

Last update Friday 18th August 2017

CUNLIFFE BOWLING CLUB GREEN MAINTENANCE LOG



from March 2014

The Cunliffe Bowling Club took over the maintenance of the bowling green from the council in March 2014 below is a diary of the work and jobs that have been done since that time.

The club purchased two second hand mowers an ATCO Club B20 De Luxe with a

Honda engine 1995 and a Masport Olympic 500 Twin Drive about 8 years old.

A new Dennis FT510 cassette system mower has been purchased in March 2016, the cassettes that have also been bought are the 9 blade cutting cylinder, the sorrel roller and the tungsten tipped verti-cutter, also added (January 2017) was a multi brush cassette to enable light scarifying and removal of leaves and debris.

The Atco mower was sold in April 2016

Friday 18th August 2017

The green was verti-cut today from the left corner up to the right, once again resulting in about 30 full grass boxes coming off it.

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

The green was treated for worm casts.

Tuesday 19th July 2017

Fertilized green with liquid fertilizer

Green is still being spiked weekly with the sorrel spiker, and cut to 4.5mm

Friday 14th July 2017

The green was verti-cut today up and down, once again resulting in a lot of grass and still a certain amount of side shoots coming off it.

Saturday 17th June 2017

Green was watered all night.

Saturday 10th June 2017

Green was watered all night.

Friday 2nd June 2017

The green was verti-cut with around 20 boxes taken off the green.

Thursday 18th May 2017 Rob Eaton applied a wetting agent and a fertilizer high in nitrogen.

Thursday 20th April 2017

Green was verti-cut today which unbelievably resulted in 40 full grass boxes being taken off the green.

Tuesday 11th April 2017

Green was cut to just under 6mm and the bottom to cylinder blade was adjusted.

Monday 20th March 2017

The green was treated for worm casts today.

Saturday 4th March: Green was cut to 7mm and then spiked.

Friday 10th March: Light verti-cut and then cut with the old mower straight after, and then spike again, which involves 3 operations, Alan Garton to assist and An other's help would be good with emptying boxes.

Week starting 13th March: Spray the green with liquid fertilizer and cut with Dennis Mower down to 6 mm and spike (sarel roller)

Saturday 18th March: General tidy up around the green and surrounds.

Friday 24th March: Cut the strip along the edge of the green with the small hand mower, edge the side of the green, clean the gutters, and put the boards down, and cut the green, Alan Garton to assist.

Saturday 25th March: Green Opening

Friday 31st March: Cut and prepare green for Burton Cup for the following day, Alan Garton to assist.

Saturday 1st April: Burton Cup

Saturday 4th March 2017

Green was cut to 7mm with the old mower and was spiked afterwards.

Tuesday 21st February 2017

Green was cut to 7mm using the old machine and then spiked, the green is looking very well.

Wednesday 15th February 2017

Spiked the green today with the front roller comb right down.

Monday 13th February 2017

The green was treated for worm casts today.

Wednesday 1ST February 2017

The green was brushed and very lightly scarified using the new cassette in the Dennis Mower, and then cut using the old mower and finally spiked, that's today's exercise sorted!

Wednesday 17th January 2017

The green was cut with the masport mower today due to a lot of debris on the green (the new brush cassette hasn't come yet) in case the blade on the new mower is damaged by twigs or whatever.

The green was then spiked using the Dennis mower.

Wednesday 4th January 2017

The green was brushed with the Dennis Mower using the loaned brush cassette and then spiked, it looked pretty good once finished.

Friday 30th December 2016

After inspecting the green today there are still signs of fusarium on the green (small brown patches where there is no grass) but even if I wanted to try and treat it, now is not the time of year so again will rely on the hope that mother nature takes care of it!

Wednesday 14th December 2016

Green was cut to 9mm with the Dennis Mower and then spiked.



Thursday 8th December 2016

The brush cassette was used once again to clear leaves and debris.

Thursday 1st December 2016

A loaned brushed cassette for the Dennis mower was used today to clear the green of the leaves and debris, this proved a great success and the green looked superb afterwards.

Tuesday 15th November 2016

Cut the green with the Masport mower ((9mm) mainly to get all the debris of leaves etc. off and then spiked it. Fusarium is still there.

