



BEYOND THE TEE.....

FROM DROWNING TO DRAUGHT!

Drought or dry patch?

Many greenkeepers will have experienced localised dry patches developing on their golf greens during the summer months, and the use of wetting agents to treat these areas has become standard practice in golf green maintenance.

It is important however, to distinguish dry patch from simple drought stress; Dry patch is defined as an area of turf that dries out and becomes difficult to re-wet even when copious amounts of water is applied. It is usually characterized by the presence of a water repellent soil. The source of this water repellent soil has been linked to fairy ring activity and also the breakdown of organic materials in the root zone as part of natural plant decomposition processes. Drought stress is different; there is no water repellent soil present and the dryness is a consequence of other turf problems.



Did you know?...

Scotland has hosted by far the most Open Championships at 96 in total. Elsewhere, 51 have been played in England and two in Northern Ireland. When looking at potential future Open venues, it's worth noting that Wales has never hosted an Open before.

Hello everybody and thank you for taking the time to read my Summer newsletter. Unfortunately due to not having a golf manager I was unable to send a Spring edition out, but, I am please to hear that the company have appointed a new Director of Golf and I am sure, like me, you are excited to meet him later this month. May and June have literally been chalk and cheese in terms of rainfall. May was one of the wettest on record in 100 years and June we have not had 5mm all month. There is always a fine line when watering and at this time of year. Give the greens too much and the roots become lazy, disease ridden and other issues such as fusarium take hold. Not enough and the greens turn to a light brown, go dusty and unplayable. We must remember our greens are built with a heavy sand base on a clay layer so at different times of the year this can work against us. I am pleased to welcome to my team Chris Perry, my new assistant.



The New Holland Boomer recently purchased by the Club Chris like myself joins us with a wealth of experience from both a golf and football stadium, fine turf background. Chris has worked at venues such as Aston Wood GC, Dartmouth GC, Gillingham FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Chris has already hit the ground running and got stuck straight into irrigation repairs to give us maximum pressure and coverage when watering. Congratulations must also go to Ashley Cook for his promotion to third deputy. Ash joined us in the Summer of 2020 and in my absence has gone above and beyond. Our second edition this season is Charlie Hale our landscape gardener. Charlie joins us from the Edgebaston Botanical Gardens and will solely be responsible for the driveway, car park, gardens and surrounding areas. I now have a team of six who I am very pleased with. Finally I wish to thank the Directors for purchasing the new compact tractor. Further attachments will be purchased and this will allow further work to be carried out on the greens.

Happy Golfing!

Matt Jupp, Head Greenkeeper

DIVOTTING PARTY... THANK YOU!



Thank you to all the members who turned out for our recent fairway divot party. Your help, as always, is greatly appreciated. The divot mix of sand, top dressing and seed was laid in all divots which will help the scars repair and keep the fairways nice for the remainder of the summer. Please remember to replace your divots straight away and repair pitch marks when putting.

ALL HELPERS RECEIVE A FREE PINT & A BASKET MEAL!

BEYOND THE TEE.....

WELCOME ABOARD...



Welcome Chris...
Chris Perry joined us on 1st June 23 as Matt's Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Chris has worked at many local golf courses including Moor hall, Aston Wood, Walsall GC and recently Dartmouth GC. In-between golf jobs, Chris also took up the role of Gillingham FC head groundsman and pitch groundsman at the Molineux for Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Chris is delighted to get started and likes the potential and enthusiasm that he sees within the Club.



Welcome Charlie...
We are delighted to announce the arrival of Charlie Hale, our new landscape gardener. Charlie joins us from Edgbaston Botanical gardens and with his botanist qualifications Charlie will ensure our gardens not only improve, but, they will be full of colour all year round. We couldn't get an proper picture of Charlie as he never stops working! As you leave the 18th green be sure to say hi.

Bunkers are Back!

We are pleased to say that the bunkers that were out of play or have been in poor condition of late are now back in play. The worst draining bunkers have had the drainage opened and cleaned out, large stones and weeds have been removed and 40 tonnes of sand was added this week. This will allow golfers to get under the ball and play out from the hazards. If you get a "Golden Ferret" wed love to hear about it!



Special wetting agent 007!

Why do I see white foam when the greenkeepers are hand watering?

Soil wetting agents are commonly used in the golf course industry for managing soil moisture. Recently, there has been an interest in the influence wetting agents have on



40 tonnes of bunker sand was delivered on 15th June...

the firmness characteristics of putting surfaces. To date, there has been no established relationship between wetting agents and surface firmness of putting greens. Research was conducted in St. Paul, MN, to evaluate the surface firmness impacts from 13 commercially available wetting agents applied individually or in combination to a creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) research green. Treatments were evaluated as season-long wetting agent programmes with applications every 4 weeks.

Why do our greenkeepers hand water as well as use the irrigation?



As per page 1, there is a difference between dry patch and dry stress. Hand watering allows us to target dry patch and treat localised areas of the problematic greens. We water first thing in the morning and late at night to encourage maximum soil absorption and to avoid wet leaf which causes unwanted turf decay.

HEIGHTS OF CUT....



Greens: Currently cut at 5mm to help against dry spell. Normally cut between 3mm & 4mm depending on weather and traffic.

Tees & Approaches: 12 mm

Fairways: 15mm

Semi Rough: 25mm

Rough: 50mm

PLEASE REPAIR DIVOTS & PITCHMARKS- THANK YOU!