



# December Course Update



At the beginning of November we started to slit tine all the main playing surfaces. Slitting is a form of aeration that creates slits in the surface which relieve soil compaction, creates channels for lateral water movement through the soil profile, aids root development and most importantly gives the grass plants oxygen. We have been slit tining the greens once a week, to try and keep the putting surfaces firm and dry heading into the winter months. However due to a large amount of rainfall on Friday 26th November (25mm) then snowfall the following day which hung around for 3 days and then further rainfall the first 2 weeks of December we hit a total rainfall of 83mm in a 2 week period and the course became very wet therefore we were unable to get machinery on the course to aerate to help try and dry it out.



The greens have held up very well so far especially the last couple of weeks where disease pressure has been very high and we have come out relatively clean with little signs of disease present at the moment and are looking well heading into the festive period. We do have scarring however from an outbreak back in October, these will be over seeded in Spring and should grow in fairly quickly. We are also happy to be back on 18 main greens after the damage caused from the bikes back in November. Overall despite being wet in places I am pleased with how the course is looking for the time of the year.



You would have noticed that we have started some much needed tree management on the golf course. We have started the removal of trees around the course for several reasons.

1. Trees too close together that don't allow either tree to develop into a natural attractive form.
2. Trees have a life expectancy and should be removed when they show signs of serious decline before they become a hazard.
3. Large tree limbs can get broken off from a storm and get lodged in the tree. They can get dislodged in another wind storm and become a danger to players. If that condition is known and not corrected it also becomes a financial liability. If the damage is substantial then removing the whole tree may be the best course of action.
4. Trees that block air movement across a green will promote fungus diseases.
5. Tree root invasion that suck the moisture and nutrients from the playing surfaces results in weak unhealthy turf. These areas can be hand watered and get extra fertilization but these are temporary measures because tree roots will out compete grass plants.

Once we have finished the tree removals and daylight hours start to improve we are hoping to get a stump grinder in on hire for a week to grind the stumps out that are left.



Summer tee markers have been bought in ready for repainting ahead of the 2022 playing season and replaced with the winter markers. We will also be repainting all hazard stakes as well to help try and improve presentation of course furniture.

Please adhere to traffic management at all times to prevent damage to the playing surfaces and please keep buggies on paths at all times.



Please repair your pitchmarks and replace your divots.



From myself and my team we would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy new year !