

Greenkeeper's Report 2022

The winter preparation in early October 2021, laid good basics for the 2022 playing season. Moss was treated four times during the winter period usually following a topping of the grass. We had one attack of Fusarium (fungal patches) that was treated with a fungicide and assisted with an application of Ferrous Oxide (moss killer) the iron content hardens the grass sward, speeding up recovery and limiting further attacks. We also reduced the grass height from 10mm to 8mm for the out of season period, to allow the grass to dry out quicker when the sun and wind blow, all reducing the risk of fungal attack.

The outcome by early March was very little moss, and what had survived was scarified to reduce it further by the time the green opened. The Green was solid tine spiked at the end of March this is to reduce the occurrence of dry dead grass patches as the spiking keeps the surface open to allow water to penetrate.

We opened with a good bowling surface, the good weather gave us a good pace in the early weeks, and the Green bowled consistently well for the whole season. At the height of the hot dry periods the pace was exceptionally quick and challenging to deliver consistent line and weight. We watered regularly to allow a quick recovery when drought periods end with that inevitable rain. In extremely hot weather Irrigation will not maintain that lush green grass colour.

Feedback from club members and visitors has been very positive with all enjoying the good playing surface. I believe we have had the most consistent bowling surface this year since we undertook green maintenance internally. We have one, if not the best, green in Somerset, which is very pleasing to me and my green maintenance team, and an asset for the Club.

Good weather certainly helped, and a combination of past experience, gained knowledge amongst the Green Team, and the addition of a new mower, with a superior cutting blade achieving a tighter accurate cut. The wear on the green has been much less than seen in other seasons so the Green Team would like to thank all of you who bowl in roll ups, for moving the mat ensuring we get even wear, and not only playing on the middle rinks, spreading the play on rinks allows you to gain that home advantage on the best lines to bowl, as all rinks have small differences when bowling competitively.

To achieve this quality of playing surface we have to purchase significant amount of products. A healthy Club membership and finances make it possible to afford the cost of products while I purchase wisely, it can only be achieved with a good club membership.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that Nick Channon and David Beaudet will continue as greenkeeper assistants for the next year. It is good team work that delivers the results, thank you both for the total support in the past year.

Paul Kelly

