

COURSE NEWSLETTER



MATLOCK GOLF CLUB

MAY 2009

WEATHER

The golf course saw 47.5mm of rain in March with 20mm falling on the 3rd; the course was also closed on the 25th for flooding.

April saw 35mm of rain with 20mm falling on the 27th. Better weather was enjoyed in April with the day time temperature hitting 18c at times but cold night time temperatures lead to some ground frosts.

Collars and aprons

Collars and aprons have now been introduced to the course setup, all greens will have collars but greens 6, 12 and 13 will not have an apron do to the nature of the ground in front of the greens. All collars and aprons are currently being mown at a height of 11mm.

Tees

In March the tees were hand mown several times to get the height down and save rutting from heavier machinery. The tees were also treated for casting worms to help prevent smearing of soil, weed infestation and damage to mower blades. The tees are currently being mown once a week at 11mm but this may change as the growth increases.

The new tees are currently being mown with a hand mower twice a week with a reduction in height of cut 1mm per week to get them down to the same height as the normal tees. Tee yardage markers have also been put back in their correct place on the new tees according to GPS. The new tees have also been top dressed by hand and divoted on a regular basis.

New divot bins have been put out on all the par 3 tees and are regularly refilled together with divoting. The members should also be congratulated for their part in this as well, please keep up the good work. The greens staff are still moving the tee markers daily to help with wear and tear.

GREENS

Growth on the greens is still slow but mowing has increased to almost 5 times a week on a regular basis. Height of cut on the greens has been reduced to 5mm. The golf club has leased a new greens triple mower from Toro (model 3250D) with three wheel drive to allow for the terrain at Matlock. This can be seen pictured below.



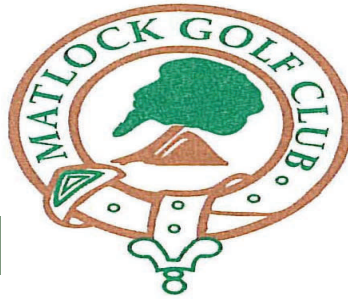
Work on the 13th and 17th greens has continued with more Verti draining, hollow core tining and heavy top dressing by hand. A heavy roller was hired in and used on boards to help level the surface further. More heavy top dressings will follow when more growth is present to get the playing surface back as soon as possible.

New hole cups, pins and flags have been put out for the start of the playing season. This year Longcliffe have kindly sponsored the flags.

Lawn sand was applied to all greens and collars in March to help with growth, colour, and moss control. This was followed by an application of sugar solution to help prevent seed head production of the meadow grass in the greens.

The irrigation system was setup in March and used in April on all greens and tees during the dryer spells to stop the surface becoming crusty.

Holes continue to be moved three times a week and for every major competition.



FAIRWAYS



In March fairways were being mown every other week with the exception of the topside of the 5th which was done weekly, as the growth has increased so has the mowing to once a week.

A new Toro fairway mower has been leased by the golf club and is currently mowing at 14mm; this height of cut will not change now throughout the playing season. This can be seen pictured here.

Liquid fertiliser has been applied to the slower growing fairways to help bring them along (fairways 3, 13, 16, 17).

Rough

A first cut will be reintroduced to the course around greens, tees and sides of fairways with work on this having been already started. This may take a little time to establish. All rough is currently being mown weekly and the islands of rough will be mown out shortly.

Other work

Repairs to the 18th path have been made where a mole dug a hole under the Dura turf. The drain in the practice bunker was dug out as well as a base for a practice net. The bunker is now in use with a small amount of work needed to fully complete it. The practice net will be erected shortly. There has been some badger damage on the 1st rough, 2nd rough and 10th medal tee this has been put back several times; all has been quiet for the last couple of weeks. The benches were put out for Easter Bank Holiday. The drain in the 13th-14th bottom has now been completed and the bridge reinstated. The drain work on the 11th has been completed but remains GUR until the turf is ready for play. Repairs to the drain at the topside of the 3rd fairway have also been made. Trees were taken out in this area as their roots were blocking the pipe work. Bunkers continue to be raked on a daily basis.

Apologies

I apologise for the Easter weekend as there may have been an error in judgment on my behalf, this will not happen again.

REQUESTS TO MEMBERS

PITCH MARKS

There has been a great improvement seen in the number of pitch marks unrepaired on the Greens. A BIG thank you to all Members, please continue!!

Tees

New divot boxes are now in place on the Tees, please could ALL Members remember to use the mixture to fill their divot holes, especially on the new Teeing areas on 1st, 8th & 15th.