

GROUND REPORT - April 18 2011

The course is coming on well though the greens are, as usual at this time of year, not really growing yet.

The work at the sixth tee is completed for the time being. In the autumn the section which we are now using will have new turf put down and the sides of the channel will be lined with railway sleepers or the equivalent. The back section of the tee will be brought into play when the new turf has "taken" – sometime in May I would think.

The enlarged tee on the second is now in play.

The situation with machinery is OK. We have two machines away, waiting to be repaired and one here waiting for parts. We still have two machines on hire. Two machines which could not be repaired economically have been replaced with much newer models. One machine has been sold to Didsbury to help fund the purchase of these newer machines.

We have taken the decision to become more organic. There is increasing pressure to use less fertiliser and fewer chemicals on golf courses. To start this we have bought a 200 litre tank which will be used to "brew" liquids from special compost containing enzymes, bacteria and fungi which are beneficial to turf because they promote root growth and disease resistance, and break down thatch. These liquids are sprayed onto greens and tees so do not interfere with play.

There are still one or two small projects to complete but from now on it's mainly cutting grass for the grounds staff.