Sunday/Monday 6th/7th November 2016

There were many branches and leaves on the green on Sunday which needed clearing off before Mondays spraying and fertilizing.

Rob Eaton treated the green for leather jackets which will hopefully stop the birds scratching the surface of the green next season he also applied a granular Autumn fertilizer of which contains a certain amount of iron which should also kerb the fusarium.

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Green was cut to 9mm today, also noticed that once again there are signs of fusarium on the green, but will do the same as last year with it, NOTHING!

As last year it disappeared on its own, maybe will turn out to be the wrong decision at some point!

Although other greens also have it and I have been told that there is a lot of it on the greens at Wrexham golf club and they treated for it!

Monday 9th October 2016

Applied worm suppressant.

Thursday 5th October 2016

Rob Eaton scarified and chisel tyned the green today, I then cut it to take off the residue, he also put some seed and top dressed in some areas, I also applied some top dressing to the crown area and one or two other areas where there were slight hollows.

WELSH CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS AT THE CUNLIFFE

Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd October 2016

The green was cut twice corner to corner and across on the Saturday afternoon in readiness for the Welsh Champion of Champions on the Sunday, it was then cut up and down again early on the Sunday morning all to 4mm, the green was probably in the best looking and playing condition it had ever been in, in the lifetime of the green.

Wednesday 21st September 2016

Fertilized with liquid fertilizer, when cutting the edges of the green, the blade is raised up by 1.5mm to save scalping the edges.

Wednesday 14th September 2016

Treated for worms and leather jackets.

Thursday 26th August 2016

Worm Suppressant and liquid fertilizer was applied.

Friday 19th August 2016

The green was verti-cut today where again a lot of stuff came off it, it was then cut both ways and looked very well after, it seems to me that verti-cutting can be done on a more regular basis in the growing season, maybe every 2 or 3 weeks, time allowing, the green is also still being spiked weekly.

Monday 11th July 2016 Worm Suppressant was applied today

Friday 24th June 2016 Green was verti-cut today, still cutting to just under 5mm and spiking weekly.

Monday 23rd May 2016 Green was verti-cut today.

Friday 20th May 2016 Rob Eaton applied a wetting agent and a fertilizer high in nitrogen.

Monday 8th May 2016 The green was verti-cut and cut to just under 5mm, spiking with the Dennis Sorrel roller is being done weekly.

Wednesday 27th April 2016 Liquid fertilizer was applied to the green today. Still cutting at 5.5 mm 3

Monday 4th April 2016 Spiked and applied worm suppressant.

Wednesday 23rd March 2016 The green was cut to 5.5mm and then spiked again, the green will be opening on Friday 25th March (good Friday)

Friday 18th March 2016 The green was cut to 6mm and spiked today.

Friday 11th March 2016 Applied liquid spring fertilizer to the green today.

Monday 7th March 2016 Finished verti cutting the green from Saturday today another 30 boxes came of it, then cut it to 7mm just a couple of boxes off, then spiked it.

Monday 16th November 2015

Nature is a wonderful thing ! after noting what was/is pretty certain fusarium on the green just 10 days ago, new grass can now be seen growing through most of the small patches on the green without doing any treatment apart from spiking, with the weather still being relatively mild.

Friday 6th November 2015

A lot of brown patches have appeared on the green and it seems very likely that it is Fusarium, it has been very mild and wet lately not sure whether this has an effect or not.

(Fusarium definition link)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=563>

There are chemical treatments that can be applied, not sure whether to get some or not, it is very expensive.

Or just do the things that will help aerating (spiking) Iron sulphate etc.

As noted from the previous years diary it seems pretty certain that Fusarium was prevalent last year although a bit later on and I don't think it was as bad last year, no treatment was applied last year and the green recovered.

Also cut the green today but maybe should have kept off it with the fear of spreading the Fusarium even more, but the grass was long and I took about a dozen boxes off it.

Wednesday 21st October 2015

Iron and worm suppressant applied and cut
8.5mm

Thursday 8th October 2015

Cut again today 8.5mm

Thursday 1st October 2015

The green was cut at 8.5mm today.

