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Rough Management

We will soon be embarking on our next project of improvement in the form of rough management. The process will include a 'cut & collect' process which will ultimately improve a multitude of aspects on the golf course not least pace of play and general aesthetics.

This may resemble a very bad lockdown haircut initially, however in time the aesthetics of the rough will improve dramatically. You have probably noticed that we have a lot of unwanted rank and coarse grass species in our rough areas which includes perennial ryegrass and Yorkshire fog. None of which are aesthetically pleasing or indeed the grass species we wish to promote in these areas.

The sequence will entail mowing selected areas to a height of three inches (see figure 1), collecting



and stockpiling the grass clippings for mulching (see figure 2) and raking through the grass to thin out the sward. Future applications of selective herbicide will be required to completely eradicate the coarse species and re-introduce the fine fescues into these areas.

Figure 1. Rough management at Montrose links



The timing of this process is crucial, we must carry out the task before any nesting birds arrive in spring and repeat applications will be required in the coming years (spring and autumn) to achieve the long wispy rough seen at The Open Championship courses (see figure 3). This will not happen overnight; a comprehensive rough management project will take 3-5 years. In my experience this is certainly worth the wait and the effort.

Figure 2. Clippings will be recycled and used for future renovation projects.



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Currently we do not have our own cut and collect rough mower, this will be one of our priorities in the machinery replacement plan. Short term we are lucky enough to have been able to borrow from Gullane the Super 500 deck mower. Huge thanks to Stewart and Gordon for allowing us the loan of this unit. Its so important to be able to collaborate with other local clubs.

We will of course keep you all updated on our progress through our various social media platforms.

Darren McLaughlan, Course Manager

Figure3. Carnoustie fringe rough