

Greens Report 04/04/2024 – Ryun Holden – Course Manager

Groundhog Day....

Just like the Bill Murray movie it feels like we wake up everyday to the same depressing tune! But we refuse to be downtrodden and keep trying to move things forward in the hope the repeated weather patterns will eventually change. Try and see the positives and stay confident that when tide does turn, we will be in a great position to present a high-quality course given a few dry weeks.

If only.....!



**Don't forget the
clocks go forward
on the 31st of
march, so we'll get
an hours less rain.**

The team continue to work hard on those things we can control but the reality is we have had unprecedented rainfall for 18 months now with 200% of the average. This period includes two winters, periods that offer no natural drying conditions. I will be preparing proposals for drainage solutions to the management but these will be costly and highly disruptive. Any drainage work needs to be completed during dry conditions (main playing season) so compromises will need to be found and a long-term view taken.

In the 91 days of 2024 until the end of March we have had again double average rainfall. Despite this we have been able to keep the course open on the majority of days, albeit with restrictions. Golf has been played on 68 of the 91 days, roughly 75%. We are all frustrated and desperately wish the course was open 365 days a year, but we hope understanding and appreciation of the challenges and efforts made to keep us playing when possible. Personally, I would like to thank all of those members who have taken time to compliment and support me and my team on our efforts.

Completing winter work

Despite the challenges we have been able to continue our work to improve certain areas of the course in advance of this season. The paths have now been completed; all old contaminated material removed in preparation for a new surface. All trees around the course have been crown lifted. As of

this weekend 33 bunkers will be brought back into play. 17 bunkers still awaiting renovation in the coming weeks. Those bunkers in play will be raked with a rake placed in the bunker. The others are to be considered GUR and will be marked with a sign. Please note when raking a bunker, the entire rake should be placed back in the bunker, no part of the rake should be left outside of the bunker edge.









Please leave the entire rake in the bunker as shown in the image above

Mowing

Generally, at this time of year the course is still recovering from a cold winter, growth is slow to start, the general look would be yellow and anaemic. As I have reported in previous weeks the unusually mild winter means this is not the case. The grass is already actively growing and a strong green colour. This is positive in terms of course presentation and plant health but our challenge is accessing all areas of the course in order to cut and maintain the grass plant and playing surface. We have successfully been able to cut around 90% of the course but some areas are simply too wet. Those that have played will see machine damage, wheel ruts to some areas. This highlights our general problem; our issue is not surface water but saturated boggy ground conditions. These are not visible to the eye but only found once the area is accessed. This is unsightly, and will require some repair work once conditions dry but we need to keep the grass cut short. This will help to dry the surface quicker, improve grass sward density and of course important for play. Please avoid walking, pushing trolleys or driving buggies into these areas. They will be marked GUR. If retrieving your ball please do this from the nearest point to your ball.

Due to the growth, we have now been able to remove the use of mats, pick and place rules are in place. As of this weekend we will also be returning to the main summer tees on those holes in play.

Hole 9 - Definition returning to the course.



Ryun Holden

Course Manager