



Greens Maintenance

6th-10th March 2023

That time of year is nearly upon us again. A time when, as greenkeepers we get to do some really critical work to the greens. This will set us up to be able to push the greens on for another successful season of golf.

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 during the winter, allows oxygen into the soil and provides space for deeper rooting.

This time last year we completed a very successful maintenance week, with that in mind and the way the greens have performed throughout the whole year we will be doing a very similar process again, starting on March 6th and goes as follows:

- **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 and fertiliser into holes**
- **Roll to ensure we keep a smooth surface**
- **Application of soil enhancing granular fertiliser**

As I said above this is basically what we planned and achieved during the March maintenance last year except this year we are adding a granular fertiliser. This particular fertiliser is a soil enhancing product which will aid in the recovery of the greens from this work as well as release nutrients into the soil to benefit life below the ground. Two reasons for this, firstly and mainly, is the need to have the greens recovered ready for the 4 Counties Boys Tournament which we have 4 weeks after our maintenance. Secondly for the long-term benefit of the greens. A deficit has been identified, through soil testing, of some vital nutrients in our soil profile and so while we have some holes in the greens and the opportunity to add these required nutrients, we plan to take advantage.

Course Routing and hole closures for the week

As we had for the maintenance week in August last year, 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 9th March**

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.

I hope these closures make sense and can be adhered to. Signage will be placed on the 1st and 11th 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 enter the golfing season.

Graham Hastie

Course Manager