

Maintenance Officer's Report 2020

As the 2019 Season ended the annual winter programme was commenced which until February seemed fairly normal. The contractor did his spring visit, did the required work and we assisted with the application of top dressing. The green was prepared and marked out and the working party was set to commence on the 28th March. The rest is history and due to the Lockdown we were unable to start the season!

However a few volunteers, keeping within the rules and social distancing did carry on preparation, including the painting of all the green fencing, cutting and lining, hedge cutting etc. I cannot thank enough those members, namely Peter Nash, Jill Kelley, Richard and Jenny Sitch, and Peter Taylor, with Mike Dalzell keeping the car park cut and Tony Crisp, our very own resident expert strimmer who attended with me every Tuesday morning. The cutting and lining of the green had to carry on regardless again many thanks to the team.

Unfortunately St Margarets garden centre who donate our flowers was closed so no flowers available, it could well be the same for next spring, so if anyone has any spare plants to enhance the green, they would be most welcome.

The weather was not too kind either, being very wet early on and very hot later. However the committee were able to consider opening up for a restrictive start to bowling. The Chairman, with the Secretary as assistant, took over the role of advising and control within the advice and rules of Bowls England. This was successful and eventually it was decided to reduce the number of rinks to 3. This then allowed us to have roll ups, albeit with restricted numbers. This was extended until the 3rd week in October when unfortunately the weather took control!

Unfortunately we have had to purchase a new rotary mower to replace the Honda due to an aged machine and corrosion which made it totally uneconomic to repair.

Again we have had more than our share of worm casts, but we are gaining experience in dealing with them. Switching and Brushing is the name of the game. This is essential to prevent fungus and red thread disease and prevent lots of mud patches allowing weeds to manifest themselves and keeps the green in good condition. I do realise at the early part of the start of play, the green proved to be difficult to play on but as the season progressed it got better and almost normal. It needed wearing in, which showed towards the end.

The Green has now been Scarified, Fertilised, Weed and Worm control applied. Aeration was not carried out but will be carried out in the spring. This was because the weather was unsuitable to apply top dressing.

The end of season work party (all members) was not permitted due to the current situation, but my work party will carry on the winter programme as the green and surrounding areas will deteriorate and will be difficult to recover if neglected. We will carry on cutting the grass as and when necessary throughout the winter as normal. Hopefully in March, if things return to some normality we will require a full member working party and you will be informed nearer the time.

There is availability for a few volunteers to have your very own small piece of garden to call your "own" along the hedge. I envisage it could be divided into 2/3 sections and you would look after your area and suit yourself what flora you may use. It may be that some lady members may like to volunteer!!! Just let me know and we can discuss.

Please be aware that if you attend the green the Car Park has very soft ground and could cause problems. May I suggest you use the public car park or at least park on the hardstanding in front of the gate until future notice!!!

Cutting and Lining. Procedures for cutting and lining, operating the machinery, cleaning the machinery after use, and disposal of any unused white lining paint left in the liner will be discussed once we have established who will be on the roster. Also it must be emphasised that there must be at least 2 persons present when operating any rotating machinery. This is a health and safety requirement.

This concludes my report for 2020 and if you have any queries / questions about maintenance or the way it is dealt with Please e-mail me at: davidjones70@icloud.com or phone on 07500456065. as face to face may not be possible.