Monday 21st September 2015

The annual end of season work was done on the green today, comprising of Scarifying, Solid Tyning and autumn granular fertilizer being applied, some seed and top dressing was also applied to the top edge and the pub

side edge, also some top dressing was again applied to the centre of the green.

Monday 27th July 2015

Not had a much time to update these last couple of months, but just to say the green has been fertilized, treated for worm casts and spiked weekly for the last couple of months and is still improving overall, but the edges need some work at the close season, although the edges are really only cosmetic and doesn't interfere with the bowling.

Friday 30th May 2015

Iron Sulphate was applied to the green this week, followed by some heavy rain which greened the green up, have decided to put the cut back to 5mm as 4.5mm seems to be scalping the green on the edges.

Thursday 7th May 2015

The green was treated for worm suppressant and has been spiked weekly, the cut is down to about 4.5mm

The green was also fertilized with liquid fertilizer today.

Monday/Wednesday April 19th/21st 2015

The blades on both the mowers was lowered to just below 5mm and then cut to this

height, on Monday and Wednesday and on Wednesday was brushed before cutting and then spiked.

Wednesday April 15th 2015

The green was brushed, cut and then spiked.

Wednesday April 15th 2015

Seed was sown on the right hand side of the green with some top dressing, also a small amount of top dressing was put around the centre of the green with a view to gradually build the crown up a bit.

Monday April 13th 2015

The Atco mower was lowered to 5mm and cut diagonally.and then spiked

Friday March 27th 2015

The green was cut for the final time before opening tomorrow.

Wednesday March 25th 2015

The green was cut diagonally today, still at between 6mm & 7mm

Monday March 23rd 2015

Green was brushed and cut across towards the pub.

March 19th 2015

Rob Eaton scarified the green and the green was cut straight after again to 6 - 7mm, about 8 full barrows were taken off the green during the process.

March 17th 2015

Spiked the remainder of the green.

March 16th 2015

Spiked just over half the green.

March 15th 2015

The green was cut to between 6 and 7mm today.

March 10th 2015

The green was cut to 8mm again today with the Masport mower.

March 6th 2015

Rob Eaton put some small sized granular fertilizer on the green today.

March 4th 2015

The Atco mower was set to 8mm and the green was cut with the Atco.

March 2nd 2015

The green was cut again today to a height of 8mm.

February 25th 2015

The green was cut again today to a height of 10mm.

February 20th 2015

The recent rain is doing the green good and it looks well, and after putting on the iron of sulphate the moss is receding and unbelievably, or I think it is! new seedlings are coming up now at this time of the year to replace the moss and in abundance, hope to cut the green again next week depending on the weather.

February 4th 2015

The green was brushed and spiked today, the main work of renovating the gutters has now been complete, the wooden supports have been screwed to the decking ready for putting into the gutters sometime in March.

January 27th 2015

Green was cut to 10mm with Masport machine, and iron of Sulphate was sprayed onto the green, up and down and across.

January 24th 2015

The green was brushed again today, gutter job is progressing well.

January 16th 2015

The green was brushed again today to clear the debris that has blown off the trees onto the green, the moss appears to be receding over the last few weeks, and the green is looking pretty good, for the time of year.

January 13th 2015

The green was brushed all over and a lot of debris was also removed, there are still a few brown patches on the green, but I feel confident new grass will grow through it, don't think it is Fusarium.

January 8th

Both mowers have been picked up by PAW Engineering of Oswestry to have the blades sharpened and ground, they are a well established company specialising in the field of professional lawn mowers

January 6th 2015

One bag of top dressing of about 4 square metres was put around the middle of the green to try and build up the crown on the centre of the green, although caution has to be taken as not to put too much on in one application, but if the grass comes through it ok I will put some more on in a couple of weeks or so, but again it may take a while before a noticeable difference is seen and will be a gradual process over a couple of years, the green was also brushed.

January 6th 2015

The green was spike all over today.

December 3rd

After inspecting the green, new grass can be seen all over, although there is still some moss the new grass is coming through it and the patches that were there on the edges last year are much better already and will hopefully fill in completely by next year.

