

GREENS UPDATE MARCH 2016

Maintenance week began Monday 29th February all greens have been hollow tined and topped dressed with 50/55 tonnes of top dressing. We used approximately 3 tonnes per green. This year for the first time we have included the aprons. The tees have been hollow tined and top dressing is in progress. Some members have asked why the back 9 couldn't have been tined and top dressed the week before. The reasons are as follows: The date for this was put in the calendar in September and is the first week the staff are on summer hours. All 5 staff are required in this week, no holidays are allowed that week or the following week. The top dressing is a special mix and has to be ordered 7/10 days prior to use and is delivered in 20 tonne loads, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, as the mix needs to be kept dry. Had we been able to bring this all forward by one week we would still have been unable to work on the back 9 as it was closed and unacceptable to all this heavy traffic.

Starting Monday 7th March we have attempted to cut some of the fairways on the front 9. We cut 3 fairways on Monday with the semi rough mower. This was not very successful. Tuesday we raised the cut on the fairway mower to 20 mm and have mown several more fairways with more success. Again some members have asked why we couldn't have mown before. Basically the ground has been too wet. Chilwell has 6 to 9 inches of top soil below which is a band of clay and below that gravel. The problem is the rain seeps through the soil and stops at the clay and so just sits in the soil. The only way the soil will dry out is by evaporation. With the amount of rain we've had it just keeps topping up the soil, making it very soft and slippery. The fairway mower weighs over 1.5 tonnes and moving on this surface is difficult. It loses traction and skids. When the grass is cut it is taken through a pipe to the back of the machine and is expelled. During these wet conditions the pipe gets clogged up and backs up to the cutter units, this makes the cutting very difficult.

When working on the bridges with the green artificial covering we have found that the bridge on the 8th is rotting, so in the next week or two this bridge will be completely re-built and widened. It would be appreciated if you could show consideration to the volunteers and staff when they are building this bridge.

Andrew Down Greens Chairman