

Dear Members and Guests,

Welcome to the new year, I hope you have all managed to spend some time with family and friends over the Christmas break.

January has started with a flourish of spraying, we have applied wetting agent to all the main turf areas Tee's, fairways and greens. Again this will help hold moisture in the profile by creating a film around the soil and sand particles not letting the water slide through all the pore spaces. Two preventative fungicides have been applied to the greens, the first to the soil to control Pythium which can occur with extra humid days and a wet profile when you are trying to keep greens moist and alive during above 30 degree days, the second fungicide is a broad spectrum that targets leaf born diseases at this time of year. We have also applied a preventative insecticide which is the second application to the greens dating back to October, this should see us through till the end of March warding off attacks from black beetle, bill bug, argentine stem weevil and armyworm. Fertiliser has also been applied to greens, tees and fairways to encourage lateral growth, turf and soil health to get through the stressful summer periods.

While these applications take top priority to assure great turf health, we are still endeavouring to complete as many other tasks as possible to stay on schedule with the monthly plan. Spraying weeds in the bunkers has been pushed back a little but will be finished by mid January, we have seen more weeds grow in the last month to ideal conditions and as we have not been able to board the faces as much to keep these areas disturbed it allows weeds to grow.

A broadleaf weeder will be applied to the greens and surrounds mid to late January and then we will be working on trying to control bucks horn (see picture) in February. This weed is most visible on the 9th, 14th holes, but has still infected many other areas. Our first trial of product will be on the driving range.



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With the addition of Craig joining our team, from the 29th of January, we are already able to increase our output into tasks that usually get put off to the winter period, there will be an extra focus to get more sand into the bunkers in February. We now should see in the future more consistent conditions during the week with the availability to clean and blow playing surfaces and even add in extra cuts to playing areas.

During January our large rough cutting unit broke down so our little zero turn is working flat out trying to cut the perimeter and golf course, the return of the large cutting unit is unknown as there is a few major faults as well as parts are becoming harder to source at the moment. We are currently not cutting the step cut as regular, as we have had to lend a machine to one of our other courses and the loss of time changing heights back and forth was becoming to wasteful.

February's weather will determine how many extra jobs and side projects can be completed as getting through what is usually our hottest month means a lot more staff resource goes into keeping our greens alive and other water demanding areas.

We are gaining on improvements each month and I'm still tweaking and adjusting strategies to achieve better results on our efficiency and the courses playability.

Keep having fun and I look forward to your feedback and assisting with any suggestions that can continue to bring Brighton to its next phase of improvements

Kind regards
Jarrod Parlby