

Three Rivers Golf Members

Course Work Update – May 2021



The rainfall recorded from November to March was extremely high, we actually saw more rain over this period than we normally see over a 12-month period. The King's greens suffered quite heavily with Fusarium Patch disease over the early winter, even though we invested £1,000's in fungicides over the autumn and winter months. The recent, much wetter winters have proven very difficult for the current crop of fungicides to work effectively.

Before we reopened, our focus was on getting the greens in the best possible position for the spring via renovations (which are listed below). The problem has been that April was both extremely cold and very dry. We recorded only 2% of our usual rainfall in April and the average mean temperatures has been more akin to February. This meant that with very cold ground temperatures the greens still haven't "woken up" like they normally would have been by the beginning of May. Consequently, without normal spring growth, recovery has been much, much slower than we anticipated.

With rain and milder weather, the greens are getting back on target and should be back to their best by the end of May, beginning of June.

Works undertaken on the greens so far have included:

- ✓ Hollow coring – to aid balance in the soil and to remove thatch
- ✓ Heavy over-seeding – with two different species to aid recovery of scarred areas
- ✓ Fertilizing – with a spring starter fertilizer to boost the nutrient count after the long, wet winter
- ✓ Bio simulants – to aid with recovery and strength plant
- ✓ Wetting agents – to build up the profile for better water absorption for the drier, hotter months ahead
- ✓ Verti-cutting – to start to true up the surface by removing lateral growth and so creating a smoother surface
- ✓ Top-dressing – greens have been top dressed twice with sand to true-up the surface

The greens have come on leaps and bounds over the past 4 weeks, they still have a little more recovery to go, but we have more work planned, over-seeding, top-dressing, Verti-cutting, etc, to continue to improve then over the coming weeks.

During the week starting 17th May, we plan to reduce the height of the greens to 3.5mm, which is where we are normally at from June onwards.

We are confident that over the summer, they will be some of the best in Essex.

On other areas, Tees have been aerated and seeded, along with a slow release fertilizer recently applied to aid growth over the next 3 months. The approaches have also received the treatment on both courses.

The fairways have just received their first treatment of fertilizer, seaweed and growth regulator last week to aid recovery and help thicken up the sward.

The irrigation is getting attention and repairs are being under taken ahead of the summer months for optimum performance

Bunkers have been edged, strimmed and weeded.

The Club has also invested in some new machinery, with two new ride-on greens mowers, and a 15ft wide rough mower to add to the fleet. This will result in an even better cut and finish.

We hope you all see the work that's been undertaken during this difficult period and enjoy the golf season.

Many thanks

Paul Edwards, head of the greenkeeping team