

Greens Director Report September 2020

Summary: The Greens Committee have worked well together over the last three months, a lot of progress is now being seen out on the course. There is a great deal of work going on behind the scenes, members will be kept updated on all future plans and progress, most of which they can see for themselves on the course during play.

Greens: Tining will commence soon, an approximate date of the 21st September has been decided, weather and external influences could change the progress but tining and top dressing should be complete before the end of September. COVID and the lockdown has delayed this important procedure, we are determined to complete this for the longer term health of the grass and putting surfaces generally. Greens speeds are good at the moment, tinning will affect this and we ask you all to consider the longer term plan to keep our greens in good health for the winter into 2021, whilst this short disruption happens.

Fairways: Divot repairing is in the main fairly good, it can always be better. I ask all members to role model their own care for the course not just Divot repairs. Sand bags have been available for those that can use them for a while now, replacing divots immediately with a small amount of pressure gives that piece of grass a chance to regrow. Visitors, juniors and new members need reminding of the procedure, get into the habit of throwing the divot back to the player with the 'hint' to repair their damage, it should soon become routine.

Bunkers: I'm sure you will all have noticed an improvement in the condition of the bunkers, the greens staff have made great efforts to improve the state of bunkers after the sad state they were in during the essential maintenance period, when dry these look great and could adorn any course. Sand is being distributed this month, sadly raking is still not possible, personal 'Mini' rakes are available in the pro shop at a reasonable price. Place, play, smooth or rake is still the mantra. We are seeing many footprints in bunkers with no evidence of attempts to smooth or rake, please take a moment to smooth your indentations in the sand, especially now there is fresh sand in most bunkers.

Winter Work: The committee and the greens staff are working together to have planned a full winter schedule of work. This year we have a larger budget which we promise to spend wisely and to give results, drainage, irrigation and paths are amongst the planned work. Tee boxes suffered badly during essential maintenance period, the high usage of tees since recommencing golf has worked these areas hard. Divots on tees are being sanded as sand boxes are not currently allowed. Irrigation on tees will be addressed where previously poorly provisioned or none exists, this should improve the tees, we hope to see evidence of this in 2021. We have many acres of trees that need attention, those that impact the play will be our priority, there is plenty going on in the winter period, not just cutting the grass.

Please see our September GC Minutes on the website for the full rundown. And please don't forget to comment, good or bad to the lads on the course or myself, as we want the best the course can be, we all can play a part.

Andy Hall