

Around the Greens

Newsletter No.1/16

On the Greens

The 'Winter Maintenance Programme' has now started with the hollow coring of the greens. The process involves spiking the greens to approximately 12" inches with solid tines. This is followed up by removing a 3" inch core. The cores will be left open for a week to aerate the green then they will be filled with sand. During this time the greens will not be cut to allow the grass to grow long enough for the sand to settle below the grass height. The greens will then be cut to normal winter length (4mm).

You may also be aware that the EU banded the use of Cyrene, a chemical to deal with 'pout' (Leatherjackets), this has caused a few problems this year, the Crows and Terns have been pecking holes in the greens looking for the Leatherjackets. This year we will be using a special organic treatment to deal with the problem. Live grubs similar to eelworms will be sprayed on the greens, these attack the Leatherjackets while they are small. This treatment has to occur in October/November and is best done while the greens have been hollow cored as it allows the grubs to get down to the Leatherjacket larvae.

In the Bunkers

The bunkers will all be edged prior to the start of the season with some reshaping of the 13th and 14th bunkers if time permits. The bunker left of the 10th green will be filled in and the bank refaced. This bunker has been extremely difficult to maintain due to its position below the trees.

All bunkers will be filled with additional sand to provide at least 3" inches of depth, it has been noted this season that bunker sand depth and inconsistency caused issues.



Under the Greens

The 3rd, 5th and 8th greens are going to have new drain pipes laid to deal with the following problems:

- Drain collapse at the rear of the third green, this issue is indicated by the four damaged areas across the green. The drain repair will be carried out by hand digging the green and repairing the existing drainage pipe.
- The wet area to the front right of the 5th green. A drain will be laid stretching from the front right to the back left of the green. This will be machine dug with a mini digger and a new 4" drainage pipe laid and bedded with pea gravel.
- The soft wet area at the front of the 8th green. As the green runs back to front and the front of the green is at the bottom of a hill the natural drainage for water is to the front of the green. A drain will be machine dug into the front of the green and connected to the existing drainage system, this should catch the water off the hill and off the green.

N Wright (Greens Convenor)