintenance
- Paths
- Bunker work (weed, round up, re-distribute sand)