

# Greenkeepers Report

So where to start? From one of the wettest and dankest starts to any spring I've witnessed sprung with a vengeance with temperatures nearly hitting 30°C, this led to unimaginable growing conditions of which in twenty year career I've never witnessed. Currently as I ponder the temperature is a barmy 6°C with heavy rain and a 'real feel' of -6°C. The cold and wet start to spring left us unable to do a lot of our maintenance what has put us behind on a lot of jobs. Overall I think winter must be behind us and it's been a productive one with the clearance work on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> seeded and looking much better.

The weather and conditions left us with some stubborn Fusarium on the greens but with the promise of spring we didn't choose to use more fungicide and managed to keep it checked with Iron and other tonics keeping beneficial bacteria in the root zone that is essential for the breakdown of thatch and organic matter. The warm spell really did encourage growth and we have been overseeding the problem areas but it has also encouraged the Poa Annua to seed. Looking forward we will continue to improve on this and the conditions of the greens by coring, scarifying, overseeding and topdressing. Though these processes do cause some short term disruption it is necessary for a healthy playing surface that runs true and consistent. Though normally we would have finished these works before the busy golfing season this has not been possible but we will keep golfers updated as much as possible on when these works are to be carried out.

The Tees have recovered well after winter and have all been cored, seeded, fertilised and topdressed. Though there is still a long way to go we feel they have greatly improved and mostly have a good coverage. We recycled the cores round the course around the 13<sup>th</sup> green and a few areas for speedy and effective results.

Fairways really did have a growth spurt where even cutting them 4/5 times a week didn't seem enough but it has definitely given the biggest visual change with great definition. Obviously this has led to a lot of clippings on the surface but we are trying to get the final cut done when the leaf is dry to try to disperse this as much as possible. We will soon be getting some fertiliser and Iron on the fairways not so much to encourage growth but for general plant health, colour and to help thicken the density of the turf for better lies and the visual aspect.

We still have some unacceptable areas that need repairing from winter but overall we have enjoyed the compliments on the course and things will hopefully keep improving. As always we welcome any comments, good or bad and suggestions for future improvements.

Thanks

Jeff Taylor

Head Greenkeeper

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