

Muswell Hill Golf Club

Course News

Hello and welcome to course news,

I try to keep you all updated as much as possible on 'how the course is doing', 'jobs we are doing' and 'things you can do to help your club'.

The Course

The Course is starting to take shape after one of the worst winters for greenkeepers in 30 years. It has been the slowest start to a season I can remember. We have had little rain since December, a snow snap, well below average spring temperatures and now drought conditions starting to show in May. In April this year we had 2mm of rain in total! As all you gardeners know the season is behind this year. The saying 'you can't beat mother nature' comes to my mind as I write this.

We are now getting back on track after an extensive aeration and scarification program around the course. The two Divot nights were well attended and I would like to thank all of you that helped. We put out more soil and seed mix than the previous years, which in time will help the fairways. The greens came out of the winter in good condition. The use of target greens and the aeration, topdressing and tree works programs all combining to see us into the new season in good shape.

The Chipping Area

When will it be open?

Following the harsh winter and the low soil temperatures that we have had so far this year the chipping area is at least a month behind in terms of 'the grow in'. When growing turf from seed you require good soil temperatures, meaning as little snow or frosts as possible. We have had more than ever this year. The lack in rainfall at the start of the year has also slowed germination. The chipping area is now starting to grow and more work has been carried out on the area. **Please do not walk around the area. This may result in more delays to the opening.** The site has been over seeded, fertilised and topdressed to quicken up the germination process.

I think we are now looking at August as a realistic date for the opening of play. I will keep you informed on this situation.

What you can do to help the course?

Divot Bins have been placed on the par 3 tees. We ask that after you have played your shot you repair your divot. This will improve the tees during the season.

Trolley Lines, are situated in front on the Greens and Aprons. These are marked with a white dashed line. The rule being NO TROLLEYS or BUGGYS past this point. Please follow the lines off to the side and walk up to the next tee staying away from the greens. We are trying to improve the Aprons around the course with extra work and care. The result will be a better playing surface for you! So please follow them.

Bunkers, Please rake bunkers after you have played your shot and leave the rake in the bunker with the handle resting on the side of the bunker. Not only does this minimise the risk of hitting the rake but it also speeds up our work around the course.

Pitchmarks, Please repair your pitchmarks. Have a good look around for them. You don't need to be a professional to leave one, nearly everybody does. You wouldn't want to miss a putt because your ball bobbed from a pitchmark you didn't repair some weeks ago would you!

[Help us to help you; together we can have a better course.](#)

Matt Plested
Head Greenkeeper.