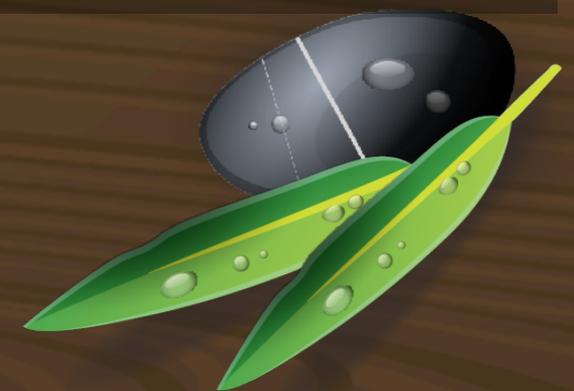


Ryston Park Newsletter



April 2020
by Pam Taylor



Club Captain Richard Taylor

To start with - thank you all for your patience. April has passed and no golf as yet. However thank god the trend is on the slide and hopefully (with fingers crossed), at some point in May we can again get back onto the fairways.

Such a difficult time for us all and I hope you're all safe and well and have isolated as much as can be expected. Dogs have never been walked so much, but it has helped us stay active I guess.

I'm sure you're all gasping to get back on the course to blow the cobwebs off those clubs and meet up with friends and family that you've been missing.

I'd like to think you'd all join me in thanking Peter and Tiff for looking after our course. I was lucky enough to have a fleeting visit last week and fed the new Koi Carp in the 7th pond, walking parts of the course, but making sure to keep a hundred yards away from staff, and it's looking impressive to say the least. I'll let Tiff inform you of the work thats completed but least to say it now just needs some golfers on it!

Lastly, to those that are struggling I sincerely hope you all come out the other side of the virus pandemic able to rebuild your losses!

Stay safe everyone and best wishes.

Richard



Seniors Captain: Mike Brown



- Gentlemen I hope you are all well and keeping safe in these difficult times.
- The weather has been really good and we would certainly have had some good roll ups and matches!
- Unfortunately we will have to bide our time and hope in the near future we will all be-able to play again.
- The Greens Staff have been doing excellent work on the course and keeping it looking good.
- I am thinking of some good competitions for when we are all able to get back playing.
- I hope to see you all in the near future. Take care.
Regards Mike



Ladies Captain Dorothy March

Two months into my Captaincy I thought this poem by William Henry Davies called Leisure was very apt at these very difficult times:-

**What is this life, if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare**

**No time to stand beneath the boughs
and stare as long as sheep and cows**

**No time to see when woods we pass
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass**

**No time to see in broad daylight
streams full of stares like skies at night**

**No time to turn at beauty's glance
and watch her feet how they can dance**

**No time to wait till her mouth can
enrich that smile her eyes began**

**A poor life this is if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare**

All I can say is keep safe everyone and I hope it will not be too long before we can all get together on the golf course. With love Dorothy



Greenkeepers

So what can we say... The course is still there and being maintained to a good standard for when you all return. It's a very strange feeling being out there and nobody playing! The leaves are out on all the trees and the goslings have arrived! The geese are getting far too comfortable with no golf balls heading their direction! There's also two herons making themselves at home.

So when lockdown was announced the opportunity to top dress the greens was a chance not to be wasted. We already had the sand left over from the autumn, so no expense. Spring is the best time to perform the task but usually has an impact on the playing surface when competitions are then in full swing. Hence why we usually carry it out in the autumn when things are quieting down and there is still grass growth in order for them to recover. But rest assured when you all turn up you will not notice they've been done.

Why top dress? Many reasons once again..

- Most importantly, drainage! The more sand we can get into the soil the better, it will help throughout the winter months if we continue to get winters like we've just had!
- Helps breakdown the thatch layer. (stops spongy greens)
- Helps produce truer and faster greens. Which is what we all want.

The putting green was the worst effected during the winter so we made the decision to hollow core. A 5p size hole, 2 inches deep every 2 inches of the putting green was removed. Sounds drastic. Again as that green got the wettest, it was necessary to get as much sand in as possible and remove the bad soil. However this has a slower recovery rate which is why it's not carried out on the main greens unless we feel it's vital.

As we had the hollow corer on the tractor already we then decided to do the same thing to the 2nd, 4th, 7th and winter tees. But instead of sand we used our divot soil and then over seeded. This should help level them out and is a quicker way of divoting the whole tee in one go. Something we could not normally do. However, as we have had very little rain, (4mm in the last 5 weeks!) germination is taking it's time and we're relying on the sprinklers. Never thought we'd be saying we need rain already after the winter we have just had! I think global warming is upon us!

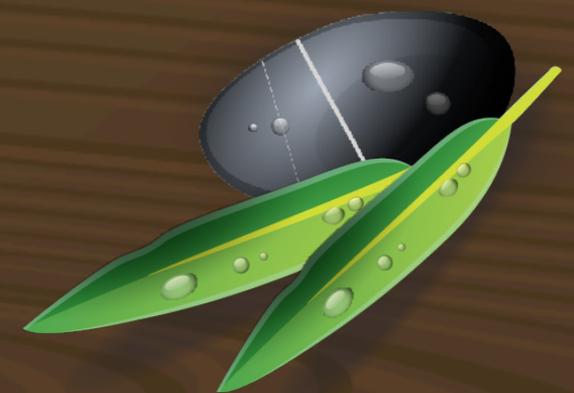
The height of cut has been increased throughout the surfaces to avoid unnecessary stress during this dry spell.

We hope everybody is staying safe and is looking forward to returning. Hopefully by this time next month you will be back enjoying the golf course again.

Peter and Tiff



Photos of the Greens & Fairways



Ryston Park Golf Club





I have been furloughed but as you all know this is a personal newsletter so it is not within my workload at the Golf Club. I hope you are all safe and well and like me looking forward to getting back playing again.

The Greenkeepers report is excellent and I'm sure makes you all want to get back on the course.

Let's hope we will all be back playing by mid to late May.
In the meantime take care and stay safe.

Regards Pam Taylor