December 12th

The two mowers came back today after being serviced, only a mechanical service was done as the blades would have to be sent away to have them machined, but at the moment they still seem to be cutting ok.

Seeing as it was a nice dry sunny day and the green was near bone dry I decided to cut the green again to 10mm, at least another 10 grass boxes came off it again.

December 15th

Fusarium ??

I had a close look at the Cunliffe today, and there are a few small not totally brown patches on it, so not sure if it is Fusarium though, so I decided to have a tour around some of the greens !

I went to the Parciau and they seem to have similar to the Cunliffe, loads of worm casts though, then went to Bersham Green their patches definitely look like Fusarium to me in one or two concentrated pictures.

Then off on my tour to Esclusham, I got my brother to open up to have a look at their green, they have the odd brown patches if you can call them that, but my brother said it is definitely not Fusarium and they are similar ish to the Cunliffe (pics enclosed) my brother said in his experience with Esclusham, you will often get faded grass at this time of the year

Tom Roberts (Colliery) phoned about something else, but when I asked him he

thought they had a bit of it at the end of September..

Then off to my last stop at the Gate, again they have similar patches to the Cunliffe and Parciau so the bottom line is not conclusive apart from Bersham which I think does have it.

Caste off was applied to the green this month because of the worm casts that are very prevalent over a lot of areas on the green, this time to a rate of 125ml to the 25 litre tank.

The caste off was also watered in due to the relatively dry weather for the time of year.

November 2014

Due to there being a few more worm castes another dose of Caste off was applied at the

beginning of this month, hopefully that will keep them off until spring.

November 10th 2014

Robert Eaton has been today to complete his work on the green for this year, he sprayed for leather jackets and to protect the new seedlings, and put a granular fertilizer which included iron of sulphate.

November 14th 2014

The green was cut today to 10mm nearly twenty boxes of grass were taken off it.

November 19th

A brown patch has appeared on the green about 18inch in diameter, not sure exactly what it is, but hope it is not Fusarium of which can be difficult to get rid of (don't think it is)

but decided to go some way to treating it as such by spiking the green.

November 20th

The green was cut again today down to 10mm another ten boxes of grass were taken off the green, again the green was spiked after cutting. (spiked two days running!)

November 27th

Both mowers have gone away to be serviced, not sure whether that will include the bottom and cylinder blades.

brushed all over prior to cutting, it will probably be the same every time we cut it now until the end of the season.

Week ending Friday 12th September

The green was running very quick this week having been cut twice on a few occasions also the recent dry weather was also a factor.

Iron Sulphate was applied to the green at a rate of 700grms per 25 litre tank.

The worms and worm casts on the green are still very minimal.

The following day the colour of the green changed to a darker colour and the tracks of the sprayer were to be seen on the green, the green was then cut and was still running well.

Week ending Friday 19th September

The green was only cut twice this week as there are less games and the grass is not growing much.

Week ending Friday 26th September

Again the green was only cut twice this week and Fridays cut will be the last before the Winter work is to be done.

Week ending Friday 3rd October

The green had its major winter work done on Wednesday of this week which included, deep scarifying, hollow tining, whole green over seeding and top dressed, with 6 ton of top dressing.

October 2014

The gutters all around the green have been cleared of all the soil and roots which were thought to be growing under the green especially on the right hand side and top edges, to hopefully promote the new seed to grow on those edges which were a bit thread bare.

The new seed is germinating and the grass is growing up through the dressing.

Week ending Friday 15th August

The mower has been lowered to 4 mm (it seems it was a bit more previously) and the difference is there to see, the green was spiked twice this week.

Tried out some iron sulphate on the moss patches and a couple of brown areas, it seems that the mixture is not quite right as the patches went black a bit quick!

Also applied some spot weed killer to one or two dandelions around the edges of the green.

Week ending Friday 22nd August

Lowered the cut even a touch more this week, this is probably the lowest the green has been cut for many years, but it still looks ok.

Another dose of worm suppressant was applied after experiencing a lot of worm casts recently, it is a problem for most greens at this time, must be the right weather conditions for worms !

Week ending Friday 29th August

The worm suppressant seems to have had the desired effect, with dozens of worms on the surface of the green and much less worm casts.

