

Greenkeepers report July 2018

It's been a funny old year; it only seems like yesterday when the course was growing like mad and barely dry enough to get about. Now though with relentless high temperatures, constant drying wind and not even 1mm of rainfall over the duration of June things are drying up fast. Last year's improvements to the irrigation system has clearly paid dividend keeping the main playing surfaces in good condition and even the rest of the course is holding up well thanks to the winter work that was carried out with verti-driening and mole ploughing allowing for deeper root systems.

We had a very busy few weeks with some essential greens maintenance where we cored, collected, scarified, overseeded and topdressed. Though some surface disruption was initially caused with some early 5am starts and 6pm finishes all the work was carried out with minimal disruption to golf and the greens quickly recovered. We were unfortunate to have a few unnecessary comments saying the contrary and also showing a lack of understanding. This work is essential and trying to fit it in around a very busy golfing calendar is a challenge what becomes more so when BRS isn't updated to inform us when it's likely to be busy, so booking in and trying to stick to tee times really does make our jobs easier.

After falling slightly behind during the relentless growing period we are slowly getting back on top of the more time consuming jobs; strimming plantations, ditches, adding sand to bunkers, topdressings, scarifying and general tidying but overall we have had some great feedback from members, visitors and on platforms like "golf shake" saying how nice it all is and general happiness about the condition of the course. I know I am by far our most relentless critique and knowing what still needs to get done and problem areas that need attention is always an ongoing battle with available time and conditions.

On a more worrying matter we have had several near misses while we are trying to maintain the course. We do try to move out the way as quickly as possible but sometimes a little time is required so please be patient and we will be very grateful.

We are currently recruiting another two members of staff to join our team what will help immensely keeping the course in the best possible condition and make further improvements. I trust that you will all be as welcoming as possible.

Jeff Taylor

Head Greenkeeper