



## **Greens Maintenance**

**14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

It is nearly our Summer Maintenance week in which we will be undertaking the essential processes which will allow us to keep pushing the greens forward. I hope we can see some improvement and we look forward to that continuing but in order for that to happen we must perform some work which will disrupt play slightly. As much as we can not prevent any disruption to play, we will-as always-try to keep this disruption to a minimum.

During this week we ensure we get plenty of sand into the soil profile (around 50tons) which improves the infiltration rates of the surfaces and creates firmer surfaces during periods of wet weather. This process also smooths out any imperfections the surfaces have suffered in the form of a heavy top dressing, allows oxygen into the soil and provides space for deeper rooting (which we have seen a huge improvement in since the previous maintenance carried out)

As with the previous 3 Maintenance weeks I have been a part of at Knighton Heath we will keep the same framework of work but slightly tweak some of the practices. And so, below is a run down of what we will be hoping to achieve during the week.

- **Verticut at -2mm**
- **Heavy sand dressing on greens**
- **13mm diameter tines to depth of 250mm**
- **Brush sand deep into tine holes**
- **Heavy sand dressing over the top**
- **13mm diameter tines to depth of 150mm**
- **Brush sand into shallower holes**
- **Roll to ensure we keep a smooth surface**

This August the only difference to previous years maintenance is that we will be starting the week with a Verticut. These are vertical blades which cut into the ground, rather than following the contours above ground and cutting at a set height. With the Verticutting units we will actually set these to cut 2mm into the ground which will remove some of the lateral grass growth. As we introduce more bent grass into the greens one of the two species, we are adding is a 'Creeping Bent Grass' and so its growth habit is to creep along the ground by what is known as a stolon. If these are not occasionally Verticut then they will be come quite unsightly and certainly will prevent us from producing good golf greens. We do this around once every month at the moment so it is not an unusual task.

## **Course Routing and hole closures for the week**

As we had for the previous maintenance weeks, we plan to have 10 holes (1-10) closed on the Monday, 8 holes (11-18) and the putting and chipping greens closed on Tuesday, 10 holes closed on Wednesday, 8 holes and putting and chipping greens closed Thursday then hopefully we will have all 18 as well as putting and chipping greens open on the Friday as long as we have completed all we need to.

- **Monday-Holes 1-10 CLOSED Please play 11-18**
- **Tuesday-Holes PG&CG, 11-18 CLOSED Please play 1-10**
- **Wednesday-Holes 1-10 CLOSED Please play 11-18**
- **Thursday- Holes PG&CG, 11-18 CLOSED Please play 1-10**
- **Friday-Hopefully all 18 holes open, update will be made on Thursday**

As with all of our work, we are at the mercy of the weather, the timeline above is a guide and what we will achieve in an ideal world. If we are hit with bad weather then some of the above may change but this is the plan. Any changes will be communicated through all available channels at the earliest opportunity.

I hope these closures make sense and can be adhered to. Signage will be placed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Tees each day. Our twitter page and phone information line will also be updated each day informing all golfers of hole closures.

During this week we have our best opportunity to get a lot of work done, it makes our operation run a lot smoother if we don't have golf to consider. It also means we don't interrupt any golfers with our heavy machines during the week. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to the benefits of all this work as we continue our course improvements.

Graham Hastie

Course Manager