

Greenkeepers report

30th October 2017

We have really been up against it this autumn. Normally by now the grass growth has slowed to enable us more time for other jobs. Alas this year we are still cutting as frequently as the summer but generally things are looking ok.

We have been spending many hours blowing, chopping and clearing leaves from ditches and the main playing areas and we're generally keeping on top of things. I understand that leaves are a frustration so a lot of resources are being used to keep things as playable as possible.

The Fairways have all been sprayed with Iron to help maintain colour, for turf vigour and to discourage worm casting. This will probably be repeated in a month or so depending on its effectiveness.

This time of year there is high disease pressure on the greens, this is always a problem and recently a few spots have caused some scaring. Hopefully they will recover quickly as we still have plenty of growth. Fortnightly applications of Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, Manganese, and wetting agents will help this and make us less dependent on the use of fungicides. Though the Iron will cause some blackening of the grass this is only superficial and there is no lasting damage to the turf.

Though we have kept the white lines throughout the year, there has been a number of occasions where they are ignored and still people are taking their trolleys right up next to the greens and pitchmarks are still not being repaired. This is obviously a frustration for us and I'm sure it is for those who do have the required etiquette.

Ropes and hoops will be starting to go out again soon to control the winter wear and the Tees will be moved to a forward position to protect the main playing areas as this seemed to work well on previous years. Also fairways will be mole ploughed when conditions allow helping with winter drainage.

As time allows we will be back to our winter jobs where hopefully we will be clearing down the 1st, the hedges cut back around the edges of the course, clearance round the 17th pond and several other jobs will be on the way.

Thanks.