

## Massereene Golf Club

### Planned Course works Scheme – (September 2018) – 1<sup>st</sup> Phase

Dear Members

As you are aware, we are committed to co-hosting the N.I. Open in 2019. As part of this commitment, we made members aware we are planning to undertake significant works on our greens, aprons and tees on all 18 holes of the course.

In recent years, we are sure members have noticed and become aware of our damp, saturated and diseased greens, which have primarily resulted from unfavourable and damp weather conditions, as well as a significant build-up of organic matter beneath the playing surfaces of our greens, and other closely mown playing areas.

In order to address such problems, we have sought the services and advice of a European Tour Agronomist, Mr Eugene Hennessey who has subsequently submitted a plan of works, which we must undertake to fully address the issues with our greens etc.

Commencing Tuesday 4 September 2018 we plan to implement the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the planned scheme of works' starting with the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> greens. The remaining greens will follow suit, and it is expected all 18 greens will be Hollow Cored, Verti drained and Graded with the new Graden machine. With the expected favourable weather conditions in Sept., all 18 greens will have works completed within a 10-day period (alternate days, to enable pre-booked Opens/Competitions to proceed as planned). The weather outlook for early September 2018 is very favourable, and with the reasonable temperatures, this should aid early recovery of greens etc.

Undoubtedly, there will be some short-term pain for members, as we engage in the scheme of work, but the overall objective is to significantly improve the quality, speed, firmness of our playing surfaces, strengthen the turf and also reduce the susceptibility of various turf diseases.

The various processes, which are to be applied to our greens etc., will include:

*(Please click on Hyperlinks below, which will provide a demonstration of the process)*

#### **Hollow coring**

[https://youtu.be/Kw8Oylx9F\\_o](https://youtu.be/Kw8Oylx9F_o)

**Purpose:** Relieving compaction, removing thatch, reducing black layer and improving drainage

#### **Verti-draining**

**Purpose:** Deep aeration of surfaces, to further improve drainage and to stimulate root growth. Increased root growth via the drain channels enables surface water to drain away and strengthen the turf

[https://youtu.be/zHzM0a1\\_gFk](https://youtu.be/zHzM0a1_gFk)

## **Grading**

<https://youtu.be/1G4kYzs0U8Q>

**Purpose:** Thatch removal and new bent seedbed, i.e. - Introduction of new bent seed which is more resistant to disease and close mowing, reducing fungal infection such as Anthracnose (which we experienced late August 2018).

### **Cleaning Up after the above processes:**

Removal of sub base organic matter, application of new seed & fertiliser, top-dressed, brushed, and rolled.

### **Additional Notes:**

The same work schedule will be applied to teeing areas and aprons a later stage. We will of course inform all members in due course, as to when tees and aprons work will commence.

### **Other planned works during Autumn 2018 & Spring 2019:**

- Drainage
- Root Breaking
- Drill and Fill (on our softest/wettest greens) e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> greens
- Tree pruning
- Replacement of bunker sand and bunker development/Repairs
- Vegetation removal in specific areas around greens etc. - Improved light and air movement

The above processes will be adopted over coming years, twice yearly (Autumn & Spring). Whilst this may prove somewhat unsavoury and bring about a temporary erosion of satisfaction for members, it is all part of the greater scheme of things, by improving the quality, durability of our playing surfaces (particularly our greens) - prolonging the playing season, minimizing course closures - (9 hole closures).

**No pain – No gain, so to speak!**

