



Greens Committee Update February 2022

As we say goodbye and good riddance to storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin we look back on all the really good work that our Links Superintendent, Mark, and his team have got through over the winter period that will add to our golfing experience and enjoyment in the coming months.

Members will notice many new pathways around the course which improves definition and reduces wear and tear on fairways and approaches. Also very evident is the amount of unsightly rough areas that have been cut back and tidied up around the 7th, 9th and 14th holes which will improve the aesthetics of the golf course.

We are currently focusing our efforts on the 11th Ladies tee, 10th tee and the 16th tee.

All close mown surfaces, Greens, Aprons, Fairways and Tees on the main course have now been verti drained and we will be moving on to the Burrow Greens and Surrounds this week. This practice is vital to the health of the surfaces as it promotes root development and recovery from compaction.

Fairways, particularly on the Burrow course have a lot of moss in them, so these are currently being treated with iron and then will be spring raked and fertilised in order to establish a more consistent playing surface.



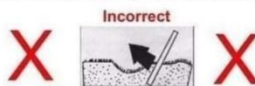
Care for "YOUR" Course

On a positive note, due to the mild weather, we are seeing some nice recovery in the fairways particularly in the catchment and high traffic areas. This is in no doubt, down to the use of the mats, but also due to the cooperation of the members, so thank you for your efforts and please continue to do so.

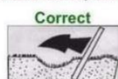
Pitch Mark Repair Process

Help to maintain the condition of the greens by repairing your own and at least one other pitch mark per green.

There is a right and wrong way to repair pitch marks



Pulling up with the repair tool will bring sand and roots to the surface, thus damaging the root structure and causing the mark to heal very slowly



Pull the sides of the pitch mark toward the centre and then flatten gently by tapping it down with your putter. This will close the hole and not cause damage to the root structure, helping the pitch mark to heal quickly.

A pitch mark repaired within 10 minutes of being made will fully recover in 3 days. A poorly repaired pitch mark or one left for a day before being repaired will take over a week to heal

A big, big negative over the past few weeks though has been the massive amount of unrepaired pitch marks. After our last message about pitch mark repair, we had a very good month or 6 weeks, but since the start of 2022, members seem to have gotten out of the habit of even looking for them, let alone repairing them.

In recent weeks, following a busy weekend of golf, or a Tuesday/Wednesday competition, the greens have been left in a horrendous state. On any green last Thursday morning, there were a minimum 30 unrepaired pitch marks. We again ask members and their guests to repair their pitch marks and fill in their divots using the divot mix bags available on the first tee box.



Irrigation Update

The really good news is that the first two parts of Phase One of this highly important project are now almost completed at a cost of €320,000 which was fully funded by a combination of prudent financial management and a Sports Capital grant of €54,000.

1. The well points have been developed and tested. Tests show very positive results, with the eight well points producing approximately 750,000 litres of water per day. With the existing well field at Harpers producing 350,000 litres per day, our original target output of a million litres per day has been achieved and in fact exceeded.
2. The civil works, involving trenching and the installation of water pipes and ducting, have also been completed.



The final part of Phase One, involving mechanical and electrical engineering, will begin in the coming weeks and once completed, will give us a secure supply of water for the irrigation of both courses.



As members are aware, the delivery of water onto the greens, aprons, fairways, and tees of the two courses still presents a major problem, due to many deficiencies in the system network, valves, and sprinklers. Providing a fully working automated irrigation delivery system will be the focus of Irrigation Phase Two.

We aim to provide information re Phase Two to members in the coming months.

Golf News

The Winter league is dominating golfing matters at present with a very large entry of 112 members. Last weekend saw round 4 taking place and despite pretty severe weather conditions many members braved the elements and returned decent scores for their respective teams. The final day of the Winter league is scheduled for completion with a gala finale on Sunday 13th March.

Following on from that final day we have our St Patricks weekend Open competitions as well as the Captains Drive In which takes place on Saturday 19th March.

Our Links Superintendent, Mark Doyle, has advised the committee that (subject to weather conditions) golfers will no longer need to use fairway mats and that the full 18 holes will be back in play from the 17th March onwards.

