



Our bee colony is thriving. The Queen is laying and the hive is expanding in numbers. We hope to install a second hive later in the year.

A second bird survey was carried out during the month of June to collate data on breeding species. This survey is available for Members perusal [by clicking here](#).

The water quality across the course continues to be of high standard.

The wild flower areas and tall fescue areas are developing well and give a nice definition to the areas of the course.

**Looking Ahead:**

So far this summer we have had quite a varying mix of weather which has challenged us in our presentation and standards. A lot of the unseen work that is carried out e.g. sanding, spiking and hollowtining allows Members to play the course in all but the most inclement weather. We continue to adapt and improve our techniques and processes to maintain those standards.

***Eddie Walsh***  
**Course Superintendent**

## Golf Course Superintendent's Course Report

### Course Report – Summer 2016

#### Introduction:

The summer season thus far has delivered many challenges and successes. The full 18 hole complex is playing very well with standards and uniformity being raised and maintained. The learning curve over this period has been quite steep but we are equal to the task.

#### Staff:

As we strive to improve standards and presentation across the course, training for staff becomes an ever more important feature of the delivery of these standards. As part of this training and advancement of staff, Séamus Walsh has just completed his formal greenkeeper training in Scotland at Elmwood College. Séamus was very successful in all the written examinations and training modules. He now has a SCQF level 6 qualification in sports turf management. The Club is showing great foresight in enabling staff to continue their training and advancement which is ongoing across the greenkeeping staff.

#### Greens:

The greens have performed very well so far this summer with excellent trueness and consistency. A sample of seven greens are monitored across three parameters - speed, firmness and moisture content. This allows us to tailor our inputs and work regime to achieve optimum results. Currently we are top dressing the greens every two weeks with circa 15 tonnes of sand. Amongst other benefits this increases firmness, maintains optimum moisture levels and helps create a true putting surface. At the moment the stimpmeter is reading a speed of 10 across all greens.

#### Tees and Approaches:

In keeping with our drive for improving standards of presentation we have increased the frequency and nature of inputs on tees and approaches. As I mentioned in my last report we are now applying P.G.R's (plant growth regulators) across key areas of the course. In conjunction with a specialized foliar feed we are applying these P.G.R's every 2 weeks. This has given us a consistent dense sward that recovers well and is visually pleasing.

#### Fairways:



As with the tees and approaches, we have initiated a similar regime on the fairways. The results are similar and with fairway scarifying later in the year the standard on our fairways will increase further. Our new Toro dedicated sprayer has enabled us to carry out the increased input regime more speedily and accurately.

#### Conservation: