

# Greens Newsletter

January 2021

A Happy New Year to all and hope you are all safe and well but sadly missing your golf.

We are now currently on our third lockdown from golf and this has and will affect our business, to generate savings and to help to protect our club, once again Greenstaff numbers are down due to furlough and some planned winter projects have been put on the back burner for now.

With limited staff numbers, essential maintenance is our main objective, keeping the turf healthy and manageable for a quick return to golf.

January weather conditions have been colder and drier than last year with 38mm rainfall as I write on the 26<sup>th</sup> day, comparable to 75mm in 2020.

Drier conditions have enabled a mid-winter mow of all surfaces and an application of products to harden the turf from winter disease. Autumn treatment for leatherjacket grubs and overseeding of the badly affected fairways has been largely successful with only a few untreated areas, due to restrictions on quantity of chemical supply showing signs of damage at present, fingers crossed!

This time of year is a good opportunity to sharpen and service all machinery ready for the coming season we are currently wading our way through this project and if you haven't got round to doing this at home a good way to spend some time in the garage or shed with your garden tools at home.

Annual work to maintain our stock of trees is limited due to staff levels this season but on your return there will be noticeable jobs completed.

Grass reinforcement material used to link the new tarmac buggy paths has not been a success as planned. In wet areas buggy traffic has brought mud to the surface, although passable due to the reinforcement, are unsightly and not pleasant to walk on. In recent week's mud and slop has been cleaned away in bad areas but will return on further use. How do we remedy this you ask? Short term, as the grass grows through and knits the path together this will help on the drier stretches. Medium and long term on the wet soft areas a solid compacted dry base topped with a suitable product needs to be established. Without a solid dry base any topping product suggested from tarmac to woodchips or sand will return to mud and slop. These lengths of paths will be highlighted and subject to club resources a permanent solid base path construction is planned.

Stay safe and well

Rob Mabb