

## Course Report Summer/Autumn 2024



Hi all, with a very busy end to the playing season and a very kind autumn so far, the team have managed to produce some wonderful results both on the playing surfaces and the course improvements.

### Greens

During the last few months our greens have performed fantastically well and the teams hard work during our maintenance weeks have really paid off. We managed to get 50 tonnes of sand into the surface over this period keeping our surfaces smooth and fast. With speeds of over 13 for the final 2 majors of the year, I had a couple of people ask me why this can't be achieved more often. The answer is that we have a living plant to look after and like all living things it can only take a certain amount of stress before it will start to struggle and risk disease outbreaks.



Many of you will have seen us out with the air2g2, this was hired in to help on the wetter areas of the greens this is a spike that goes 9 inches into the surface and blows compressed air to fracture the soils and create paths for air to get into. We filled in behind this with kiln dried sand.



### Other Playing Surfaces

Our other surfaces have been both playing and presenting well due to favourable weather conditions alongside use of the borehole in the dry parts of the season keeping surfaces thick and healthy.

New mowing lines are now in place throughout last year's improvements, we're now able to achieve this due to the plant being strong enough to be mown shorter. Extensions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fairways have also been made in line with recommendations from the course architects.

The Tees, Approaches and Fairways have been sprayed with a mixture of wetting agent, growth regulator and feed throughout the season to help retain moisture and keep the plant healthy. The growth regulator is a key part of our armoury causing the plant to spend its energy on rooting and tillering rather than on top growth. This also helps us keep the course tidier with less grass clippings and reducing the build-up of thatch.

Verti draining on the fairways was carried out by an external contractor this year and they managed to achieve a depth of 9 inches into the surface helping de-compact the soil, helping with drainage and root growth.

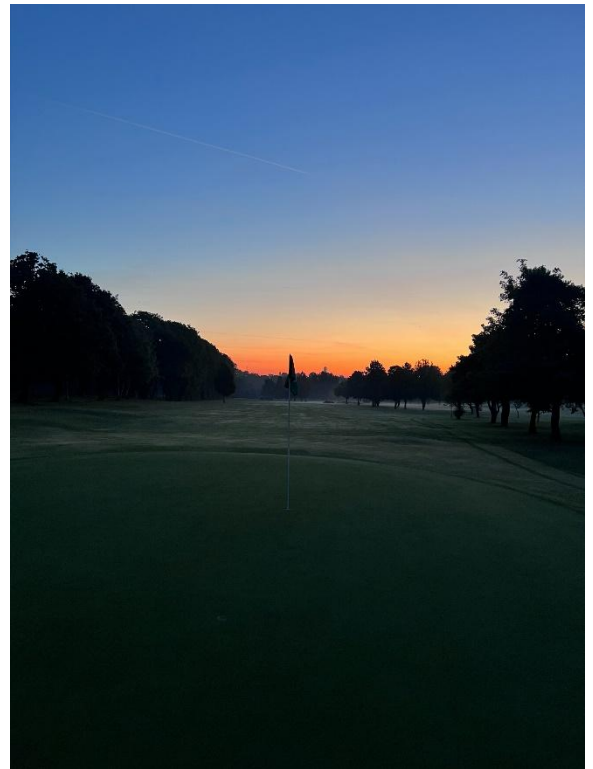
Tinning on tees and approaches has been done by the team and will be continued throughout the winter when conditions allow.

### **Woodland Management**

With winter on the way our woodland management programme starts to kick up a notch with the conifers on the back of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> high on the priority list. We will progress with removing the scrub between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as well as continuing in the areas on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to reduce the number of trees and focus on helping the more mature and favourable specimens grow and show off their beauty.

### **Course Improvements**

Project work over the last few months has moved on very quickly and the team have worked tirelessly to get us ahead of schedule, taking advantage of the dry weather. Please see below some information of the process.



Once the bunker is shaped the base is compacted before the liner is installed.

In this photo you can see a newly laid bunker liner, this is a mixture of crushed rubber and resin to for a liner that water get through but stop stones and soils from contaminating the fresh sand. Please stay out as much as possible, once laid it will take 24 hours to cure.



Once the liner is cured, we build the face using the revetting method. We use the turf taken up before digging the bunker on the face. This is slightly different to last year and has helped us achieve a stronger build.



This before and after of our 10<sup>th</sup> hole shows just how much character these bunkers add. With an already interesting bunker line up re-shaping the current bunkers and adding the liner was done by the team with some stunning results.

Please try to keep off any newly seeded areas as walking or pushing trolleys over new seed will stunt the growth and sometimes kill it off.

We are trying to keep on top of these areas with white line spray, but it doesn't last long whilst plant growth is so strong.

Thank you,

Jimmy and the Agronomy Team

