



## 2020 Greens Convener Report

We had a tricky start in the spring of the year, with no play allowed due to lockdown. It was a very hot, dry spell and at this time we were unable to provide sufficient water from the Swan Pond, with the result that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> greens became particularly distressed and patchy. As communicated to you earlier this situation has now been resolved after employing a contractor to clear all blockages. These greens were re-sown and have fully recovered.

During late spring I organised two “stone picking squads” of volunteer members who toiled in the sunshine to lift and clear large amounts of debris from the new practice area at the 6<sup>th</sup> hole – social distancing was observed! Many thanks to those who helped, and to a neighbouring farmer who provided a power harrow. Seeding was subsequently carried out at the appropriate time to achieve an area we hope to have in use, primarily for Juniors, in 2021.

During the season, greens were verti-drained, hollow-cored and top-dressed with sand, and chemical applications for feeding and treating were applied at regular intervals throughout the year. This will hopefully give you, the playing members, the best greens Sandy can give us to play on.

In order to ensure the whole course was cut timeously we had three temporary summer staff over the growing season to help our Head Greenkeeper Sandy; namely Douglas Pollock, Grant Hogg and myself. The labour costs were kept similar to previous years, and feedback received from members and visitors was mainly positive.

Once most competitions had been played these four plus Mark Gillie (who volunteered his help) embarked on the replacement of the problematic 2<sup>nd</sup> green. Essential machinery was hired and after 2 weeks of hard graft the new green, with upgraded drainage, was completed. Sandy is very happy with the finished surface, which we hope will be in play spring 2021. The old turf was transferred to provide the new putting green at the practice area.

I would like to thank Sandy for all his hard work over the year, in particular during lockdown when he was alone carrying out essential maintenance of the course under Covid-19 restrictions. Many thanks to those named above, plus all who have volunteered their time carrying out many other tasks not listed here – you know who you are!

I thank you, the members, for your patience and encouraging words throughout a difficult year for us all. Roll on 2021!

**Gary S Craig,  
Greens Convener**