

Course Report – Summer 2014

Introduction:

This report covers our main areas of activity across the course this summer. At this time we are also preparing to embark on the very exciting project to create the additional 3 holes to bring us to an 18 hole golf course.

Greens:

The greens at the moment are in very good condition. The long warm days encouraging growth and recovery from the wear and tear of golf and maintenance practices.

During May we overseeded the greens using a fescue/bent seed mixture which we inserted into the rootzone using a double technique of slitting and spiking.

This is in keeping with our strategy of improving sward composition and enabling a more sustainable greens input regime, for example, less nutrient applications and reduced pesticide use. The summer height of cut is 3.5mm. Greens are mowed 6 days per week and rolled using a greens iron during the week.

During the summer months we regularly carry out spiking and sanding of the greens. This has a short term impact on the playing surfaces but it is essential to maintain greens quality.

Tees and Approaches:

As with the greens we have over seeded the tee tops and approaches and are using a plant growth regulator (P.G.R) and reduced nutrition inputs to produce harder wearing and more consistent surfaces.

The irrigation we installed on the 6 remaining tees last winter and the upgrade of some others has paid handsome dividends this recent dry spell. Our tees currently have excellent grass cover and present very well.

As part of ongoing improvements and to enhance definition we have continued to create grass paths to access tee tops. These areas will receive intensive treatment to maintain dry and firm surfaces.

Height of cut on tees and approaches is 10mm.

Fairways:

The fairways are in very good condition at moment. The summer height of cut has been reduced to 18mm. this height will produce a more even surface when combined with our practice off mowing 3 times per week and alternating direction of cut.

Overseeding of fairways will now take place in the autumn along with intensive aeration.

Once again I would like to thank all the Members who have embraced the use of the divot bags.

Bunkers:

The additional bunkers renovated last winter are performing very well especially during the early wet part of the summer.

Wild Flower Areas:

The areas where we are developing wild flower meadows have been streamlined so as not to interfere with the golf. They are showing some nice progress with some colour developing within them.

Weather Stations:

A weather monitoring station has been installed behind the 15th green at R.G.C. Data from here can be recorded and read at a monitoring station in the Clubhouse located at the Members computer in the meeting room. This will allow the Club to build a database of valuable information over a period of years.

Later this information will be accessible via the Club website.

Lakes and Waterways:

Our lakes are currently in very good condition. The water quality is excellent and there is plenty of habitat for wildlife and plants to flourish.

This year there has been a noticeable increase in mallard numbers with tufted duck and moorhen breeding also.

Frogs and newts are widespread throughout the system.

Conclusion:

I am very happy with the condition of the course at the moment and looking forward to maintaining these standards throughout the summer.

The development of the 3 new holes is an extremely exciting prospect and I am relishing the imminent commencement of the work.

To bring into play 18 holes of golf with the same quality and attention to detail and consistency is the task before us and I look forward to it.

Eddie Walsh
Course Superintendent