



## **GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE**

**July 2018**

Having experienced one of the wettest starts to a calendar year, we now find ourselves in a period of hot and very dry weather.

With temperatures in the low 30's and no rain that can be measured over the past two months, we are experiencing a high burn off rate at this time on fairways and green aprons. The grasses become dormant in these conditions but rest assured when we do resume standard British weather all will be repaired.

The area to focus on at this time is green management. The greens are the most important aspect of any golf course and irrigation management, cutting heights and aeration are vital to ensure that we maintain a good, healthy sward.

Our greens at Bishopswood consist of mostly poa annua natural to Britains' climate and bents a finer grass. What is occurring now is that the poa annua seed is under high stress due to the temperatures and the bent seed are flourishing. We therefore have to manage the amount of water that we irrigate (overnight) with and then hand water any dry spots during the day. Saturating the surface is not a healthy or sustainable option.

Our standard cutting height of greens during the summer season is 3mm, due to the conditions we are now at 3.5mm (on a ride on machine that we use this is actually nearer to 4mm) and cutting less, but ironing the greens on alternate days therefore putting less stress on the grasses.

We will solid pencil tine 4-6 weeks apart for aeration, just to keep some airflow and allow moisture into the profile.

Due to these current conditions we do not have to cut the fairways or rough as much so Lee and Peter can focus on tree management, and plantations which is very labour intensive, and look at my five year plan in some detail.

We aim to commence some bunker work over the next few weeks, and continue with tree plantation cutting and clearance.

So enjoy the weather, the greens and importantly your golf.

Kevin Pickett  
General Manager