It seems the mixture of the worm suppressant that I made up was a bit strong but it had the desired effect and does not do any harm to the green.

The green was swished brushed and spiked as well as cutting this Tuesday, the green

definitely cuts and looks better when brushing prior to cutting.

The cut has yet again been lowered a smidge, as Mike Gilpin has requested it being cut lower for next Wednesday's match, I have once again cut it twice in different directions which makes a big difference to the green. We have decided to only use the Atco mower due to the fact it rips the grass somewhat when turning the mower especially on the bare edges, and just keep the Masport as a backup, but we will start it up from time to time.

Week ending Friday 5th September

The green was cut twice on the same day this week in different directions, and because of the amount of dew on the green, the whole green was swished and



Week Ending Friday 8th August

Monday

The green was swished and cut diagonally up to the left hand corner.

Wednesday

The green was swished and cut straight across and spiked straight after, any bits of turf that

stuck up were rolled down, but most of the green was fine, coming to the conclusion it is better to spike after cutting.

Friday

The green was swished, brushed and cut twice, up and down, and diagonally up to the right hand corner, the blade setting had to be adjusted on the Atco mower, also the blade to blade setting, it seems that all the pushing it in and out over the concrete is disturbing the setting.

After the two cuts the green looks pretty good.



July 19th

The green is now greening up again after being fertilized and the rain also came at the right time.

July 25th /26th

The green was watered quite substantially, but evenly over 2 days due to the green drying out because of the recent dry spell.

July 30th

The worms are back used some caste off suppressant again only in the prevalent areas.

August 1st

Due to the rain arriving decided to give the green another dose of caste off, also spiked the green after adjusting the bottom blade to the cylinder blade and then cutting the green twice.

July 3rd

I decided to spike the green after cutting this morning because the green seems to be getting very hard again after the dry spell

with bowls bouncing along, and with the rain imminent should do it some good.

I noticed that the spike now only goes in just over half way down where previously it was going right in, after I had spiked it I tried putting a fork into it and could only get it in about an inch !! without a lot of effort, where if you remember when we forked in certain areas previously the fork went in virtually the full length very easy without much effort.

All this brings me to the conclusion that as with Garden Villages green when it was tested last week, the Cunliffe to is bone dry below an inch or so...

Due to the above, spiking is now been done once or even twice a week.

July 13th

The green was fertilized using the sprayer we have, the tank holds 25litres of liquid, we

made up three tanks of each product below using a ratio of 1.66 litres of product to 23.33 of water, the green was done three times in various directions.

<http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/green-solutions/index.html>

In the third week of April the places where the worm cast were prevalent, of which were also the areas on the green which were uneven and bare in places, were spiked seeded and top dressed, and a couple of weeks later were again topped up with top dressing.

A manual spiker was purchased and was used to do the green twice at the beginning of May, just after that in mid May Rob Eaton

came back and deep spiked the green and then fertilized it and applied a wetting agent to help with dry patch on the green.

The week after the green had being fertilized about 15 boxes of grass were taken off the green in one cut, and the green is looking very green and the patches seem to be closing up.

We gave the green another worm suppressant treatment at the end of May.

The green is being spiked at least on a two weekly basis from the end of May and the blade has been dropped to about 4mm and is being cut three times a week.

Liquid Fertilizer

10 litres product and 140 litres would mean filling the sprayer 6 times, you would have to gauge your pace and do the whole green

twice, which would give good even coverage going up and down then across.

So one tankful would do a third of the green 1.66 litres of product to 23.33 of water giving total of 25litres x 6 = 150 litres of water and product.

Throughout June and July the green continued to be cut on average three times a week using both mowers alternatively, and the green was spiked every other week, and the general condition of the green kept improving.

Also trying to keep brushing the green at least once a week prior to cutting.

Purchased a small sprinkler to do specific areas if needed and to run at the same time as the stand pipe sprinkler.

The first initial cuts were done to a height of 8mm at the end of March 2014 and then down to about 6mm just under at the end of April.

During the middle of April the green was treated to suppress the worms and the casts that they make with castaway worm suppresser.

Just after this Rob Eaton (green specialist) scarified the green, where about twenty barrows of moss came off the green.