

# Greenkeeper's Report

## October 2019

So summer is a distant memory and so is a dry spell, with well above average rainfall for the month, it brings a new set of challenges for us.

To help everything stay dry as possible, we will be increasing our aeration regime to a monthly programme, to get as much water as possible moving through the surface and allowing it to stay as dry as possible. This is important, not just for playing conditions but the health of the grass and not encouraging conditions that increase disease pressure. This time of year, you will also see us out spraying a lot more, it doesn't mean we are spraying scary chemicals but mostly turf hardening products, bio stimulants, natural pest deterrents and wetting agents. So far, things are holding up well with this chemical free approach and the greens are looking healthy and holding up well.

We have seen great improvements, with grass coverage on the tees, with the extra effort, keeping them well irrigated, aerated and regular over – seeding and fertilizing. We will again be moving the markers forward, to protect the backs of the tees going into the winter, as this seems the most beneficial way to ensure minimum damage is done throughout the wetter months and taking note of suggestions to rope off the backs to prevent wandering, watching golfers.

With the recent sudden change of conditions we have started putting the white lines back out, ropes and hoops to control traffic, to prevent wear around the more susceptible areas and where we require the best quality playing surface possible. Though a high percentage of golfers do adhere to this, it's blatantly apparent that there are a select few that have total disregard for the condition of the course and the damage they cause for all others. Though all other courses that I've worked at restrict buggies, trolleys and general play depending on conditions, obviously here that isn't a factor, so to keep things remotely acceptable it's imperative that we all try to be more aware of the reasons why traffic control is necessary.

We will soon be starting mole ploughing throughout the course and verti – draining fairways. These are both very time consuming jobs and we will endeavour to keep things away from play as much as possible though sometimes it is inevitable to be working among golfers, we would like to ask for all golfers to be patient and we will move to the side as soon as practical.

Thank you all for your understanding.

**Jeff Taylor**

Head Greenkeeper

25/10/19