

Greens Newsletter

March 2014

The Greens

Why do we aerate the greens?

Aeration helps prevent disease e.g. anthracnose. It improves drainage, moisture penetration as well as alleviating dry patches. It removes thatch, helps to breakdown organic matter, aerates the soil and encourages deeper roots. It relieves compaction and encourages growth of the finer grasses.

Simplistically it is to give us good true firm putting surfaces.

So the hollow tining that was done in September backed up by the occasional solid tining and verti-cutting that has been done since helped to keep the greens playing well through the winter in spite of the very wet weather we experienced.

In March in preparation for the season there will be another renovation week when we hollow tine to set the greens up for the season. Hopefully April & May this year will be warmer than last year leading to better grass growth early in the season.

Fairways

We set out this winter is to minimise the amount of time members had to move off the fairways and into the rough or alternatively use a mat, ideally avoiding it all together. This relied in part on players replacing divots and pegging them down.

Well how did we do? Pretty good I think. Apart from the 4th fairway where we stopped play from the fairway because of problems with the drains all fairways have remained in play. Looking at the fairways there are areas with many divots as you would expect but overall they don't look that different to previous years when they were supposed to be out of play. The divot pegs are making a difference helping to keep the divots in place. Also we have avoided the cost of painting blue lines to differentiate the fairway.

The real test will be late March when we run the divoting parties (volunteers needed) and how the course looks at the start of season.

PLEASE REPAIR ALL YOUR DIVOTS AND PITCH MARKS

Divots ruin the course and pitch marks encourage meadow grass with resultant uneven greens

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Winter Projects

The projects for this winter were –

- A path from 16th green to 17th tee. Completed
- Renovate the bunkers on the 3rd hole. Completed
- Replace the posts and rope on the 1st tee with a low hedge. As this would hide the pond alternatives are being considered.
- Renovate the cross bunkers on the 7th. On hold to allow focus on drainage
- Astra turf an area of the practice area. Complete
- Renovate persistent GUR areas. Other than the drainage work listed below. Limited progress to date, hope to get more done by start of season
- Extend the Green shed. New build progressing. The new shed will provide extra storage for the expensive equipment we use, some of which is currently stored outside.

The wet weather made it necessary to do some drainage work, which wasn't planned -

- 4th fairway. Repair and extension completed
- RHS 13th green / 14th. Repair & extension completed

The Greens Committee

Welcome to Darren Staff and Gareth Bradley who join the committee and a big thank you to Nigel Hall and Maggie Beadle have "retired" from Greens.

Greens Committee

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