



It has been awhile since my last green update and it has been a very busy period!

Work on the green has been greatly assisted by the great weather we have been having. No 'Beast from the East' this year, and indeed just a few frosty periods. This has enabled me to crack on with a lot of aeration work, both deep (down to 12 ins), and normal spiking down to five inches. Recently it was even possible to carry out the first of many passes with micro tines fitted! The first application of a low nitrogen organic fertiliser went on in March, last year it was not possible until just before opening, and this has been followed up with very light applications of compost tea/seaweed/liquid O2/silicone/low salt nitrogen/carbohydrates/amino acids/fulvic acids etc. I'm very pleased to report no fungicides needed yet! In preparation of the new season I have managed to roll the green twice in two directions, and hopefully will get the roller on the green two or three times before opening day!

So, with regards to the green, I am ahead with my preparations over last year, and am looking forward to another successful bowling season.



For those of you who have not visited the green in a while, you will notice that the surrounds have been tidied up. The rinks markers have been repainted and spread out, this will allow more even wear over the ends and help to maintain a better grass coverage. Broken and cracked slabs have been replaced, loose slabs re-laid and all the slabs have been repointed. The fabric on the ditch face is really green now after it was pressure washed, and the slabs nearly gleaming after the same treatment. It would have been really great to have been able to organise a work party of two to carry out this work, but it is quite specialised and a few

'volunteers', who were 'experts' in this work, were press ganged into action! Well, press ganged is a bit strong but the work has been completed and looks great. So a lot thanks goes to our President (painter and tea maker), Secretary (pressure washer, painter, slab layer and pointer), first team captain, web master, first team lead, second team stalwart, and several others for the work that always takes a lot longer that you think it should. You know who you are so give yourselves a round of applause.

The preseason work parties have been in action, and the ditch drainage holes have been cleared out, ditch mats pressure washed and put back in, pathways edged, grass mowed with the new club mower and a lot of the weeds pulled out in the car park. It is planned to repair the holes in the paths and to replace the broken and damaged slats in the seating. Hopefully, weather permitting, some wood preservative will be applied to some of the fencing and to the picnic type tables, before opening. The ladies have started to plan and organise the flower tubs to give a colourful display around the green, which is always a great, cheery feature to look forward to. There are one of two other jobs to be undertaken this summer, with the fascia and gutters on the car park side of the Clubhouse a priority.

Barry Vaughan, assisted by Roy Tutt, is valiantly trying to push on with planning for a new Clubhouse, but at this moment in time are not getting a lot of encouragement from Ringwood Town Council. But I am sure they have all of our support and encouragement to keep battling on.

It is hoped that the members will be proud of their bowling club going into the 2019 season, and as a club we are going to replicate the tremendous haul of cups and trophies that our members won last season, both in National, County, Bournemouth Open, B & D and New Forest in both the Mens and Ladies sections.

Paul Wright

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