Patience is the Game

What goes around comes around. Having endured some of the wettest weather any of us can remember over the past couple of years, we are in the middle of the driest and warmest March/April people up here in Scotland can remember. Temperatures are what we would hope for in the height of the summer, while at the moment rain seems like a distant memory.

People will accuse us of never being happy and always having something to gripe about but we all know that while excessively wet weather is not what we look for, neither is what we have at the moment.

In the daytime short shirt sleeves are the order of the day which is very pleasant but night time frosts are still keeping soil temperatures down. In fact, we are so dry here at Turnberry that we have had fast greens on our course and there have been several fires on roadside areas. Now you might expect grass fires in the height of a good summer but certainly not at this time of year.

It is ironic that this year it was Augusta National which had to put up with torrential rain, which made the course unplayable for the start of The Masters, while we were having to water our curled up winter turfing just to keep it alive. Who would have believed that?

The extended mild spell has meant that we have had so much play throughout the winter months, which has been followed by almost 4,000 rounds of golf on the Ailsa course during the month of March alone.

The opinion of a respected greenkeeper from outwith experienced greenkeepers available to offer advice and mediation on greenkeeping and agronomic issues. The respect of a opinioned greenkeeper from outwith golf club might just carry enough weight to change ill informed views from within. If it does everyone will be in better shape than they are! Unfortunately many of them do not realise that despite the recent sunshine, as I write, it is still only the middle of April and with the ever increasing amount of winter play on semi dormant golf courses and the crazy demand for fast greens, courses have to pay the penalty with UNDESIRABLE grasses or, in some cases, little grass at all on their greens.

But the saddest thing of all is that the resultant sunshine, as I write, it is still only the middle of April and with the ever increasing amount of winter play on semi dormant golf courses and the crazy demand for fast greens, courses have to pay the penalty with UNDESIRABLE grasses or, in some cases, little grass at all on their greens.

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The extended mild spell has meant that we have had so much play throughout the winter months, which has been followed by almost 4,000 rounds of golf on the Ailsa course during the month of March alone. This has led to some walkways becoming so dry and worn that they are breaking up already and we are having to turn our attention to them much earlier than we would normally have to.

Our second course, the new Kintyre, has also been very busy, with almost 3,000 rounds of golf in the month of March alone.

Talking of Augusta National. Yes, here we are in that time of year when committees expect our courses to be in better shape than they are! Unfortunately many of them do not realise that despite the recent sunshine, as I write, it is still only the middle of April and with the ever increasing amount of winter play on semi dormant golf courses and the crazy demand for fast greens, courses have to pay the penalty with UNDESIRABLE grasses or, in some cases, little grass at all on their greens.

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