Golf Managers Report 1st April 2026

Directors Update.

No Further Updates at the moment.

Golf Course Maintenance.

With the vast improvement in the weather over the last month, March has been a busy one for the greenkeeping department. The course has dried out nicely which has allowed most of the ropes to be taken in. I know many golfers do not like having roped off areas, but they have done a great job at protecting the course and have put us in a far better position going into the season. Temperatures over the last month have also been on the rise which has resulted in some fresh growth across the course. This has meant the mowers have been out in force giving all surfaces their first cut of the season. Spring renovations were carried out early March, and all went to plan. The greens and approaches were deep solid tined down to 10 inches using a 12mm tine. They were then Procored down to 4 inches also using a 12mm solid tine. We then worked 60 Tonnes of top-dressing sand into the profile.

To reinstate the playing surface, they were then rolled using a turf iron.

Tee boxes were also deep tined but using a 20mm solid tine and dressed using a 50/50 rootzone. Tee boxes then had a slow-release fertiliser applied.

So why do we carry out these works?

These works are essential for keeping the playing surfaces healthy, playable and consistent throughout the season. **Aeration (Solid Tining)** assists with relieving compaction from the thousands of footsteps and golf course machinery, improves drainage by helping water move through the profile more efficiently and promotes healthy root growth.

Other works carried out in March since our last update

Wooden posts and rope have been installed around the first tee and the red 16th tee.

All remaining tree stumps from winter tree works have been removed and filled with soil.

Edging, weeding & checking sand depth is bunkers is ongoing and should be completed pre easter.

The irrigation system is all primed up and ready for use.

Looking at the month ahead, our plans are:

- The greens are being overseeded the week commencing the 30th March and this will be followed up with a very light top dressing to bed in the seeds.
- Grass tee's will be back in play ready for the Easter weekend.
- The fountains will be reinstalled into the 16th lake.
- Pathways will be topped up with fresh stone.

This season, we are reinstating the practice of having two staff members on duty during weekends, rather than just one. This change will allow us to enhance the preparation of the golf course for weekend play, ensuring it is in optimal condition for our members.

In response to feedback from the committee regarding the consideration of replacing the existing three colour-coded flags—which indicate pin positions for the front, middle, and back of the green—we have decided to retain the current system. To ensure everything is ready for the upcoming season, new flags, hole cups, and flag poles have been ordered and will be in place ahead of the Senior Men's Pairs Open in mid-May. New Tee Markers for all tees will be in place as we enter our April Competitions schedule returning to play off grass tees.

Summer Opening Hours

Following the clock change last weekend, we now move into our Summer Opening Hours.

Signage will be displayed stating that the Course and Main Entrance Gates will be closed at 10.00pm (Except for special events). This is a particular bug bare when the Clubhouse is locked for the night and were having to leave the gates open as there are still golfers on the Course after 10.0pm, particularly during mid-Summer when the light levels are at their longest.

Please note there are amended opening hours over Easter, please see the posters displayed.

Srixon balls

Hopefully we are beyond the awful wet weather seen during February and into March, therefore we can shortly introduce the next batch of new Srixon balls into the system, without the danger of seeing them plugged, never to be seen again.

Coupled with the new balls going into the hopper, we will be putting on a small price increase across the board on Range Fees.

Robot Ball collector and Mower

It's wonderful to welcome the robots back onto the Range field following their winter break. They appear revitalised and are set to perform their designated tasks efficiently throughout the drier spring and summer months. We are also delighted to introduce a new app that controls the robots, representing a significant step forward in directing them precisely to the areas of the range where their work is most needed.

Golf buggies

The Ezgo buggy fleet has now resumed operation following the winter hiatus. Please note that an increase in hire charges will be implemented accordingly as we have now negotiated an extension to our lease.

Showers

Now that the boiler has been reinstated, the showers have undergone thorough cleaning, disinfection, and rigorous testing. We are delighted to confirm they are fully operational and ready for use!

Rabbits v The Foxes

You may have noticed that a number of tee times have were specially allocated last Saturday for the eagerly anticipated "Rabbits v the Foxes" event—a unique contest pitting golfers with non-golfers in friendly competition.

This exciting event has meticulously planned and expertly organised by our Academy PGA trainee Flossie Smith, supported by her dedicated PGA colleagues Alex Phelps, Joe Langan-Hart, and Archie Chapman.

As part of the requirements for their second-year foundation degree, the team was charged with the full organisation of this event and will be assessed on their efforts as part of their coursework. The day, themed "Fore the Love of Golf," is designed not only to bring the

community together, but also to inspire newcomers to take up the game. Adding further interest, a special guest speaker featured as part of the programme.

We would like to commend Flossie and her team for their exemplary professionalism and commitment, to this event.

As for Flossie, we're sure she has a brilliant future with the PGA and our academy and can't help thinking that during her recruitment process, one stumbled over treasure whilst looking for gold when looking for a trainee to work with us.

Members Bronze Fees Payment in Weekend Comps.

We've had ongoing issues collecting green fees from bronze and silver members who play in weekend competitions, especially during the Santa and Fare & Feather Scrambles.

Often, we chase payments, with the starter sometimes getting involved, and in some cases, we're still following up days after the event.

We're exploring a few ways to fix this time-consuming problem but wanted to bring it to the committee's attention to see if the T&C's of entry could be amended to include a proviso that fees are paid prior to play.

Playing Member Definition.

England Golf and Worcestershire County Golf have recently introduced an amended definition of a playing member.

Affiliation fees are payable for all playing categories of membership, which is defined as anyone who has a contract with the club providing playing rights on a WHS rated course. A contract is any legal agreement, whether or not subject to payment, by which individuals become playing members of the club. This includes all categories of playing member, including but not limited to Full, Senior, Junior, Honorary, Temporary, Country, Overseas, 5&6 Day, Flexible or Points based. Playing rights also includes affiliated clubs linked to public or other courses where the member's actual contract to play the course is with a third party. This new declaration has led to a sharp increase in charges for those affected Academy categories that now have to include EG and WU fees.