

Course Report June & July 2018

The months of June and July were the summer we were finally waiting for with hot temperatures and low growth due to a lack of moisture in the ground. This made it easier to maintain the course especially the rough

Greens

The greens were cut almost every morning for the past two months unless they were fertilised or sanded. The putting surfaces received 4-3-4 on June 19th (1\2 a bag per green) which thickened up the sward of grass and gave great colour. They were sanded on Tuesday 19th of July to provide smoother surfaces. The green height was dropped prior to the Captains Prize to put some speed on them and will be raised as we come into the autumn. During the dry spell the green were getting between 10-15mins of water each night automatically and other areas were been hand watered.

Tees and Approaches

These areas were been cut twice a week when possible. Days prior to the dry spell the Tees and approaches were fertilised with 28-3-15 which is a six month product which will see us through to winter time. It is only in recent weeks we have seen the benefit of this as the damp conditions have allowed the granules to fully breakdown and have our areas lush and grassy.

Fairways and Rough

The fairways are cut twice a week and are drag matted when dirty. Some of these received fertiliser earlier in the season and are lush with grass leaving them heavy and harder to cut such the 6th and 13th. The rough is cut once a week and heavier areas twice. Thankfully with the good weather the grass was not growing like normal which made it easier on the golfer as there was not much

lying grass about and easier for the machine to get through it work load. On the 29th of June our machine arrived from Mid West Mowers, a John Deere 2653B all purpose mower. This mower can be used to cut Tees, Approaches, Fairways, Semi-Rough and Rough. We are currently applying it to the Semi-Rough and surrounds of greens which gives great definition between the cuts. These areas go from 16mm-25mm-52mm which can be seen clearly throughout the course. We are cutting two runs of Semi-Rough around each fairway which also is clearly defined and provides good aesthetics to the course. As we are cutting these areas a bit lower than the Toro we have had to fertilise to thicken them up which has turned out quite nice.

Machinery and Miscellaneous

On the Machinery front thankfully our Rough machine arrived and is providing a good cut and leaving the course quite clean. The Toro had been leaving a lot of grass so new blades were fitted and height of cut adjusted to allow the course to be more playable and presentable. All rollers on the fairway mower were fitted with new bearings; the Toro was fitted with a new water pump and fan belt and bearings done in small front rollers. The greens mower and tees machine received new sole plates to enhance the quality of cut to all surfaces. The oil filter was changed on the Toro and oil change completed.

The bunkers were edged and strimmed twice a month and all edges of hazards strimmed and sprayed with line marking where appropriate. The big area right of the first was sprayed with growth regulator in early June which has kept the dirty look off it and took some work from the machines.

Hopefully the good spell of weather continues in autumn and all can enjoy the golf season that remains before the weather changes

Thanks

Padraic Clince