



Rough Management

We are delighted to see the first of our new fleet arrive this week in the form of the Super 500 cut and collect rough mower (see figure 1). This unit will allow us to mow deep rough areas which have typically been allowed to grow wild across the golf course slowing down the pace of play, where time is spent searching through the long and thick pasture grasses for the ball.



Figure 1. Members will see an instant impact behind the 6th green.

The Super 500 is the market leader in grassland management in the UK and Europe and with a little time and patience we are confident will improve the playability, biodiversity and of course aesthetics of the West Links.

Over the years succession has dictated that the native fine grass has been outcompeted by the thick pasture grasses

which have become dominant in certain areas of the roughs. By initially mowing these areas down to 3 inches and (crucially) collecting the grass clippings, we give the competitive edge back to the fine grass by reducing the fertility of the soil.

Over the period of the next 5 years we will cut, collect, rake, and scarify selected areas of our roughs which will result in a wispy fine sward which is conducive to a fair recovery shot. Our intention is also to introduce indigenous wildflowers into the deeper rough areas which will further improve the colour and biodiversity of our site in line with our GEO status.

Darren McLaughlan, Course Manager