

Greenkeepers report September 2018

So, with summer heading south and the hot temperatures have gone 2018 has proven to be a tough year with the record-breaking temperatures, it makes the late snow feel a distant memory and has been a year to set new benchmarks. But now it's time to get some recovery after the stresses of the summer. Though mainly the course held up well there has been some areas that have suffered more than others.

The Greens have been well and truly tested this year with the hot summer we have experienced along with the added pressure of Type 2 fairyrings turning to type 1 very quickly, Leatherjackets and Cut worms all causing damage. All these additional pressures are no longer realistically in our control with the products previously available to control them are now removed for amenity turf use. That said the irrigation system has held strong with over 4000m³ of water being used over season compared to 2500m³ last summer giving one less stress to contend with. Our Greens renovations have just been completed where we cored, collected, scarified, overseeded, topdressed, fertilised, ironed and with raising the height of cut the greens are recovering quickly. Though some areas will need some extra attention we are confident to get good cover back in time for the autumn.

Most the Tees have kept their grass cover well and after some fertilising they have bounced back well. We are looking into starting to install some irrigation on the Tees starting with our most problematic ones come late autumn when we can have the guarantee the system will not be required.

The Fairways really did take a hit but with some recent rain most are coming back well with some exceptions like the 2nd. These areas have been fertilised to boost recovery but it's looking likely that some areas will need to be overseeded when conditions are favorable.

Aprons and collars again suffered, and these are due to be cored and seeded to continue to improve these areas.

Drainage has been repaired in the 6th fairway bunker and the 16th fairway bunker. Currently investigating some others that prove to be a problem to improve as many as possible.

Going into autumn we have already got an extensive job list to get started on with the bunker work on the 2nd and looking to reshape and improve the 13th greenside bunker making it more manageable. Paths to be extended, drainage to be inspected and improved upon to try and control wetness in the winter and minimise wear as much possible. We still have a lot of clearance down the 1st and 2nd tee to highlight the brook.

Jeff Taylor

Head Greenkeeper