

Greens Report  
September 2024

Again, since the last greens report, the weather has been quite favourable with no major curve ball. Temperatures have been down a little for the time of year, but generally its been not too bad. We've had a few days of high winds, resulting in the trees starting to shed their leaves. What I did notice regarding the weather, their was significantly less rainfall for this month, compared to last year. Last month also seen quite a few visitors, including Shotley Bridge Cricket Club annual golf day of around 60 competitors and again the feed back was extremely positive and also the Scratch Open

One other thing I'd like to mention and commend, is the destruction of the previous Course Record. John Kennedy achieved this during the Scratch Open with a score 62 !! This is a phenomenal score, myself and the team would like to congratulate him on such an amazing score, which I'm sure will take some beating. Well Done !

|               | <b>Aug 2024</b> | Aug 2023 |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| Rainfall      | <b>36mm</b>     | 136mm    |
| Course Closed | <b>3hrs</b>     | 0 days   |
| Buggies Off   | <b>0 days</b>   | 5 days   |

Once again, this last month has been spent keeping the course in a well presented and playable condition. This along with preparation for our main greens maintenance week has taken priority. We have continued with our monthly cutting regime along with our aeration and fertiliser programme.

As mentioned in the last report, I had verti-cut the higher moss content greens, after doing this we managed to get all 18 greens done again with a double pass, prior to the top dressing. The maintenance week saw us spray the greens with our monthly feed but also with added iron, again in our effort to reduce moss. The feed would aid in recovery. So our process was to solid tine the greens with 5/8" tines to a depth of approximately 4 inches, this was followed by a Sisis TM1000 scarifier, at a depth of 1/2" on a double diagonal pass (hired in), we then followed with our verti-cut units at about 4mm, then sarel rolled. All the debris was picked up and the remains blown away.

Upon completion we topped the greens off, in preparation of the application of the dressing. All this was completed on Monday, so a huge thank you to the team for such a quick and efficient day.

We removed our Groundsman spiker and installed our disc spreader, in preparation for the dressing to be applied on the Tuesday. With a small amount of time remaining, we test ran the 5<sup>th</sup> green and applied dressing to ensure all machines were ready for the next few days. Then Tuesday and up to 10am Wednesday was spent applying approximately 30 tonnes of dressing, this was then drag matted and brushed in. The weather on Thursday, hampered us, as it was extremely wet. Trying to rub sand in, when its wet just simply doesn't work. Friday we managed to get our drag and fill brush on, this brush clears the excess sand. It was still a little damp, so wasn't as effective. We continued to brush the greens over the weekend and into this week.

Now the majority of sand has been worked into the profile, we have commenced cutting the greens. The recovery looks well, and disruption I think has been minimal. I'd like to thank Paul Charlton of

Turfcare for lending me their dresser and a tractor unit free of charge. I've had connections with Paul and his dad, Terry for many years and we have a good relationship to call in favours, so once again, thank you as it makes our process far quicker.

While the maintenance was being carried out, obviously it was all hands to the pump to get finished and we had to prioritise this, so cutting was minimal. We still managed to cut approaches, intermediate, tee's and green banksides, with some areas of heavy duty. Fairways and semi were left. As I knew fairways wouldn't be done, I booked the units in to be reground. The adjustment had come to an end as the bottom blades were worn. I had the blades in stock and dropped the cylinders off at Pelton. We picked the completed units up on Thursday, installed them and set them ready for the coming week.

We have started to prepare the winter mats, all mats have been trimmed around, edged and the weeds strimmed from the matting itself. In the next few weeks we will jet wash them down, ready for winter golf.

Once again I'd like to thank the members and The Directors for their continued support, also thank the staff for their efforts at this busy time and Turfcare for your continued help

Regards David