

Greenkeepers report

Normally I start these things by having a good old moan about the weather. But. What a glorious winter we're having with little in the way of rainfall and an abundance of sunshine.

The course has held up well over this winter and although nature has been helpful, the drainage work on the 5th/6th and the 1st has really been beneficial keeping these areas a lot dryer than before and the benefits of mole ploughing, and aeration is evident. We have a few areas that have suffered from some winter wear and these areas will soon be cored, seeded and topdressed to make the most of this early spring we seem to be having

The greens did suffer with some disease towards the end of last year what has left some scaring but other than that they are looking well. We have been doing a lot of extra aeration this year to try and be as cultural as possible with plant health, this has led to more footprinting at times but with regular ironing they have come back well.

We have had to remove a lot of dead Elms next to the 10th Tee as they were really starting to become a concern. In the future the plan is to replant a new hedge the other side of the small ditch and remove the messy one that currently stands to make more room for the Tee.

Looking ahead into spring, we will soon be starting our spring renovations starting with the Tee's then aprons and greens. As before the Tees will be cored, seeded, topdressed and fertilised to get as much recovery as possible and a similar approach to the greens, this can't get done as early as the seed used requires a higher temperature to germinate. The fairways and surrounds will also have a good fertilise too to encourage growth for recovery and presentation.

The other projects that were done on the 2nd and 13th needs some tidying and filling with sand to bring them back into play for the end of March for the golfing season. Overall, we are very pleased with how these improvements have turned out and looking forward to doing more in a similar fashion around the course.

Jeff Taylor

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