



Dear Fellow Members

Course Maintenance Update.

The weather is almost perfect for golf and I am sure many of you, like me, will be wondering what is happening at both courses. I have spoken with our greens convenor, Cliff Barrowman, who has received updates from both course managers which I would like to share with you.

Gailes Links

Brian tells us that Gailes is exactly where he would expect it to be at this time of year and he is keeping cutting heights elevated to ensure stress factors are as low as possible. Fairways and rough have certainly benefitted from there being no play and show good grass coverage. If the dry spell continues, we will have to be careful to avoid grass loss. Irrigation is possible but not endless, so will require to be managed. The areas where gorse and trees had been removed were thriving but will quickly become dry again if having to prioritise other areas to receive the water.

I am sure the course would have been presented in its normal excellent condition for the April medals and the Edward Trophy, which was due to be contested this weekend.





Killermont

At Killermont, the work completed to the golf course over the last few weeks has been limited to cutting tasks and feeding, as required, as well as watering to surfaces suffering as a result of the dry period. Cleaning up of debris on the course has been permitted by BIGGA (British & International Greenkeepers Association), so Stuart and his team have been able to uplift all the twigs and leaves still present in certain areas after the high winds. The drainage ditches have been cleaned and leaf covers removed with cutting to the banks completed.

BIGGA permitted working guidelines have now been updated allowing the winter projects to be progressed and this will continue through to completion. As well as top-dressing to surfaces as required, plant growth regulators will be applied to specific areas to control growth rates which will help with the development of the surfaces through this difficult time.

Like Brian has said for Gales, Stuart reports that the course is looking good and has benefitted from raised cutting heights and no play. Greens are in excellent condition for the time of year, as are the tees, aprons, and fairways.

The green keeping staff at both courses are now working at reduced capacity, with several currently furloughed. Both managers will monitor the situation and alter accordingly, when required, within the current regulations.

It sounds like we have much to look forward to when play can recommence with both course managers confident that all will be ready, no matter when that may be.

Please stay safe.

Best
Alastair

Alastair Gracie
Captain