



# Knighton Heath Golf Club

Dear Member

It has been brought to the attention of the Greens Committees that there is some confusion regarding the condition of some of our fairways which have bare areas, water/flood damage and leatherjackets.

## **Fairways**

The issue with the 15th fairway is not leather jackets or poor grass coverage, it is due to being waterlogged for long periods over the winter, which was then compounded with a harsh spring. The fairway has been treated with a liquid feed application to speed up recovery, if needed we will treat it again at the start of June.

The damage on the 17th fairway in front of the green is due to leather jackets, we have already carried out the following works on this area.

- Solid tined
- Over seeded in 2 directions
- Top dressed
- Fed with a granular fertilizer
- 2 applications of trace elements
- 2 applications of soil surfactant
- Application of a fungicide.

With the removal of many insecticides from the usage list, we are no longer able to treat this problem with insecticides and must now manage the insect population by reducing it as much as possible. The healthier the turf the more it can cope with the insects. That is why at KHGC carry out regular maintenance to keep our greens as healthy as possible (aeration, thatch removal, fertilization with appropriate fertilizers, over seeding, application of allowed insecticides and more).

Our course manager has also attended a webinar regarding the leatherjacks problem held by BIGGA in May 2021. If you would like further information, please go to the BIGGA website.

There are 5 levels of infestation

1. No damage
2. Animal damage on surface
3. Spring damage (not enough growth in spring to outgrow damage)
4. Summer yearlong impact (not enough growth all year to outgrow damage)
5. Loss of turf
  - a) 1 = low population
  - b) 2 = lower population animals have to hunt for the pests
  - c) 3 = medium to high population
  - d) 4 = high population
  - e) 5 = very high population

**KHGC are number 2 on this chart, Animal damage on the surface, which gives the indication to a lower population in the soil this year.**

If you would like any further information, we will be posting regular pictures/information regarding the course on Twitter, Facebook, and the Clubs website to keep our members fully informed.

Moving forward there will also be regular course updates via a newsletter, which will be emailed.

If you have a question that you would like answered, please email the General Manager, Reunert Bauser on: [manager@khgc.co.uk](mailto:manager@khgc.co.uk)

Regards

**The Greens Committee**

**1 June 2021**