

HEAD GREENKEEPER'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

Course Summary

Hope everybody has had a good start to the New Year.

I realise that from a golfing point of view the snow and hard frosts have impacted the way the course has been set up for play. We have had to use winter greens when necessary, several holes have been closed due to heavy snow and we have had to be creative with the re-positioning of some holes, but our aim is always to keep the course open for the members to play even if it's not the full 18 holes.

Winter Work

13th Green

The 13th green regularly suffers from soft condition in winter. I am very much aware that the positioning of this green, at the bottom of a gully, does not help the situation. Drainage already exists on the periphery of the green but not on the green itself. Five drainage pipes have been installed on the green and connected to a positive outlet lower down the fairway. As proved successful on the 14th and now the 1st this should help dry the green so that it can be used more in winter.

2nd Green

We have just started installing a similar drainage system on the 2nd green to deal with a similar situation as the 13th. These drains will run out of the back of the green using the natural incline.

Environmental News

Bee Hives

The area where the bee hives are to be located has been levelled ready for installation of the hives.

Foxes

The fox population is likely to increase as I spotted 2 foxes mating near the 15th tee, not something you see every day.

BIRDS	SIGHTED	DATE
Goldcrests	5th fairway and 6th tee	2008
Reed Warbler	Wet pond on 6th fairway	2007
Green Chested Woodpecker	15th pond	2007
Owl (type unknown)	Next to 2nd tee	June 2008
Sparrow Hawk	Back of the 13th green	July 2008
Male and female Pheasant	Under the beech trees on 18th fairway	July 2008
Heron	15th pond	2008
Kestrel	Back of the 11th Green	Sept 2008

MAMMALS	SIGHTED	DATE
Fox	Between 1st and 18th fairway	Oct 2008
	Near the 15th tee	Jan 2009
Roe Deer	Sheltering in trees alongside 11th fairway also 18th fairway	2007 / 2008
Grey Squirrels	Trees at back of 13th tee	2008
Stoats	Crossing the maintenance track side of 11th fairway	June 2008

Other news

9th Toilet

The ladies toilet at the 9th has had to be closed due to lack of water in the system. Although the tank supplying the system was filled before winter a leak in the system has caused it to run out and we are unable to fill it until spring.

Moles

Malc the Mole Catcher has been busy focusing on the mole problem which this year seems worse than ever. Although the snow and frost restricted Malc it doesn't seem to affect the moles who are increasingly productive. However, this is a battle we are determined to win and Malc will be on the course a couple of times each week.

If anybody has their own mole problem I am happy to pass on Malc's contact details.