



## **Greenkeeping Presentation**

**November 2022**

**By Head Greenkeeper: Ian Whiteley**

The greens are being cut 3 times per week, they have been sprayed with a fungicide to protect them during this high disease pressure period, its a high disease pressure because of the mild nights, lack of sunlight and heavy morning dews. The greens have been given their winter feed and sprayed with Stressbuster and Flowsmart which help draw the water through the upper surface. On any days that we don't cut we remove the dew with a brush and the greens are blown clear daily before any action is taken on them.

The Holes have have continued to be changed twice per week.

The tees are cut once per week, they are blown on a regular basis, the more leaf clear we can keep them the more we can reduce worm casts which is our only real protection against the mess they make as the products used to deter them are no longer available in the UK. The tees have been moved to winter tees where necessary as we look to start protecting them so we have them in the best shape possible for the new season.

The greens surrounds, semi rough and tee banks have been cut once every two weeks as growth has slowed. We try to keep them clear of leaves before we cuts so not to mulch them up and make a mess, we again are selective when we cut and also where.

The collars and approaches are cut once per week.

Bunkers have been raked 2-3 times per week, they often need blowing clear of leaves before raking.

The fairways are cut as and when needed and when we can get on them without risking making a mess.

The main rough has been cut every other week, but we still try and get to the areas that are still growing longer once a week with some selective cutting.

The tree lines have just started being cut again towards the time of this report and will be continued in the coming days.

The bins are emptied 2-3 times per week and the marks that remain on grass are moved constantly.

The winter greens have been cut and fed and white lined.

Mole hills are continued to be blown away and traps set.

The final set of ropes have been put out and we've used all our resources in terms of ground protection mats. The ropes that cause the biggest worn areas are moved weekly.

The tractor mounted blower and leaf collector has been out multiple times per week to start getting as many leaves collected as we can, there's still plenty to go at but again we have to be selective when we go out in alignment with ground conditions, current weather and other projects.

The 4<sup>th</sup> green has been drained along with the right hand side bunker and a couple of runs on that wet spot front right of the the green. When we lifted the turf each trench it was really noticeable how heavy each piece was and you could see the layer of organic matter holding excess moisture, the first part of this project is to get the primary drainage right, then we will focus on secondary drainage which is to dilute that organic matter layer that is effectively capping the ground off. That has obviously been a wet green for many years (same with 6) and essentially when the ground stays wet for long period of time the organic matter build up will be greater, and that's the cycle we're currently in, I know the green has still at times had some standing water on in, that's to be expected because of the conditions mentioned above. On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November the green was tinned with 12mill (width) tines to approximately 5 inches depth and 1.5 inch centres and then dressed with 2 tonne of sand, this is the start of the process to break that layer down, same with monthly dressings in the season and deep scarifying at the start and end of each season.

The 8<sup>th</sup> fairway has been wet in patches, but we have still been able to drive a tractor, to blow leaves, over it and that was done within a 4-5 days of us coming off the back of a week where we had 60 mil of rain, the work we did last year will help but it was never the final solution, at the time we wanted to see if the original 4 meter spacings was enough to cope and improve the area, it has somewhat, but next we need to trench in between the runs and turn it in to 2 meter spacings, with our trencher this will be a quick job to complete, when conditions allow.

The new small path on 4 has been topped up with road plainings to help protect the dip and also help avoid the risk of any slips and trips on the bank, especially in wetter periods.

The Ladies 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> tee have been reconstructed and turfed as has the 13<sup>th</sup> main tee and part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee. We will continue with construction in the coming days have have them all turfed in the next few weeks.

The paths that have been widened will also be topped up and levelled to a better standard in the next few weeks.

The pond near the 4<sup>th</sup> tee has been dug out and cleared and the the dip on the right of two has been filled in.

The old turf salvaged from the construction jobs has been used to turf where the mounds were on 1 and 6.

A new fence has been rebuilt around the 1<sup>st</sup> green where damage had been caused by passers by.