

SPRING MAINTENANCE

GREENS

The greens will be star tined in early March to encourage tillering of the grass plant prior to fertilising with lawn sand. This will assist the control of moss and give the greens a start prior to the beginning of the main nitrogen based application of fertiliser at the end of the month. Light scarification will be applied to the greens immediately after the treatment with lawn sand to remove the weakened moss and lateral grasses. In the first week of the month of April the greens will be verti-drained (deep tined) followed by hollow tining. Immediately following this operation an application of seaweed meal will be administered. The greens will also be overseeded with a fescue and bent mix to encourage the development of new, fine grasses during this application of new grasses the greens will be topped dressed and lightly rolled completing the operations. The reason for using **Seaweed Meal** it is because it is an easily spreadable natural soil conditioner and it will improve soil structure and help with the alleviation of compaction increasing the root development and nutrient uptake of the plant.

FAIRWAYS

When ground conditions allow the 10th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 16th will be scarified. This is necessary due to the high content of moss and weed grasses. Immediately after this these fairways in particular along with others lacking in nutrients will be fertilised using a high nitrogen slow release fertiliser. I would hope this application will last up to six months, depending on weather conditions. As the growth really commences fairways will be sprayed with a selective weed killer for the control of daisies and broad leaved weeds.

TEE AREAS & APPROACHES

During the month of March all the tees will be scarified, to remove moss and lateral growing weed grasses. This will help to encourage tillering and encouragement of the necessary rye grasses which are sown on the tees. Immediately after this scarification a high nitrogen slow release fertiliser will be applied and should last up six months, weather permitting. This fertiliser will also be applied to the approaches around the greens. As the growth really commences the tees and approaches will be sprayed with a selective weed killer for the control of daisies and broad leaved weeds.

SPRING MAINTENANCE (contd)**AERATION WORK**

Verti-draining work has taken place on the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th and 17th fairways. These were fairways that were fairly wet and required some soil change. This task was completed by top dressing with 150 tonnes of sand. This programme will be ongoing in the future during the early autumn and spring months. This task is being carried out on these fairways to improve the soil permeability thus reducing flooding. It also encourages truer running fairways. This operation of aeration has also been carried out on walk off areas and selected tees to ease compaction and encourage tillering.

WORM CONTROL

Casting worms are still a problem in areas around the course and will be treated accordingly.

PATHS

Work on paths will continue when required ie: after heavy rainfall.

ROPING SYSTEM

There will still be a need for for this system in some areas around the course namely the first hole where ongoing repair and redesigning work is continuing.

BUNKERS

It is likely that topping up of bunkers will take place in March/April in preparation for the new season.