



1832

Course Condition Update

We are pleased to inform our members that whilst the 9th and 13th holes remain on temporary positions, we have returned to full a full 18-hole course yesterday. The two holes are on temporary positions for two very different reasons.

9th Hole

The water table around the 8th and 9th holes has been extremely high as I am sure our members have seen. This makes playing these holes quite difficult and in the case of the 9th quite dangerous as there is only one narrow passing place to the right-hand side. We have also been cautious in relation to the access and egress of machinery to this part of the course therefore made the decision to close on a temporary basis. The first half of the 9th is well drained. We have a site meeting during the first week of March to explore the possibility of draining the second half



of the fairway back over to Yellowcraig. We hope not only to improve the on-course drainage, but also improve the Yellowcraig wetland area and therefore increase the biodiversity of this SSSI site. Due to the fact that Yellowcraig is an SSSI site, we must go down the appropriate legal channels to obtain permission for this. We hope to have more information to pass on very soon.

In the meantime, until water levels recede, we have cut a temporary position on the fairway and ropes are in place to guide our members safely to the right of the flooded area.



13th Hole

This area is a microclimate which receives around 50% less sunshine than other greens at this time of year and slightly restricted airflow due to the surrounding location. The 13th green is the smallest of all our greens (421.52 m²) which therefore leads to a higher rate of compaction due to footfall than the other greens. Finally (and most obviously) the wall, although an integral feature of the hole, leads to an increased rate of pitchmarks. These pitchmarks are typically either not repaired, or not repaired in the proper manner, this leads to loss of coverage which at this time of year the green is very slow to recover from. Therefore, we must protect the surface as much as possible by resting the green periodically.

As soil temperatures rise, the putting surface will recover, and we will have our world-famous pit back in full play.

Darren McLaughlan, Course Manager