

Green team report 2023

Thank You to : the following members for their input into the Green maintenance as part of the Green Team or as helpers in the goal of keeping the whole area clean and tidy. We aim to make our green the best playing surface in the league

Green team. Pete, Brian, Nigel, Qais, Graham L, Garry.

Gardeners, Sue & Lawrence

Pavilion, Jane B, Jane T, Linda, Diane, Jenny, Gail, Jean and all washer uppers.

Helpers, Graham A, Allen, Giuseppe. + anybody I haven't mentioned.

- Green :- The problems we had with the lawn mowers at the start of the season were well documented and caused us a few headaches. Despite Brian's brave attempts to repair the mowers, we eventually were forced, at considerable expense, into purchasing a replacement. The COBRA lawn mower has proved to be a decent buy and has improved the playing surface by some degree. Not perfect yet ,but we have a plan.

Early in the season we had a game at Bilsthorpe, which we won on all four rinks, their green is notorious for being poorly maintained and disease ridden normally, but on this occasion it was exceptionally good. So that generated inquiries from us about the transformation and how it was achieved. The answer was a company called 'Verti-drain' . We duly contacted them and they have used their considerable experience and modern machinery to do a 'deep aration' of the green. The objective of this process is to control the development of moss and weeds. A second visit from Verti-drain saw a different machine cut thin grooves into the green with high quality grass seed fed into the grooves. The result of this treatment should result in a consistent playing surface with less moss and fewer bare patches next season. The whole process has also proved more cost effective than previous seasons which saw six men spreading tonnes of top dressing on top of poorly distributed seed over two or three days at a cost in excess of £1000.

That is compared to £300 + seed this year, and the only input from our green team was to scarify the green prior to the Verti-drain visit.

We don't plan to change our approach to green maintenance next season, our Tuesday morning get together has worked well with only a few days lost to inclement weather. Such days are easily changed to later in the week using the Green team 'Whatsapp group.

- Marquee's :- after a poor start to the season with the demise of our Gazebo in April we replaced it with the large Marquee and created our tea room and a changing area for the visiting teams. The area has been a success and has received a fair amount of praise from our visitors.

After the Concept cup match we had an excellent team moment with everybody combining to dismantle the two Marquees. It was an example of the great team spirit that exists at Nuthall Bowls Club. My sincere thanks to everyone involved, it lifted a weight off my mind.

A winter project is to get more artificial turf and improve the ground that the Marquees stand on.

- Pavilion :- two seasons ago Stuart Macenzie redecorated the pavilion, although the Ladies do a good job in keeping it tidy, general wear and tear will mean it needs touching up. Volunteers required as Stuart is no longer with the club. We also need to do the gutters every year. Jobs for early spring.
- Garden :- As usual the garden areas have been well maintained by Sue, ably assisted by Lawrence and anybody standing by. In particular the new wild garden area that has been created next to the equipment sheds has been a success and Sue is keen to develop that area next season, and has already started preparing the area.
- Surrounds :- It seems to go unnoticed that the areas surrounding the green are always in a tidy state. On green team day (Tuesday mornings) our secretary Nigel takes it upon himself to make sure that the grass is cut and the edges trimmed, while the rest of us stand about drinking the tea that Nigel has brewed. Biscuits are supplied by myself (all OOD of course).
- Finally I think it's important that 'we all', as a club, show our gratitude to Brian for all the work and effort that he has put into the Green Maintenance over the last seven years. Brian's work ethic and dedication has laid the foundation of the present healthy situation that Nuthall Bowls club is in, So thank you Brian, - still a valuable member of the Green Team.

Pete Sidebottom.

