

Greens Report June 2024

Ground conditions are starting to improve slightly, allowing us to get regular and frequent cuts on all areas of the course, which over the last few weeks has been difficult. Some areas of semi rough on the boundaries are still long, but we are gradually easing and getting them back to where they should be. May still hasn't been a good month for weather, but heavy rain was equalled with strong winds to help dry out the area. Rainfall stats are provided at the end of this report.

Nothing much extra to report this month as it's really been spent 100% getting on top of the grass and cutting regimes, that we have struggled with due to the weather. The green banksides, tee banksides are now into frequent cutting and the height has now been reduced. We are now also able to get areas of semi rough that just weren't possible a few weeks ago.

The copses have all been cut and we continue to strim the bases of the trees and avenues. Fairways are all now able to be cut on a regular basis, the heavy duty cutting and strimming including ditches has been done. Bunkers have been rotavated, after the 59mm deluge which left them flooded and washed out.

One task I had to abandon, temporarily was the intermediate, this is the 2-3 times cut around the greens at an 1-1/4". We had started to introduce this collar cut, but after the last heavy down pour we had to stop due to the machine leaving deep ruts and getting stuck, especially around 3,16th greens, below 10th and 12th green, back of 7th.

Then the tees machine broke down resulting in it blowing the PCB mother board, rendering all electric useless. John Deere (Sheriffs) had to call on site, identified the problem and replaced the motherboard. It lasted 20mins and blew the brand new one!!! The machine had to be taken away for fault find and repair. So, in the meantime, I had to convert the Intermediate machine into the tees machine.

We got our machine back from John Deere last Tuesday, so I have now converted the intermediate machine back so it can carry out its usual task in this coming week.

The greens have been sarel rolled, then wetting agent and seaweed applied. I have also applied our monthly liquid fertiliser along with iron, in our effort to reduce the moss. This is the second application in 8wks of iron. Our next step as soon as conditions allow, is to get the thatch away units on, to culturally help reduce moss. The iron is the chemical catalyst but the units are mechanical assistance. I have set the machine up and tested it on the 5th, so at my next immediate opportunity we will carry out this procedure.

Finally, I managed to demo a tractor mounted blower from Rickerby's. This leaf blower is designed to blow large areas effectively and efficiently. With areas not being able to get cut frequently, the grass being wet and having to cut fairways with the semi machine, grass was lying all over, looking extremely untidy. Unfortunately, other than failing to cut it, we had no other options.

After a delay of getting the demo machine, once it arrived the results were brilliant, I hope you all agree. All the clumped grass both on fairways and semi rough was dispersed with ease and minimal time. I sent JP video footage and a quick reasoning behind it. I explained that 3 lads, armed with our 2 backpack blowers and a fan rake attacked the 9th fairway to tidy the grass. It took from 10.30 until 3.30 to do one fairway, over £40 of fuel (collectively 15 man-hours, that could easily be used elsewhere). I put 20 litres of diesel in the tractor, I blew 7th and 9th fairways and semi rough, from the 13th tee to 10th green both fairways and semi rough in 2.5 hrs, me, on my own. I used the machine to blow the whole course over the next couple of days, without having to re-fuel. The purchase of this machine will also be a huge benefit in autumn when the leaves fall, as the way we do it now the scenario is the same. Please could the Directors give this serious consideration. Any other questions regarding this piece of equipment, feel free to ask.

