



Kingsknowe Golf Club

ESTABLISHED 1908

Mid - Winter Course Update

As we have reached the halfway point in the winter “season” we thought it would be appropriate to provide members with an update on what is happening on the course and why.

The course is looking (and playing) extremely well for the time of year and this has prompted many positive comments recently from members and guests regarding the good condition of the course. Don't be shy in sharing this information with any of your family, friends and colleagues that may be thinking about joining a new club!!

We moved onto Winter Rules in late October and that means the use of winter mats on the golf course. Don't be caught playing from a fairway without a mat. Make sure you take your mat out of your locker or buy one from the Pro Shop.

On the tees, please stand on the tee mats and not to the side whilst playing your tee shot because it is often the foot traffic that causes the damage on tees.

The Work to reconfigure the new path to the gents medal tee at the 5th is complete with only the red ash to be laid in March. In preparation for next winter, we are doing a similar job at the path from the 2nd to the 3rd Tee. There are no more “major” construction jobs planned for this winter.

Winter works will progress from now until March and this will mainly concentrate on woodlands management. Members may have already noticed the new trees planted at holes 3, 4, 6, 15 & 17. We have also removed a number of dead and or damaged trees. “In play” wooded areas on the course will have branches below head height removed to allow any shots being played from these areas more manageable; easier access for Greens Staff and to allow for better growth of healthy trees. The branches and debris cut away in these areas will be removed or “chipped” in situ this week and once completed this will improve the look of these areas e.g the OOB area beside the 2nd tee; behind the 3rd green and to right of 8th tee.

We are also tidying up other copses at ground level by removing bushes, weeds and debris which allows us to cut under the trees. Again, this is being done to improve the look and playability of holes (e.g. between 10 & 18th holes) and with an eye on speed of play plus the 2019 rule change only allowing 3 minutes to look for lost balls (e.g. long grass removed between 8th & 10th). We will also do this type of work behind the 14th green.

The winter greens on each hole and are deemed as a ‘wrong greens’ and as per the new Rules of Golf for 2019 taking a stance on a “wrong green” is not permitted.

Trolleys and buggies are not permitted beyond the roped off areas around the course and we would ask members to respect the Winter “routes” we have in place. We are putting these routes and

diversions in place to spread wear and tear around the worst affected areas over the winter and to provide us with the best conditions possible in the spring.

We would ask all members to please use the paths down either side of the Pro Shop and then go to the 1st & 10th tees via the path. Access to the 1st Tee coming down the course side is now roped off and closed with both gates onto the course beside the Pro Shop locked until April. We have done this to protect and repair the areas behind the 18th Green, between the 9th green and the practice net down to the Pro Shop. We are repairing the turf behind the 18th green at the tree and beside the practice net and we need to minimise traffic in these areas and allow time for the grass to recover.

At the 1st hole you may expect to walk behind and around the winter tees to the 1st fairway. Again this is designed to minimise damage in front of the path and to spread the wear in this cramped area. To protect the area to the right of the winter green and entry to the 2nd tee, please follow the route to the 2nd tee via the path halfway down the first hole.

The Club recognises that some members require the use of ride-on buggies in order to play golf and will accommodate them on the course without special dispensation as long as users observe the Club rules. However, when the course, or areas of the course, are deemed unsafe for use by club buggies, due to disruption, works, weather etc, then closures will apply to all ride-on buggies. This decision is made under the direction of Health & Safety legislation and extensive advice from our insurers.

In the rough (especially in wooded areas) please be mindful of old stumps that may not be apparent. We will be bringing in a stump-grinder before spring to remove these but in the meantime watch your step.

Now that damp conditions are more prevalent, can we all ensure we have a pitch mark repair tool when we are out playing and more importantly we remember to use it. Your cooperation in looking after your course is appreciated. If we all repair our own plus one there will never be a pitch mark again!!

We would ask all members who can carry a small golf bag to give it a try over the remaining winter months? If members cannot carry would they consider purchasing winter wheels from the Pro Shop? Just a couple of simple things to help protect your course and make it easier to prepare in the spring.

Lastly, if you are on Twitter, please check the @kingsknowegc account for daily snippets on what's happening on the golf course and for live updates on course conditions. Join Twitter at www.twitter.com.

Greens Committee

January 2019