

# Update from the Greens Committee

It is now 3 months since the AGM Greens Report and the committee would like to update the membership on progress in terms of course maintenance and project work.

- The course suffered very badly, as did many other courses, due to the extreme weather experienced during the summer and autumn months. The course is starting to recover but there are still a number of areas which unfortunately have been left bare. A plan is in place to address these issues and where appropriate over seed as many of the bare patches as possible during spring this year.
- Due to the very hard ground conditions it was not possible to carry out the Verti-Draining of the fairways this autumn. Attempts are being made to reschedule this for the spring, weather and contractor availability permitting. The Verti-Draining process improves drainage by creating holes in the fairway and breaking up the sub soil, making it easier for moisture and air to pass through the soil, reducing compaction and encouraging longer root growth.
- The fairways have been slit, which has similar benefits to the Verti-Draining. The slitting process has created small mounds on the fairways, this is called plucking and is normal, once the fairways have been cut and rolled these will disappear.
- The bare patches on the fairway have had an impact on the positioning and quality of the temporary greens. Temporary greens are cut once per week and prior to any forecasted bad weather and are only brought into play as a last resort. Every effort is being made to keep the main greens in play during the winter months by carrying out routine and scheduled maintenance and projects such as the recent drainage works on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> greens.
- The use of the temporary greens is being monitored in order for the Management Committee to determine if there is any value in investing resources and funds to improve the playing surface of the temporary greens. This may also require areas of the course to closed off for play during the summer in order for the work to be carried and to ensure that the temporary greens are in a suitable condition for use in winter. The results of the monitoring and any recommendations will be put forward to the Management Committee in time for the allocation of funds for course improvements.
- Members have expressed their concern about the condition of the bunkers. The Management Committee have acknowledged these concerns and have allocated funds to carry out a trial on the 16<sup>th</sup> approach bunker. If successful, the improvements will be rolled out across the course as funds become available. In the meantime, the greens team are raking the bunkers and removing stones on a daily basis. After large downpours of rain that washout the sand and cause compaction the team are allocating more time to reviving the bunkers.

- During the winter months, with the adverse weather conditions, the maintenance of the bunkers and replenishment of the sand is very time consuming and expensive, add in the general maintenance of the course and the project tasks the Management Committee have set the greens team, they are currently working to full capacity.
- A number of the winter projects published in the AGM report are in progress and the following works have been completed:
  - Drainage works and remodelling of the 8<sup>th</sup> green has been completed and once the new turf has knitted, we will be able to remove the GUR signs and drop zones
  - The drainage on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> greens completed
  - The new path on the 14<sup>th</sup> completed
  - Clearance of the rough and raising the crowns of the trees down the right of the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway
  - Putting green and patio improvements are well on the way to being completed. By re-using the original serviceable pavers on the patio the club has saved a considerable amount of money and if enough funds are available there is the possibility of purchasing new patio furniture.
  - Work is also underway on the 6<sup>th</sup> green to 7<sup>th</sup> tee pathway.

Please be assured that we are all working in the best interests of the club with limited resources and funds to provide the best possible outcome for all of the membership. We are sure that we will all enjoy the benefits of the team's efforts during the summer months.

Bob O'Hara

Greens Chairman