

Monthly Golf Course Report May 2018

Dear Members & guests,

Well, we've certainly had a bit of a mixed month during April. We started the month still in the grip of winter with the courses wet and the temperatures cold. Then in the space of a couple of days we went from winter to summer like conditions with blazing sunshine and warm temperatures which was very much needed in a lot of ways because it dried the courses out lovely. It did however present problems for us as we could not keep up with growth initially, as the combination of warm conditions and moisture in the ground made the grass grow at an alarming rate.

However, this did not last long as we then fell back into cool and wet weather the following week which has slowed growth rates down a bit and allowed us to catch up with the cutting maintenance. So a very mixed month for the start of the season with 95mm of rain in total. Hopefully May will be a bit more consistent, and drier, and we can get back to our normal maintenance programme.

We still have many jobs to catch up on though because one week we couldn't get around the courses due to wet ground conditions then the next we literally couldn't keep up with growth rates and did nothing but cut grass for 2 weeks and we didn't have that cold, dry period we needed to catch up on a few jobs that we need to complete.

With that in mind during May we plan to get some of those jobs completed which includes getting the sand in the remaining bunkers, weed killing around the site, all our usual Spring maintenance work and hopefully make a start on the 18th tee path and steps project.

Again this will depend on ground/weather conditions so hopefully we will get a break from Mother Nature that will allow us to catch up on our work.

From a greens point of view, although they have improved over the last few weeks, and will continue to improve, they are still not quite as good as I would like them. Again this is due to the quick change in weather and it does take a little longer to get the greens up to our usual high standards, so with this in mind we will also continue to do some essential maintenance to them to ensure they are in good shape as soon as possible.

Also at the end of May I will be losing one of my team members, Dave Smith has worked at Ramsdale for 19 years and has decided to retire. Dave will be a big loss for the team as he is a popular member of staff and has contributed a lot towards the condition and presentation of the courses during his time with us. I'd just like to wish Dave a happy retirement from everyone at Ramsdale Park.

Jon Evans.....Course Manager