

August Course Report

There has been a lot of rain this month which has caused considerable problems. The wet conditions at the beginning of the month left the 2nd and 3rd greens very wet. Ian had to move the hole on the 2nd to the front edge to avoid damage to the green. Because of heavy rain, the course was closed on Sunday afternoon (11th Aug) and was not re-opened until Tuesday morning. It has been very difficult to cut the fairways and semi-rough but Ian M and Ian L have made heroic efforts to cut them once this week. However, the fairways do not look great and we will not be able to improve the cut until they dry out. Some areas have still not been cut because they are too wet to take machinery on to them. Bunkers cannot be raked because most of this month they have been full of water.

The 2nd and 3rd greens are of particular concern because they are not draining very well. Action may have to be taken early next year to address this problem. We may have to use temporary greens for the 2nd and 3rd this winter and Ian will start to prepare these soon in case they are needed.

The greens were fertilized on 5th August and should be looking good when they dry out. Last week Ian applied weed killer to the fairways and tees. The benefits of this will become apparent in the next couple of weeks. The forecast for the next week or so (after today, Friday) is good so hopefully we will see an improvement in course conditions. Ian has also sprayed weed killer around the base of trees and other areas. Volunteers have been helping to clear around the base of trees where there has been a lot of growth.

The hollow tining equipment has been booked for Wednesday 11th September. Apologies for the disruption this essential work on the greens may cause.

Adrian Flynn (Course Master)

16th August 2019

A copy of this report can found on our website in the "**Course**" section

<http://www.birtleyportobellogolfclub.co.uk/course.html>