



Bramhall Golf Club Newsletter

Greens

Understanding our Greens

1. To grow, grass needs warmth, nutrients and water.
2. Different types of grass start growing at different temperatures and it is the ground temperature that is relevant rather than air temperature.
3. The ground temperature is more consistent than the air temperature and in early spring tends to be colder than the air temperature.
4. Our greens contain approx 85% Annual Meadow grass & 15% Bent grass
5. Annual Meadow Grass is shallow rooted and will grow at about 8 degree C
6. Bent Grass is deeper rooted and will start growing about 5 degree C
7. Over a number of years we have been trying to increase the proportion of bent grass in the greens as this will give us a longer growing season and a better resistance to disease.
8. Watering the greens is ineffective if the ground temperature is low. Obviously we have no control over the rain but rain does contain some nutrients (nitrogen) which the borehole water doesn't.
9. Too much water washes nutrients straight through the greens
10. Fertiliser promotes grass growth but will also increase the organic layer (thatch) and disease in the grass.
11. Soil samples are sent away for analysis so the fertiliser mix can be optimised for current conditions.
12. Thatch (the organic layer) is a problem because it holds water, prevents the grass roots going deeper, causes fungal and other diseases. Over time it can become acidic and toxic killing the grass.
13. Our greens were soft and spongy through the winter and prone to foot printing. This is because there was too much thatch.
14. Scarifying removes thatch near the surface. Hollow tineing helps to remove it when it is further down.
15. The Greens were double cut and vibro-rolled each day for the Cheshire Match Play Weekend. The same will be done for our major competitions (e.g. Captain's, Lady Captain's, President's, Kirby Scratch, Gold Medal Finals etc)
16. The Greens can't take this treatment everyday as it puts the grass under stress and causes compaction which stops water getting to the roots, prevents the grass absorbing fertiliser and encourages diseases to take over.
17. Straight after the Cheshire Match Play the greens were micro tined to aerate them and treated to stop disease spreading. This has minimal impact on putting and the greens recover very quickly.
18. Our greens were built to USGA sand based standard. Some other local courses have USGA greens built to a different standard using soil. Other courses have non USGA greens built straight on soil. The different constructions give different characteristics with different strengths and weaknesses.
19. The strength of our greens is they drain very well, usually have an excellent putting surface and are in play all year. The downside is nutrients tend to wash straight through, they promote shallow root growth, are prone to "burn" quickly in hot sunny dry weather and can be slow to start growing in the spring.



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New Greens Shed



The new Greens Shed is finished.

You will have noticed it being built in the yard behind the current Greens Shed. It has a steel frame clad in light weight polyester coated steel panels and sits on a concrete base.

It will provide additional storage for our equipment and free up some space in the existing Shed allowing the staff to work more efficiently.

The additional space will allow more of the equipment to be stored inside away from the elements and ready to use. It will also avoid regular moving round of equipment to get to a particular item.

In addition it will also allow equipment maintenance to be done in a more efficient way and some of the jobs that are contracted out to be brought in house reducing cost.

And a Reminder to finish with

Please

Replace your divots and ideally peg them down

And

Repair your pitch marks.

It does make a difference

Len Adshead, Course Manager
Richard Smith, Chair of Greens