



**This week we took advantage of a (very) small window in the weather.**

**Having had a few windy dry days, has made it possible for us to get out on the course with the mowers and cut a number of playing surfaces.**

**It's far from ideal, but with the weather set to go downhill again at the back end of the week and we couldn't pass on this opportunity.**

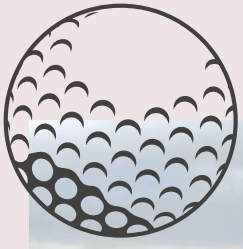


This has been the first time we have been able to cut anything since the middle of October, and not getting the chance to produce a Final Cut before the winter season has really shown itself this year.

We are scheduled to fertilise the tees and greens in the coming weeks so we really needed to get them trimmed down before the feed is applied.

We managed to cut all the greens, and then a high number of fairways and tees, plus some areas of rough around the course.









RGC GROUNDS TEAM

# GROUND'S NEWSLETTER

## Ash Die Back

**With the removal of a large number of ash trees on the golf course, we thought it would be prudent to explain the reasons why.**

You may be aware of a disease named Ash Dieback. It is affecting and will kill over 80% of the UK's ash trees. The landscape will be changed forever and at a cost of billions nationwide.

**[Read more about Ash Dieback HERE](#)**

The large trees removed along the 2nd hole boundary over the past 3 years have all been felled and removed due to the disease.

The photo below shows the disease in the **middle of the trunk** at the widest part, and that will have spread from the branches down as the fungus disease is spread in the wind.

A tree with the disease is unsafe and especially when they are so large like along the 2nd, they are at high risk of falling.

Once a tree gets to the stage where it is **unsafe to climb**, the cost jumps up dramatically to remove them, as mechanical lifts will then be required





# GROUND NEWSLETTER

## Ash Die Back

**Tree removal on the golf course at Rochdale is generally undertaken due to the following reasons:**

- Storm damage
- Diseased or rotten
- To allow light to shaded areas

**£15 billion**

That's how much ash dieback is predicted to cost British society.

We have a lot of trees planted on the golf course over 50 years ago, which are coming to the **end of their lifespan**.

A lot of trees were planted without much thought about the future in mind and maintenance of a golf course.

This brings us problems which we are gradually trying to resolve, but we also understand our role at supporting nature and the environment.

Planting new trees is high on our agenda every winter, to try and offset the number of trees removed.

This week we planted **20 new trees** along the 2nd fairway, a mix of silver birch and maples.

As a result of losing the Ash trees, we planted the **new species**, but have planted them in position to help realign the 2nd hole.

The plan is to make the hole play as more of a dog leg, with the fairway eventually pushing out to the left where the ground work was undertaken last winter.

We also need to encourage golfers to play away from the houses for obvious safety reasons.



The photos below shows the new outside tree line.

