

March 26th 2020

GREENKEEPERS BLOG

Update on winter work

This is the last blog before the golf course reopens. After an awful winter the course is now coming out of the other side. But we are still feeling the effects of this winter and will be for the next few weeks.

All areas have received a cut this week, not only will this help with presentation but it will help to dry the surfaces out further and encourage lateral growth to fill in any gaps. There are still a number of soft spots around so please be wary of where you are walking. Some greens, surrounds and fairways have been expanded to bring features of the golf course into play. We have been striving for the last few years to move away from the rigid application of short cut areas only being “so many mowers wide” and move to a more natural appearance of the short surfaces whilst bringing bunkers and natural features into play.

All bunkers have been refurbished, with sand fluffed up and moved around where it has been washed down. Again we are seeing the benefits of the rubber-crumbed bunkers with these needing about 75% less material and man power to get back into a playable state.

The top-dresser came back earlier than we thought, meaning we have been able to get around 20 tons of sand out on to the greens this week. This will help with the smoothness of the surface and help fill in any gaps from disease scars.

The disease scars are continuing to grow in, with another application of fertilizer put down this week. We no just need the soil temperatures to increase to allow for some stronger growth.

The irrigation system is now up and running, with just a few minor repairs due.

There are just a few jobs to finish off now with the 12th ditch needing soil , the 15th drains needing tidying up and the 18th bunker needing topsoil, this will be done as soon as conditions allow for machinery to be used without causing further damage.

In the next few weeks we will start gathering data on the greens. This will provide information on smoothness, trueness and speed using a Parry meter and stimp meter. This will let us make informed decisions on what fertilizers and practices we need on the greens. We are hoping to gather more data in the future on all aspects of the course, that will allow us to make informed decisions that can save money, time and natural resources whilst pushing the golf course surfaces to their maximum potential. A lot of technology is coming to golf course management and we are hoping to be at the forefront.

Can we ask that all golfers remember to give priority to greens staff when playing, and not to walk on newly seeded areas.

See you all next week

Jonathan Brown

Head Greenkeeper