

## COURSE MAINTENANCE REPORT-March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **WEATHER**

This summer has been a very different one with 1.56 m of rain and an exceptional amount of grass growth course wide and no real problems with drying out.

So far this month we have only had 41mm of rain which is not a great deal compared to the past few months, but the course is holding up nicely.

### **GREENS**

The greens have given very little trouble only requiring the routine mowing programme of being mowed 6 to 7 times per week depending on course play requirements such as pennants. Growth has been maintained with a light soluble fertiliser programme and disease kept under control with a monthly disease preventative spray programme. Irrigation has had to be used a little bit more over the past few weeks due to the rain easing back but not excessively only as required.

We plan to verti-drain the surrounds this autumn\winter to help continue the good growth we have had over the summer months. We will be undertaking a hand weeding programme over the next couple of months to remove the couch and kikuyu grass creeping in on a few greens.

The verti-mowing commenced today and will be completed tomorrow morning, this should help with the control of the grain in the greens to give a good even speed over the whole green. Greens management over the next few months will consist of routine mowing, following our spay programmes, a light soluble fertiliser programme and the Air2g2 machine over them on the 27th and 28th of this month. It would also be a big help to reduce marks and scars if we could get players to repair more pitch marks.

### **TEES**

The tees have come out of summer with a good amount of coverage due to the good rainfall. We will be vert-draining all the tee tops in April along with an application of granular fertiliser to give them an extra kick going into winter. This will be followed up by another fertiliser application and an application of wetting agent in spring.

### **FAIRWAYS AND APPROACHES**

The fairways and approaches have sustained good growth through the summer months due to the rainfall which has given a lot of the bare areas good coverage or had them disappear altogether. We will be slicing all the fairways in the upcoming few months along with verti-draining the areas that puddle to help the water disperse a lot quicker. I would also like to do a trial coming out of winter by spaying a few fairways with wetting agent to see if they will hold the moisture a bit longer and not drying out so quick.

### **ROUGHS**

Application of broadleaf weed killer has started in the rough, however trying to find a big enough window has been difficult amongst golfers so that they don't track the broadleaf spray across the greens and leave unsightly foot prints, so with this in mind I will be coming in and spraying through the night in the middle of April to solve this problem and it also makes it a lot easier to get through larger areas in a shorter amount of time as not having to avoid golfers.

**BUNKERS**

The bunkers will be receiving a Flymo and edge followed by the ones that require it being topped up with sand.

**COMMENTS**

To finish on a good note the new small rough mower has finally arrived and will be a great asset helping the greens staff tidy up a lot of small areas a lot quicker and we will be trialling cutting the base of the gully in front of the 14th tee shorter than the rough height to assist those golfers who struggle to clear it.