



Greens Department

Autumn/Winter Newsletter

Welcome to the latest newsletter which will give you an update on how this year has gone so far on the course, how we are maximising the opportunity during this lockdown and what the plans are for work on the course over winter.

Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you to each and every one of you for adhering to the safety guidelines that have been introduced by LGC since we re opened after the first lockdown. Let us all hope that with the announcement of a possible vaccine coming soon we will be able to return to some form of normality on the course.

This golf season has seen very mixed weather. When we reopened after the first lockdown, we had a dry and warm start to the season but that soon changed with periods of heavy rainfall starting in mid-June. During October I recorded over 250mm of rainfall, almost double the amount of 2019. However, I am sure that you will agree with me as to how well the greens have coped with this amount of rainfall and the fact that over 25,000 rounds of golf have been played since we reopened in May. They have stayed relatively firm compared to previous years. It just goes to show the work and programmes that we have in place are on the right track. Because of the tests that I have carried out of various products we have used over the last few years, I feel that we are now using the right blend of fertilisers etc, together with well-timed topdressing and aeration. We also invested in a moisture meter last year which has been a tremendous help in making sure that the soils are properly hydrated, not too dry, or too saturated. An example of this was during one of the hottest weeks of the year when I would have probably watered a number of greens, the meter showed that it wasn't necessary and therefore prevented over watering, which in turn would have led to much softer greens now.



I would also like to thank you for your patience during this busy period for putting up with the team carrying out essential maintenance on the course.

During this current lockdown we will be carrying out improvements to the path that takes you to the first tee and 18th green from the car park and carrying out improvements to the 12th path. We decided to prioritise these two paths during this time as it would cause less disruption to golf, otherwise we would have had to close several holes to carry out this work. Also, during this period we will be carrying out leaf collection, nutrition, and disease management on the greens together with aeration and I can't stress enough how critical the next few months are for managing this period of high-pressure disease.

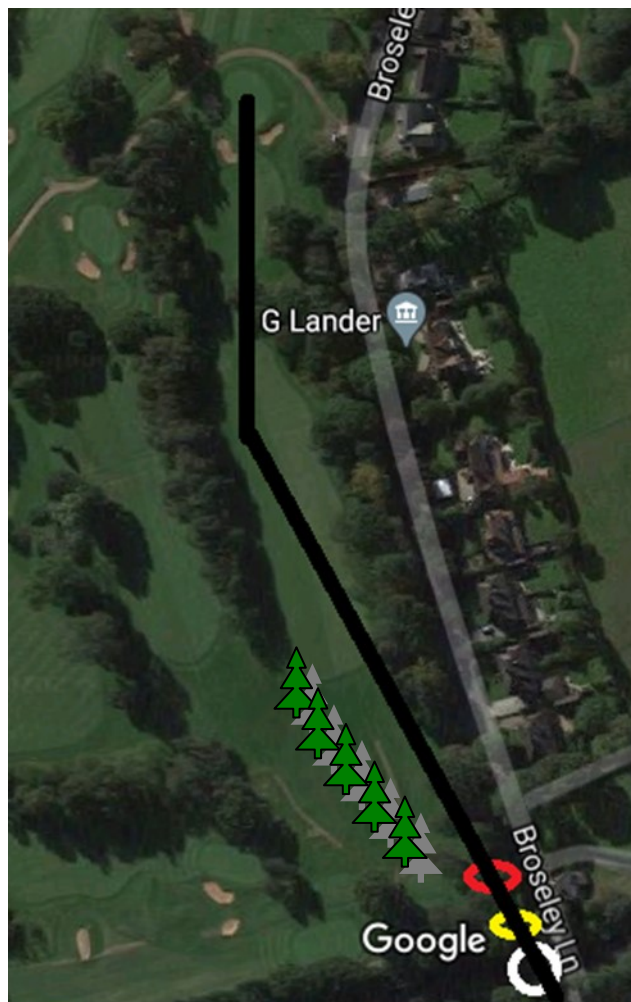
As I did last year, I thought I would list the project work that will be carried out by the team over this coming winter in addition to the routine course maintenance:

- Moving the winter tee to the front of the ladies tee on the 9th Hole
- Trim low branches around the course and removal of dead trees
- Installation of a fence near the White tee on the 2nd Hole and 16th hole to stop trespassers
- Top up drain on the 6th Hole with soil
- Cut back and tidy all the overgrown areas (Right hand side of 8th green and also right hand side of 13th hole)
- Re-level patio at the halfway house
- Tidy the area around the 9th green pond to make more of a feature of the pond
- New installation of sleepers on the 18th tee
- Path improvements on the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 12th
- Top up bunkers with sand
- Improve worn areas around bunker edges
- Servicing of all machinery to be carried out in house
- Relocate and build new 17th tee
- Crown reduction and reshaping of approx 3m to the two trees on the 17th Fairway



17th Tee

This winter we will be relocating the position of the 17th tees. Over the last few years the club have had a number of complaints from residents down the side of the 17th with golf balls landing in their gardens, damaging cars and we also had a near miss with a young lady with a child in a pram. The Club have considered what is the best course of action to take and we have decided to relocate the tees further to the right of the existing tee which will make the hole more of a dog leg so that the aim of the tee shot will be further away from the road and houses. All this work will be carried out in house and will also include a new path, drainage and irrigation installations. In addition we will planting trees between the 11th and 17th to give more definition to the 11th hole.



I will also be purchasing new flagsticks in time for the start of the 2021 golf season. At nearly half the size of a normal flag stick, a mere 8mm diameter at the base, it leaves more space for the ball to enter the hole. It also has a newly designed ferrule which allows for easy retrieval, causing less damage to the grass edges. They are suitable for competitions and are compliant with the Rules of Golf 2020.

When we re open we will be playing off mats straight away, winter wheels will be needed for electric trolleys. Please speak with Andrew or Sean in the Pro Shop if you have not already got your mat or winter wheels. If you would like to contact Andrew now to get your order in please email him on leighgcpro@gmail.com

Once again, I would like to thank all the members of LGC for their cooperation and understanding during these difficult times. I would also like to thank my team for their continued dedication and commitment that they have shown me and LGC.

Stay safe and look after yourself,

Rob Ainscough
Head Greenkeeper

