



Knighton Heath Golf Club

Greens Report

October 2022

Graham Hastie
Course Manager

Greens

Maintenance carried out-

Greens cutting height raised to 5mm as cooler weather approaches
Greens seeded in two directions with more sustainable species
Top dressed to seal seed into the ground
Applications of root stimulant to enhance seed germination
Greens cut 7 days a week as extremely good growing conditions remain
Change from high nitrogen fertilizer to winter hardening applications
Fungicide application due to excessively high disease pressure
Applications of penetrant wetting agent to move moisture deeper into rootzone
Holes changed twice per week
Greens blown of leaves and debris every morning
Damage from hydraulic burst repaired on 1st, 3rd and 6th greens
Damage from electric bikes on 4th and 6th greens repaired

Course

Divoting of all tees and fairway landing zones to aid recovery
Tees remaining cut at 12mm twice per week
Approaches height of cut raised to 12mm and cut at least once a week (mainly twice per week)
Daily bunker raking
Full rotavate and rake of bunkers during dry spells
Strimming of bunker edges as and when required
Strimming of yardage markers as and when required
Rough cut as required
Fairways back to being cut at least once a week
Semi rough cut twice per week now recovery has begun
Side of chipping green now down to 7mm cutting height
Side of chipping green dressed with sand to ensure a smooth surface once open again for play (spring 2023)
Blowing of all areas, greens, tees and areas on fairways
Ditches extended through car park to deter further vehicles on the course
Tree surgeons completed essential work under power lines running through the course
Winter mats have begun to be cleaned

Data-

Rainfall recorded:- 111.5mm

Max temp:- 21 degrees, Low temp of 3 degrees

0 days closed

0 days temp Greens

Other notes

One cause for serious concern was the shocking sight of a Jeep 4x4 truck driving onto the golf course on Sunday 2nd October. This happened between Greenstaff cutting greens and heading back out onto the course to complete a weekend set up. Residents from behind the 15th green confirmed it was a Jeep driving up the 16th Fairway and so this is what the tire tracks are up through the middle of the 16th fairway, fortunately the vehicle only drove over the 17th Green in a straight line and so didn't cause any significant damage. We have been filling the damage with our divot mix on the fairway and recovery has been good. **This cannot be allowed to become a regular occurrence.** To stop this happening again we have deepened and extended the ditch network along the entrance driveway. We didn't want to place any objects in the way as this would become a danger for golfers hitting over, the risk of balls ricocheting is too high and so we thought the ditches were the best solution. These will hopefully have some gorse and heather added through the winter period to help age and add some interest to them.

Some damage was caused by electric bikes skidding on greens 4 and 6. Adrian and Mark took time on a Saturday morning to make some initial repairs so that play could continue through the weekend. The following week we once again took some turf from the chipping green to make the repairs on greens 4 and 6. Hopefully one day the chipping green will be fully recovered....

Hydraulic issues we have had are on the road to recovery. 5th tee and 13th surround are well rooted and we have started to cut these with ride on mowers again.

Issues we had on the greens have shown their real damage now. I still believe we were really lucky with the damage we have suffered as these could have been so much worse. Once we had the mower in the workshop, we realised the burst was actually on the power steering hose, therefore this was only under pressure when the mower turned at the end of the greens. Also, the real damage didn't start on the first and so it is the 3rd and 6th greens which have the most severe markings.

On all of the affected areas we have now cored out some of the damage, seeded with a grass species which will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 3 degrees this will give us the best chance to gain some recovery of these areas heading into winter. I would expect to see some germination on these areas before the end of November (please excuse myself or any of the green staff if we are kneeling down looking at these areas looking for new shoots of grass)



Seeder on and set up to run across all greens.
Calibrated to drop 2.5g^{m^2} on each pass and so we put
down 5g^{m^2} in total.



Once greens were seeded in two
directions this was the finished article



Greens were then given a light top
dressing in order to seal the seed into the
soil, giving optimum chance of
germination.



Not the biggest of pictures but I hope you can see the seed has begun to germinate. Note the line at the end of the scissors.



Coring of the effected area from hydraulic hose burst. This is the 1st green which wasn't as badly affected as the other two greens but still required some work



Once the lines were cored and collected the area was overseeded with some specially selected seed, top dressed with sand to promote germination and all hand brushed into the coring holes



Some extensive blowing has begun around the course. No doubt you have heard the guys and their noisy machines. This is undertaken every morning, even though by the time some golfers reach the later holes leaves have fallen once again.



Damage from the vehicle on the 16th Fairway. Unfortunately, it was rather unsightly but we have divotted the worst areas and now have some good recovery.