

HEAD GREENKEEPER'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

Course Summary

We have had very little respite from rain in July. The predicted heat wave due this summer has so far only lasted one week. The result of these weather conditions is a thickening of the seed head rough which we are having to cut back in selected areas but good growth on the fairways which are holding balls better than in previous years.

We have had several 'wash-outs' in the bunkers and an extra 20 tons of sand have been distributed throughout the bunkers in the last month.

We are now into the major competition season and all work is aimed at presenting the course at its best both visually and from a playing viewpoint. The greens have recovered from the fusarium but are now being impacted by heavy rainfall producing a softer surface than we would like.

However, if the weather is on our side, I feel that the course is close to being at its best.

Course Maintenance

New gas pipe

In order to supply a dedicated gas supply to the club, a pipe has been installed by British Gas down the 1st fairway from the 1st tee to the turning circle.

The majority of the disruption has been kept away from general play but where this could not be avoided the House Chairman has ensured that British Gas took every precaution to minimise the damage to the area of play. Due to this approach the disturbance has almost fully recovered.

Restricted access to the back of the 1st green

The track behind the 1st green, next to the telephone masts, has in the past attracted a lot of litter from people parking in this area. Although it is necessary to allow access to maintain the masts, we have now chained off the entrance to the track to restrict access. Hopefully this will keep the area tidier as golfers walk off the 1st green.

Golf course presentation

Whilst our work priority will always be concentrated on the quality of the greens, tees and fairways we are also now focusing on improving the appearance of other areas around the course e.g. paths, ponds. This focus on the finer detail will hopefully raise the standard of the course presentation in general.

Environmental News

Rabbits on the course

Some members have expressed concern that we are thinning out the rabbit population on the course. We assure members that we are not attempting to eliminate all rabbits but there is increasing damage to bunkers and around the base of trees which means there is a need to manage the population.

Course wildlife

Surprisingly no new sightings of wildlife have been reported since my last newsletter. Please keep your eyes open and let me know of any new sightings

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
Pheasant (male and female)	Edges of the practice ground	March 2009
Heron	15th pond	2008
	6th wet area	April 2009
Kestrel	Back of the 11th Green also sat on a fence post back of 14th tee	Sept 2008
		March 2009
MAMMALS	SIGHTED	DATE

Fox	Between 1st and 18th fairway	Oct 2008
	Near the 15th tee	Jan 2009

Roe Deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sheltering in trees alongside 11th fairway •also 18th fairway •1st fairway 	2007 / 2008 March 2009
Grey Squirrels	Trees at back of 13th tee	2008
Stoats	Crossing the maintenance track side of 11th fairway	June 2008
Field Mice	Edge of practice ground	October 2008

POND LIFE	SIGHTED	DATE
Roach	15th pond	March 2009
Newt	7th fairway near 7th pond	March 2009