

The Course

Irrigation System

This is the original system installed in 1991. We have been experiencing problems this year with it, which is mainly due to its age. All tees and greens are covered by this system, but not the fairways. The system broke down last month, which meant that the greens and tees needed to be manually watered. The main concern was of course, the greens and these were given top priority.

Unfortunately with all the other work required to keep the course in a good condition, the tees had to be sacrificed. This led to most of them drying out and looking an unseemly brown. However with the return of rain they soon recovered.

As most of you are aware, there is no pump for the lake between the 6th and 7th. It is intended to have generator pump water, when required, into the existing irrigation system at night. This will replenish the water used earlier in the day. We expect to have this up and running for 2010.

Agronomist

The Agronomist is due within the next 3 weeks, to take soil samples from the greens and tees. This will show us the thatch and root depth, along with the quality of soil. This will allow us to determine what measure need to be taken to ensure the greens and tees are kept at the high standard the members expect. It is intended to have a Committee member present while the inspection is made. More detail is given in the Greens report.

General

The constant wet weather this summer brings its own special problems. The weeds are growing in and around the course, however a dry period is required in order to kill the weeds after weed killer is laid – otherwise the weed killer washes away and loses its effect.

All courses are currently suffering from the growth of clover. Again we await a sustained dry period. The growth is stimulated by the rain, combined with the comparative warmth of the summer.

Divot repairs

The Committee has asked whether it would be beneficial for members to take a bag of soil/seed around with them, to fill any divots they come across. Any help would be welcome. Having discussed this with Committee members it is proposed to have a frame made to hold the soil bags. This will be placed, together with the bags, beside a tee, by the green staff. Another frame will be placed between the green and the next tee to collect the bags. These would be moved around the course as necessary.

Bunkers

Rakes

The green staff have requested that all rakes be left wholly in the bunker with the head of the rake pointing towards the hole, as shown on the right.

It should be within easy reach of someone standing beside the bunker



As most members are aware, there is an on-going problem with the bunkers on the course. The two main problems being the number of stones and lack of sand in the bunkers.

The staff has been dragging the bunkers for stones over the past month. This is a tiring and time consuming task, but needs to be done. This will not cure the problem as the stones come from the face and sides of the bunker as it wears away. They can also come from the base of the bunker, having formed part of the drainage in it.

To remedy this, the edges and faces of all the bunkers need to be re-edged and re-shaped to blend in with the grass. This is being done gradually throughout the year.

Some bunkers have poor drainage, due to the surrounding ground. This leads to water gathering in them, and when they dry out, they end up hard and crusty.

The sand from some bunkers is very thin in places, especially the middle. This is mainly down to players raking the bunker incorrectly, with the majority of the sand ending up at the edge instead of remaining in the centre.