

**Frustration continues!**

Sadly, since my last newsletter when we finally had 18 holes in play, the weather has again been against us. Another 124mm rain this month. Averages per month are normally between 45-60mm per month and we have consistently this winter had double or treble the average each month throughout. 12 months average is 709mm and in the last 6 months we have had 742mm!!! Each deluge needs a number of days to dry the course, yet each time we have 3 or 4 dry days the rains come again.

Trying to look positively, as the days get longer and the temperatures rise, drying should occur much faster as we head into the spring and summer golf season. The out-look over the next couple of weeks is looking better and hopefully we will soon be back to daily 18 holes of play.

**New year work.**

Despite the awful conditions the Greenkeeping team have been working hard to keep moving forward with our preparation for the coming summer season. The tree pruning work has been completed and as of today the bunker edging is also complete. This week we have also been able to get a much-needed cut on the greens, and an application of Iron Sulphate and Nitrogen to harden the plant against disease. The coping stones around Tee 1 have been re-set and machine servicing and the sharpening of cutting units is nearing completion.

*Bunker Fairway 1*



*Greenside Bunker 5*



*Greenside bunker 9*



*Coping Stones Tee 1*



## **Coming Weeks....**

Our focus is now on working towards the start of the main season. A mini digger will arrive on Monday to begin clearing the bases of bunkers prior to adding fresh sand. All bunkers will receive fresh sand and gradually brought back into play once complete.

The paths will be cleaned up and re-levelled in advance of new surface material being sourced.

The old bunkers on 2, 5, 6, 13 and 17 will be levelled and seeded as grass bunkers.

All areas are desperate for a cut. We need a couple of weeks of dry conditions ideally so we can begin to define areas and bring them back to summer heights of cut and playing conditions which we would normally hope to present.

A new drain will be added to the approach of green 18 once conditions allow for us to complete this work.

The Conifer tree stumps will be removed by green 5.

It is going to be a busy time. A lot of catch-up work, tasks we would normally have hoped to have completed over the winter months during normal conditions. We ask for your patience and understanding to any disruption while we try to complete this work before the main season start. All of this work is also going to require some luck with improving weather conditions.

Also, here below I once again ask that you the golfer respect the safety of our team as much of this work needs to be carried out in the line of play.

## **Course Safety**

Course safety for golfers and employees is always paramount. Our Greenkeeping Team have to work around the course while play is in progress, a unique situation to our sport. Our team often require the use of heavy machinery and equipment to complete their work and are trained in the safe use of this equipment. Much of this machinery has loud motors and the greenkeeper must always concentrate on the safe use while completing their task. Although conscientious and aware of golfers we also require awareness from the golfer. If your ball comes to rest near any greenkeeper or the greenkeeper is working in your line of play, please always be sure to alert the greenkeeper of your presence or intention to play prior to continuing. Where possible please lift your ball and move away from the area of work allowing the team to continue their work unhindered. It is our intention to complete this work without restricting play but we reserve the right to close those holes under renovation should it be necessary to guarantee the safety of both Golfers and Staff.

Ryun Holden

Course Manager