



**Greenkeeping Presentation**

**April -May 2022**

**By Head Greenkeeper: Ian Whiteley**

## General course work

Now we are in to the main season our focus in the last month has been on the playing surfaces.

The greens had their first liquid feed and also wetting agent. They're now being cut at their Summer height of cut and being cut approximately 5 times per week and rolled twice, unless it's been too wet where we won't so we avoid causing too much compaction. The holes are changed twice per week and we will soon start our monthly aeration and top dressing. We've also used our new verti-cut units at level to help refine the surfaces as cut through any lateral growth.

The bunkers are raked fully 5 times per week, they have also been edged twice and we routinely weed them. We are also actively moving the sand around in the bunkers to have consistent depths. The bunkers have been fly mowed twice in the last month, this is to avoid the bigger machinery getting too close to the edge and risking either damage to the machine or tyre damage because of the need to turn tighter to follow the shape of the bunkers.

The tee banks, semi rough and green banks are cut twice per week. We have also visited weak areas on green banks and green surrounds w

Inside the tree lines are cut once every 2 to 3 weeks and the intensity of this will increase in the coming weeks, we have also started going up and down the tree lines spraying off the grass that circles the base of the trees, a process that will continue over the coming weeks, we will also be spraying off any paths or patios where weed/grasses are growing.

The fairways and practice areas are cut twice per week, they're now at their Summer height, we have used the big brush once pre cut and will continue to use monthly. We have divoted the busy areas of the fairways, for example half way up the 2<sup>nd</sup>, short of the brook on 6 and other notable busy areas. We've continued to add new seed/soil to the drainage runs on 8, 11 and left of 18.

We have cut 2 new greens on the main practice area and 2 greens have had their initial cut on the practice area left of 3. The practice bunker closest to the first fairway has had spare sand that we have recovered from bunkers we felt had too much sand in, these being both green side 10th,

short of 16<sup>th</sup> green, all four green side on 11 and front right of 12<sup>th</sup>, some of this recovered sand went in to bunkers on 17, 13 and 6<sup>th</sup> fairway, the rest was placed in the practice bunker for the girls golf as discussed last time. 3 of the 4 practice areas have also been sprayed for weeds with a selective weed killer and we will spray the 9<sup>th</sup> in the coming weeks as well as a spot spray of any main fairways that have some weeds on 17<sup>th</sup> being noticeable.

The collars and approaches are cut twice per week.

We use the tractor mounted blower on a routine basis to blow and clipping being left by any mowing we do, this is for presentation purposes.

The tees are now cut twice per week and divoted once per week, with the par threes usually being divoted a second time. The divot boxes have now been put out and to avoid the soil/seed germinating inside the box, each time we divot the par threes we used the mix in the box and then replace with fresh material.

The rough mower is now out once per week, to try and claw back a bit of time from this job as a wall to wall cut takes approximately 2.5 days and with it being what Brian used to do, we have left a few areas that I think will frame some holes and in areas that are way out of play, they may not be too noticeable just yet, but in the coming weeks the definition will improve.

There has been a lot of strimming completed in the past few weeks with the brooks being strimmed twice, some of the ponds in play twice and the course signage, ball washers, benches and bins. Some of the strimming on the main entrance has been done, but at the time of writing this is ready for another trim in the coming days.

We've come up with a system that works well that allows us to hand cut all the greens on Saturdays, followed by a roll and then a hole change, inclusive of tee marker set up and bin emptying to hopefully present the course at its best on the weekends.