

## Greens Committee – Spring Newsletter 2010

### Greens Update

1. Initially we told you that we would trial only 6 greens with the Graden Sand Injection process, but we decided to go for all 18, using a large portion of our budget. We hope you agree that it has been a great success so far. The grass has knitted extremely well, there is a continuity of surface that you would not get with hollow tinning, and the under surface feels completely sand based which helps to hold the ball on the greens and allows for improved drainage. Scott McKittrick, our course manager, is very pleased and would like to do this again at the end of the year - we agree and the committee are looking at 'how to finance it'.
2. We told you that we hoped to complete at least one green with a new drainage system where 3 inch diameter rods are bored into the green at 1 metre distances apart. Unfortunately, past captain Tony O'Brien informed us that this project was no longer possible He had just received a report from the British Geological Society which showed that the whole of the golf course is BUILT on ROCK. It would be impossible to drill into this type of rock. He showed us a geological map of the area to confirm. It is bad news, but at least it saved us finding out at a cost.
3. However, we have not given up. A new green, laid to PGA standards, costs £12,000 - £15,000. At this moment in time, we do not have the finances to afford even one green. Instead, Scott would like to try laying a main drain himself, down the centre of our poorest greens, and then have 4 or 5 herring bone drains feeding in from each side. The main drain would then be continued away from the green itself. We would like to try this out at the end of the season. Further details will follow in our next newsletter.

### Work Completed since last newsletter

1. New Shrub Bed completed adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup>. tee. If members agree that this adds to the cosmetics of the course, we hope to continue this process on other parts of the course.
2. Bunkers – more sand has been added to several bunkers, in particular to those on the left of 14, and the far side of the left bunker at 16. These were pointed out to us by members and hopefully we have listened.
3. New path at 14<sup>th</sup>.
4. Golpla / Astro turf added to various parts of the course e.g. as you cross bridge at 1<sup>st</sup>. More areas require attention – these will be attended to as part of the oncoming winter programme.
5. New Notice Board outside shop. This will prove more beneficial in winter months to let you know more information on e.g. course closed / buggies on / 6 greens off today etc.
6. Shoe Cleaner re-sited and, at the moment, working all of the time.
7. New posts / rope behind the 1<sup>st</sup>. tee.
8. Turf behind 1<sup>st</sup>. Tee
9. Additional path at bottom slope of 15<sup>th</sup>. In his winter programme, Scott hopes to take away the astro path and make a proper job of this new path.
10. Distance markers from the tee re-measured, as well as those to the front of the greens.
11. Scott has taken on a lad from the Government based scheme. This is free and will last for 6 months. Now means that GUR areas & divots can be done more regularly.

### **To be completed over the next few weeks**

1. Agronomist visit will take place in June.
2. Another new bell at 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. New centenary towels for Ball cleaners.
4. We have ordered new pin position indicators for those greens where you cannot see the bottom of the pin. They will be positioned below the flag to indicate whether the pin is at the front, middle or back of the green.
5. We have 36 new Granite Tee Plates. The Handicap Committee are currently reviewing the Stroke Indexes of the course – some do seem to be out of place. Once they come back to us, we will have the plates sand blasted and this will add to the improved cosmetics of the course.
6. Hopefully, new treated bark on the flower beds surrounding the clubhouse.

### **Now it's your turn to help**

- 1. We can only keep the greens in good condition if you are prepared to repair your pitch marks. We are asking all members to repairs 2 pitch marks on every green, whether you made one or not.**
- 2. Please do not take trolleys between the bunkers & the greens.**
- 3. If you play midweek during the day, please be considerate to the Greens staff as they try to complete their work. Most times they are wearing Ear Defenders and will not hear you shout 'four' – please take this into account before playing your shot.**