

# NEWS FROM THE COURSE - AUGUST 2018

PLEASE USE DIVOT BOXES PROVIDED ON THE PAR 3 HOLES

## KEY FACTS GREENS

Spiked and top dressed with 10 tons during - August 2018

### RAINFALL – or lack of!

**Only 14 mm of rain fell onto the course during June and July. All of it fell on the last 3 days of July**

### WATERING

During the current drought the height of water in the reservoir has fallen by **1.5 METRES**, and we have used **5000m<sup>3</sup>** of water. This is approximately **2,500,000 ltr's** of water applied to keep the course in tip top shape.

### CHAFER GRUBS

Due to the damage being caused to the sports turf industry, by the members of the CORVUS family, an emergency ruling was sought to allow the applications of chemicals to prevent this happening. This was granted and we have taken actions to try and limit the damage caused to the greens by these birds.

### News

A new course record was set during the keymin Howell Championship. **Gross 62**

The club have received many compliments during the extreme weather conditions from all that have played it and many will and have been returning for open events.



GARETH ON  
THE COURSE

## **A date for your diary, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September till Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September is Golf Course Maintenance Week 2018.**

As green keepers, we often get asked the following question;

### **"Why are you digging up our greens again?"**

In explanation; **Aeration** is one of our most powerful means in improving the quality of the turf on the greens. However, I fully understand how it makes the members heart sink, especially in September.

We need to aerate to allow air to get down to the roots and because the soil is more tightly compacted in greens, the roots and moisture, find it difficult to move through. By creating air gaps, then roots, moisture and nutrients can congregate in those areas and as a result a stronger and better plant is encouraged. During the year we solid fine on a programmed 4 week basis, followed by top dressing and over seeding with the fescue and bent grasses we are trying to develop. These grass species will provide a truer and smoother surface for the members to play on all year round. This year we will be hollow tinning which actually takes a core out of the green every 4" (100mm). This will remove approx. 5% of the greens surface and also removes thatch. **Thatch** is a layer of dead vegetation that is caused by dead leaf material such as grass clippings, dying grasses etc. This can make the greens more susceptible to disease, pest infestation and water logging. After hollow tinning, we will apply 20-25 tons of top dressing and over sow again with fescue grass seeds.

By doing this in September, it gives us time before the end of the season where good growth will still happen and will return the greens to a good surface for the end of season and winter competitions.