

# Course Newsletter for Spring 2013

This is the first one of our newsletters to keep you up to date with what's going /or not going on with the golf course.

## Weather

Firstly the weather, every Course Committee's get out of jail card

This has been the coldest spring since 1974 and therefore everything is at least 3 weeks behind. In April there was no growth, and since then there has been uneven growth on the greens with the bents and fescues growing faster than the meadow grass.

The heavy and often continuous use of the old nine in the winter months has caused high stress levels on the greens making them especially prone to disease. This is visible on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> greens, with bad scaring that is only just starting to repair. Unfortunately, fusarium has reared its ugly head again and has been present on all the greens and they have had to be sprayed yet again, at a cost of around £1000.

## Tees

The tee areas are being cut and shaped to make the course look more aesthetically pleasing and for no other reason.

## Fairways

It has taken until the middle of May to see some real growth and now the fairways and rough have started to grow with a vengeance. Just to alleviate your fears that both the rough and semi rough are being cut at the same height as last year. *It has not been left to grow just because there are low handicappers on the Committee.* The fairways that were treated with wetting agent last year have produced a substantial covering of grass and its a pity that there is no money in the budget to repeat this on all the fairways. More shaping of the fairways has taken place not to penalize the high/medium handicapper, but to make the low handicapper think more about the accuracy of their drive.

## Bunkers

The bunkers are poor and inconsistent; some have too much sand and many no depth of sand at all. Each year the river holes have all the sand washed out of them, so a small working party is looking at the medium to long-term solution to the problem. The bunkers quite honestly let the course down! This report will be circulated when finalized and the cost and program of replacement/refurbishment/removal submitted to members at an open course meeting. Of course there will be at least 300 different views on what should be done and how to carry out the work. However, the Course Committee feel that a bunker refurbishment programme similar to that carried out with the greens will be to the long term benefit of the golf club. Any work required will be heavily constrained by the lack of finance that is available in the Course budget.

## Greens

The greens will start to improve as a good covering of grass has resulted from an application of fertilizer. The greens are scarified, top dressed and rolled every two weeks, and this will ensure a very good and even putting surface and once the weather has settled into a normal pattern we will reap the benefit of this preparation work.

## Course Policy Document

The Course policy document has been updated, which you can find adjacent to the folders in the upstairs hall. This should be the bible that this and future Committees and green staff will continue to follow.

Martin Statham on behalf of the Course Committee