

## **July greenkeepers blog update from Matthew**

A month that has been ruled by the weather. Comparing this year to last year, is night and day. Last year the course was burnt off, the greens were watered every night and balls were rolling that extra 20-30 yards on fairways. This year we have the complete opposite, with balls getting no run when they are hitting soft fairways and balls plugging when hitting the greens. Unfortunately a lot of it is out of our hands, with the downpours we have been getting. The greens have coped with the weather reasonably well, considering the lack of aeration we have managed to get done due to the machines having had faults. The greens are pretty firm and with the heavy showers, the water is sitting easier on the green but still draining away pretty well.

With all that being said, we have managed to maintain our usual cutting routine from tees to greens. With the wetter weather comes more mess from the grass clippings, as we are not getting a dry cut which obviously leaves less mess. The tractor-blower only works well when the clippings are dry and can blow them into dust, which hasn't happened much this month. All the bunkers got strimmed, flymoed and weeded during the month. We have also verti-cut and cut the greens, which always makes a big difference to the playing surface. The sprinkler heads have also been trimmed so these are visible again - with the hope of keeping on top of them. We have managed to get the Air2G2 out to pump some air into the greens.

We also had the opening competition of the 2019 course, which again was a wet one. However, everyone has been giving positive feedback on the course and facilities, which can only get better.

After this wet month and getting caught in all these downpours/showers, I've decided to invest in a water gauge. This means that I can give everyone readings of how much water has actually fallen and compare them with other months or years to come.

I apologise once again for no photos, but the laptop is away getting fixed and I'm having to do the updates on my phone.