

## **COURSE NEWS - MAY 2011**

Following our recent spring renovation work, recovery has been slower than expected. The main cause for this has been a lack of rain. Although we can irrigate the whole course (over 700,000 litres daily) this can have a negative effect on growth as the temperature of the borehole water is very cold and can reduce soil temperature thereby stopping plant growth. Talk about a vicious circle!. However we are now seeing signs of new growth in the seedlings and it won't be long before the greens are playing better.

All areas of the course have now been fed with fertiliser and we will shortly start herbicide applications to all areas of the course. Again the hot, dry weather has delayed this as we cannot apply herbicides to dry stressed turf as the chemical will kill the turf. The greenstaff will spray tees, fairways and green surrounds and we will have a contractor come in to spray the roughs etc. Don't be alarmed if you see white foam everywhere this is only from the bout marker - a foam concentrate so we know where we have sprayed.

Within the next week we will be starting some intensive overseeding to the putting green. This green has suffered for years with rabbit damage and now the estate gamekeepers have started to control the rabbit populous (over 600 shot since February) we will begin work to renovate this green. We will carry out this work in two halves, starting with the top half of the green and we would like members to refrain from using this portion of the green until we have reinstated it.

The chipping green is coming on nicely with the new seed growing stronger daily. We envisage the first cut soon and that will help to encourage the grasses to thicken out. Further dressing and feeding is still required and we expect to re-open this area by August/September.

The driving range tee is almost finished and we will seed it early next week. Again we hope to have this area open for late August/September.

Jon Scoones  
Course Manager