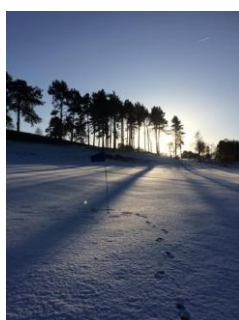


## COURSE REPORT APRIL 2018

### Winter Programme

The winter program is drawing to an end as spring is at last making an appearance! Our program is about 4-6 weeks behind where we were this time last year and the severity of the icy blasts and persistent rain has been extremely frustrating for staff and members.



This small selection of wintery views sums up the difficulties for the greens team in completing the winter program culminating in the delay of some essential maintenance work.

### March Maintenance Week



The March maintenance week was badly affected by the persistent bad weather and was completed about a week behind schedule. The recent dry spell and warmth however has allowed the course to begin to fully recover.



Here you can see the sand filler unit deployed for the first time, this process is aimed at the greens surface and should help refine and stabilise the putting surfaces over the coming years. This was preceded with a smaller hollow core and verti-drain at a greater depth. Each green received several tonnes of kiln dried sand with the residual sand then matted into the surface.



With the weather starting to warm up the greens surfaces are now recovering well. Treatments with fungicides and fertiliser have taken place with fortunately only small outbreaks of fusarium.



The weather has caused much disruption not only to us but hundreds of courses across the country. Many courses have been closed for many weeks and continue to suffer from terrible ground conditions.



This scene at West Derby Golf Club, is typical of the problems across the country as greenkeepers struggle with the recent heavy downpours.

Coxmoor recently experienced over 83mm (Almost 3.3 inches) of rain in just a 48 hour period.

### 16th Hole

#### Tee



The 16th Tee and surrounds have been turfed and other areas seeded. Over the coming months the area will be developed with heathland shrubs and heather.



The pond has had reeds planted and the tee cut for the first time. We are hoping to open the tee towards the end of May or early June.



## 16th Woodland Work



The planned 16th Woodland work is nearing completion and is to be seeded with fescue grasses shortly. There will also be some heathland shrubs planted in due course. Some of the remaining wood is to be left as 'eco stacks' to encourage insects and small mammals in the area.

## 11th Hole

The 11th hole will form the major project for the winter program beginning in October. With the hole losing the large tree to the right of the green after heavy winds and disease it is anticipated that the hole will receive a number of bunkers or similar hazards i.e. swales.

## 1st Tee



Thanks must go to our handyman Tony for the excellent job he has done in replacing the concrete steps to the first tee. The tee sides have now been rendered and non slip material added to the sleepers.

The area to the right of the 1st tee adjoining the 6th fairway is to be planted with gorse as is the area adjacent to the car park near to the 6th green.



## Divot Bags

The greens team are about to introduce Divot Bags to the course.



A Divot Bag station will be situated next to the 1st tee and we would encourage all members to take a divot bag and fill any divots they take or indeed any they see.

Replenishing stations will be available around the course and we will let you know where they are situated when they are installed.

A returns bin for all bags will be available as you come off the course. Please return the bags as it is important to the wellbeing of the course and in the long run makes for better fairways as divots repair much quicker the earlier they are treated.

## Spring Arrives



This drone picture was taken on the 25th April after the greens top dressing took place and shows how a little warmth and sunshine brings the course to life.

Weather permitting we should see swift recovery in many areas over the coming weeks especially those that were affected by the weather and tracked vehicle movement used for woodland and bunker works.



## Chipping Green

The chipping green has been closed after suffering damage during the recent cold and wet weather. Intensive work is taking place to get it back in play as soon as possible. In the meantime please use the green next to the net area. As a courtesy please repair ALL and ANY pitch marks you make or find on the chipping greens. It has been very noticeable that little or no repair of pitch marks takes place in these areas, it's our course and facilities please let's keep all of it in the best condition we can.

## Central Practice Area (Between 18th and 3rd)

This area has been decimated by Chaffer bugs and as such the whole practice area has been treated. Because the damage was so severe and the grasses infested with mosses it has been completely rotovated. The area will be levelled and completely reseeded but will remain out of play until at least next year.

## Members Doing Their Bit

I can't stress enough the contribution you as a member can make to our course, please replace any divots you may take, it makes a huge difference not only at this time of year but year round. Also any litter you find please pick it up and dispose of it in the bins it's our course let's keep it clean.

A real concern for us all are the unrepaired pitch marks so do your bit and repair an extra one or two even, the difference it makes to our greens is there for all to see.

### guide to how pitch marks should be repaired

 ✓	<b>RIGHT WAY</b> 1. Insert repair tool just outside the back of the ball mark. Pull the turf toward the centre of the hole. Repeat this same motion on all sides of the hole 2. Gently tap the repaired area with your putter 3. This action stretches undamaged turf over the ball mark providing instant recovery
 ✗	<b>WRONG WAY</b> 1. DO NOT pry up the centre of the depression with the repair tool as it exposes the soil and will delay the healing process 2. DO NOT insert repair tool and twist it. This only breaks more turf loose 3. A ball mark takes only 15-30 seconds to fix correctly. A ball mark fixed incorrectly takes over three weeks to heal. PLEASE REPAIR THE RIGHT WAY

So you can spot me around the place here is a recent photograph. I hope you find me approachable so feel free to ask questions or give feedback for the greens team.



Paul Orton - Greens Chair Coxmoor Golf Club