

Greenkeepers Report Jan 2019

It has been a busy start to the winter out on the course and surprisingly dry, allowing us to get stuck in to our winter projects. With the drainage works completed making a definite improvement on the 1st and 5th/6th, we then continued with the 2nd and 13th improvements. On the 2nd the bunker to the left of the green was removed, shaped and re-turfed while the one to the right had the old damaged edge and bank removed and turfed. Overall, we all think it's made it look a lot tidier and improved. The 13th where there was once a large, steep faced, unmanageable bunker, this was made into 2 smaller, more attractive pot bunkers. While doing this the existing drainage was inspected, repaired and extended, the bases were shaped and lined and a small rivetted edge was installed, while it looks more intimidating, the height of the bunker face has been lowered, making it easier and more playable and also it has made vast improvements both visually and making for easier maintenance, ensuring they look their best after all weathers. This has made a big difference and has resulted in a lot of positive compliments. We shall be letting the turf become established over the next few weeks and then fill with sand, edge and bring into play in the spring.

While all this has been going on the rest of the course has been holding up well this winter, though dry the mild conditions has led to high disease pressure and with less available products on the markers it's been a challenging time. We have had to be more resourceful and reactive regarding this and a little bit more acceptance is required where we have had a few spots here and there. Overall though the greens are looking good and staying firm with good colour as we plough through winter.

With the winter conditions it has been noticed and commented on the amount of unrepaired pitchmarks on the greens, we'll like to remind and encourage golfers to repair them for everyone's benefit. Where we have been putting white lines, ropes and hoops out to help manage wear it has created some localised area of wear, but it is insignificant and out of normal play compared to the wear that would have been produced and will be easily repaired when conditions allow, and we would like to thank all for your understanding and cooperation.