

COURSE REPORT

The last couple of months has seen the weather play havoc with the golf course, which in turn has resulted in the course being closed for long periods. This has been mainly because of heavy snowfall and plummeting temperatures during January, however, once the snow had cleared we encountered very wet conditions. The decision to close the golf course is not taken lightly as the last thing the green staff want after all their hard work and dedication is for the course to be closed.

Whilst on the subject of course closures, a person or persons unknown removed the "Course Closed" sign on Boxing Day. As many as 20 plus members then went out on to the course to play in extremely wet conditions and one member even used an electric trolley. The sign is there for good reason and is not to be removed, unless authorised by either Mark Stopps or Andy Darnell. Any member moving the sign will be subject to disciplinary action.

Due to the long periods of snow laying on the surface the greens have been attacked by a fungal disease called Fusarium, this disease has been treated with an application of fungicide.

The recent poor weather has given the green staff a chance to fell one of the Leylandii trees to the right of the 1st tee that was blocking out much needed light and air. The other tree in this vicinity will be felled in the next few weeks. The scrubby looking Sycamore tree, which stood next to the Oak tree on the 18th has now been removed, the stump will be taken out also and this area levelled out.

The scrubby trees growing up in the 8th pond area have been removed as they were blocking a view to the 8th green. Hedges that run along ditches on the course have been trimmed back, which will help in the maintenance of the ditches.

All of the grass cutting machinery has been serviced and the cylinders sharpened so they are ready for the new season ahead!

The winter programme has been affected slightly by the severe weather, as we have been unable to move materials around the course for the construction of the new Ladies tee on the 4th. However, during the last couple of weeks we have got back on track and the tee is now ready for turf and the installation of some sprinklers.

Work has started on the new aggregate storage bay in the Greenkeepers compound and should be complete in the next month.

Some of the benches have been brought in from the course for a rub down and protection added.

Some of tired looking steps on the tees will be replaced to freshen up the access areas to the tees; the 7th has been completed and we plan to replace the 1st and 18th steps also.

The greens will be verti-drained to a depth of 10 inches on the 22nd and 23rd March instead of hollow coring. It has been a couple of years since this was carried out and the greens are in need of some deep aeration. The holes will be left open to allow plenty of air into the roots.

PLEASE BE AWARE that back and beyond of the 7th pond is now “out of bounds” as indicated by the white posts.

Finally, members are reminded that the Course Committee welcomes suggestions and ideas. Please submit any views in writing, they will be discussed at the next meeting and you will receive a written reply regarding the Committee’s decision.

Alan Levett—Course Chairman
Mark Stopps—Course Manager