

Greens Update April 2018

After a very cold and wet winter, the water table remains very high and the course is still wet in places. Hopefully now that the winter is over there will be less rain and the temperatures will rise allowing the course to fully recover. The wear and tear on the course over the winter has been mitigated by members carrying, the widespread use of winter wheels on electric trolleys and by the use of mats. All of these measures have helped in keeping the course looking relatively OK, in reducing the extent of trolley bans and in keeping the course open when many others locally have had to close.

Looking forward, with the success of winter wheels, Council have agreed it will be compulsory for any electric trolley used next winter to have winter wheels fitted.

Using mats on the fairways has minimised divots on the fairways helping the course to look tidy, but unfortunately there are a few divots especially on the 2nd. As you know any divot made in the winter won't repair until the grass starts growing in the spring.

Thank You to all for complying.

Use of temporary greens was minimised but needed on a few occasions. They are used to protect the main greens when there is white frost, snow or the ground is frozen but the top soft (or likely to become so).

The spring renovation work on the greens was completed at the end of March. Soil samples taken showed the thatch levels had increased due to the wet weather so the work included verti-cutting and solid tining. This should set the greens up for a good season.

Currently we are assessing what project work is priority for this August during the renovation fortnight; it is likely to be something to improve drainage.

Some reminders, Please –

- Repair Pitch marks – currently the greens are soft
- Replace & Repair Divots (including on the practice ground) – the divot bags are out again so please use them
- Keep trolleys outside greenside bunkers and off the fringes – anywhere you should expect a good lie.

And finally we have been deliberately leaving the cups in the hole relatively high while the greens are wet and the sides likely to fall in please don't push them down with the flag pole.

Richard Smith, Greens Chairman