



# **Knighton Heath Golf Club**

## **Greens Report**

**August 2022**

Graham Hastie  
Course Manager

### **Greens**

Maintenance carried out-

- 12mm Solid tines
- 175mm Depth
- 40ton Sand applied and brushed in
- Granular fertilizer applied to aid recovery
- Further light dressing to smooth surfaces
- Roll to smooth surfaces further
- Heavy water to assist sand into tine holes and wet soil profile
- Greens blown after each process to maintain tidiness

Unable to solid tine greens twice during maintenance week due extremely dry soil conditions

Greens cutting units changed to spare units while sand present on surface

Greens cutting height raised to 5.5mm while sand present

Cutting heights lowered gradually down to 4mm as less sand on surface

Continuation of liquid fertilizer to further aid recovery

Application of growth regulator to assist in returning greens to summer conditions

Applications of seaweed and humic acid based products promoting deeper rooting and providing essential nutrients

Applications of wetting agents to promote uniform moisture percolation

Hand watering through out the day for targeted dry areas

Soil moisture checks throughout the month to keep greens in target range

Constant adjustments to watering programs to ensure consistency across all 19 greens

Repairs to animal damage-mixture of rootzone soil, sand, seed and fertilizer

### **Course**

Tees aerated with 12mm tines to a depth of 150mm

Competition set up throughout the month

Tees fertilized to promote growth and plant health as we approach Autumn

Divoting of all tees and fairway landing zones to aid recovery

Tees remaining cut at 12mm at least twice per week

Approaches cut at 10mm still at least once a week (mainly twice per week)

Attempted to aerate approaches but ground still too hard and dry-will attempt in September once the rain returns

Daily bunker raking

Strimming of bunker edges as and when required

Strimming of yardage markers as and when required

Rough cut as required

Green areas on fairways cut as required (mainly ends of fairways where approach sprinklers hit)

Semi rough around greens cut twice a month while growth minimal

Side of chipping green now down to 12mm cutting height

Blowing of areas has begun early as summer heat stress causing trees to drop their leaves early

Hand watering of Heathers planted at 4<sup>th</sup> tee

### **Woodland and Hedge work**

Tree removed by Uptons tree services on left hand side of 4<sup>th</sup> Fairway. Tree was dead and dangerous

Greenkeeping team moved logs leftover for added security fencing along 4<sup>th</sup> boundary

Stump remains and will decay providing house and food for bugs and animals

Hedge beside putting green has been trimmed, 18<sup>th</sup> side to be done in near future

### **Staff Update**

Tom Filkins has left us, moving on to Poole hospital (after his trip to Bali). We wish him the very best of luck in the future.

Daniel Parker is our newest Greenkeeper. Daniel will attend Sparsholt College to study Sportsturf Maintenance.

Daniel is a keen golfer and has shown a great interest in Knighton Heath and our profession already and I hope we can all welcome him to the club as and when you meet him.

Paul Miles also joined us in July. Paul previously worked for Southern and Scottish power. Paul has shown a wonderful work ethic and has fitted into our Greenkeeping team exceptionally well.

Thanks go to all the staff for producing a great golf course throughout the summer months in what has been yet another record-breaking year for our weather.

### **Data-**

Rainfall recorded:- 17mm (average 67mm) **deficit of 50mm!**

Max temp:- 32C (average max temp 19.7C)

0 days closed

0 days temp Greens

### **Other notes**

Through school holidays minimal damage from local youths, few markers and flags stolen but nothing over and above recent events.

Animal damage has become more of an issue recently, specifically 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> greens mainly effected. Damage has been repaired almost daily. We believe animals (most likely Badgers) are searching for leatherjacket and chafer grubs. Both of which are becoming harder to control as Insecticides previously used are now banned from amenity usage. Products now available are not as concentrated and only offer "control" rather than a cure.

Need for reduced access onto the golf course from the bridal way after van was spotted driving onto 11<sup>th</sup> hole and around 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> greens. Possibility of extending ditches to surround overflow carpark and well as posts at 18<sup>th</sup> crossing point.

Plans to aerate greens once again in September, hopefully down to a depth of around 200mm. This was the aim during maintenance week but weather prevented us from achieving this depth. During this process we will be overseeding the greens. We chose not to do this in August due to the heat we were experiencing, new seedlings would not have been able to cope with the heat and so have waited for some milder temperatures before overseeding.



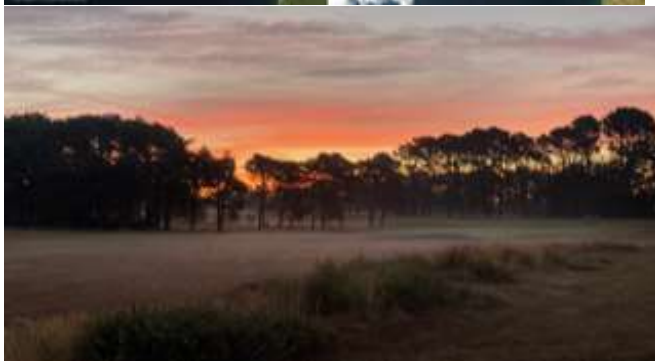
Animal damage on the 5<sup>th</sup> Green



A familiar sight through the summer months. Hand watering areas to ensure we minimise our water usage without compromising playing conditions



Satellite image of heatwave damage. Although Knighton Heath is just out of view in this image my request for another shot including us was denied



The fine weather had some good points too. Sunrise towards the end of August is beautiful and always make the early starts worth it