

Maintenance week 15th August-19th August 2022

This year in August we will be undertaking our annual summer maintenance. After the success of our Spring maintenance we will be undertaking a similar pattern of work consisting of:

- Spread around 2 tons of sand on each green
- 13mm diameter tines spiking down to a depth of 9 inches
- Brush sand down into holes
- Spread another 2 tons of sand onto each green
- 13mm diameter tines spiking down to around 5 inches
- Brush sand down into holes
- Apply organic granular fertiliser
- Further applications of sand to smooth surface
- Light brushing to top up holes
- Roll greens to ensure we maintain our putting surfaces
- Heavy water to ensure greens are kept in good health

While we undertake this work we will be closing holes as follows:

- **MONDAY** holes 1-10 CLOSED (Holes 11-18 OPEN)
- **TUESDAY** holes 11-18, PG & CG CLOSED (Holes 1-10 OPEN)
- **WEDNESDAY** holes 1-10 CLOSED (Holes 11-18 OPEN)
- **THURSDAY** holes 11-18 CLOSED (Holes 1-10 OPEN)
- **FRIDAY** all 18 holes open but we will still be working on the greens so please be patient and wait to be called up if green staff are working on a green you are playing in to



As mentioned above our spring maintenance was a success in both minimising disruption and also in agronomic benefits. We have seen some of the layering in the soil underneath the greens becoming less obvious, also deep rooting down through the tine holes with some still visible deep in the soil profile as seen to the left. Spring maintenance was undertaken at the end of March and this image was taken in the middle of May.

It is quite tricky to get a clear image but I hope you can see both the tine hole and the root hair which has found its way down to a depth of 9 inches. This was found when changing holes and I believe a great way to show why we do this essential work.

With regards to recovery from this work we hope any disruption is kept to a minimum and the club have done the right thing to book maintenance in for August. August offers such good growing conditions with plenty of sunshine and good overnight temperatures, with this in mind we hope to have the greens back into summer condition within 2 weeks. They will be playable and enjoyable the day after we have finished our work but expect to have sufficient growth for grass to grow through sand top dressing within 2 weeks. To aid this recovery we have skipped an application of our plant growth regulator (helps to minimise top growth), Liquid fertiliser will be applied in the days before maintenance (instant nutrient uptake) and a granular fertiliser (slow nutrient release) applied towards the end of maintenance week which will sit in the tine holes and breakdown giving maximum benefit to the soil.

If we think some greens need extra sand to top up tine holes and ensure smooth surfaces then this will be undertaken in the week following maintenance but this will be minimal amounts of sand in comparison to the work we do during maintenance week.

We also hope to undertake some work on the Tees during the week but will coordinate this work within the CLOSED holes for the day to minimise disruption. Tees were spiked two weeks ago and so we will scarify and fertilise tees and apply a granular fertiliser to them to ensure they are kept in good condition for the remainder of the season.

In normal years we would try to get some work done on approaches during maintenance week but we tried to get some tines into these two weeks ago but found them just too hard and dry. We will do this work but have to wait for mother nature to send us some much needed and frankly deserved rain. We can do this work around play later in the year.

Lets hope all goes smoothly this week and although we would take ANY rain at the moment, if it could stay dry for the start of the week at least then let the heavens open and we could start the recovery on all areas which are extremely dry at the moment.

Thanks for reading.

Graham Hastie and your Greenkeeping team