



Greenkeepers Blog

November 2021

October saw some mixed weather conditions throughout the month, with some periods of heavy rain and temperatures fluctuating from the high teens to the low single figures, particularly in the last few days.

Having said that, soil temperatures remained favourable for the end of our overseeding program, and this has now been completed for this season.

While extremely time consuming, the results of the overseeding program are already very positive with surrounds filling in well and an exceptional coverage of grass on greens and other playing surfaces.

To maintain these surfaces at the best possible condition, **We Need Your Help.**

Pitchmarks

Pitchmarks have become much more noticeable in the last couple of weeks as the green surfaces soften a little due to the weather conditions.

These not only look unsightly and drastically effect playability, but if unrepaired, they create a seed bed for poa annua and other weed grasses to infiltrate the fescue sward. We are endeavouring to keep the sward as pure as possible, and by each golfer taking 15-30 seconds to fix some pitch marks properly on each green, it will make our job a lot easier and your golfing experience, more enjoyable.

On average, a properly repaired pitch mark will recover and not be noticeable within 2 days. **An unrepaired pitchmark will take 3 weeks to recover** and even longer now due to the cooler temperatures.



The pictures here show the first green, front and back on Monday morning 1st November 2021.

Each golf ball is placed on a pitchmark which has either not been properly repaired or no attempt at all made to fix it.

In total, there were 82 pitchmarks on one of the smallest greens on the golf course.

Please, please ensure you bring a pitch mark repairer with you, and if you can't find your own pitchmark, fix 2 or 3 others.

Divot repair

Divot repair is just as important particularly as growth slows down and recovery time is extended.

Over the coming weeks we will be marking off certain high traffic areas on fairways as GUR in a bid to allow these areas to recover. Please respect these areas and continue to fill your divots.

Divot bags are provided at the first tees and at numerous other stations throughout the course. Please make sure you bring a bag with you each time you go out to play.

We thank you for your cooperation in assisting us with these matters.

It's your course and we want to make it as enjoyable as possible for everyone.

Winter Programme

Our Winter works are scheduled to commence next week which will see us working towards improving the flow of traffic around both courses.

We hope to achieve this by adding and extending some cart paths near green and tee complexes.

The aim of these works is to reduce the amount of pinch points and worn areas throughout the courses which in turn lead to grass loss and unfavourable playing conditions.

While these works are being carried out, there maybe small areas roped off, but there will be very little disruption to everyday golf.

Other regular Winter maintenance work has also begun in earnest this week.



Deep rough removal



**New Assistant Links Superintendent Dermot McCallion
pot seeding tight areas around bunkers**



Sean Gorman putting the first hand cut of the season on the Greens, which will help reduce heavy machine traffic and compaction in the softer winter conditions.

From myself and the rest of the Greens team, thank you for all the positive feedback and cooperation over the last few months. It makes all the hard work even more worthwhile.

Mark Doyle

Links Superintendent

