

The Dunes Golf Links

During COVID-19 lockdown

Superintendent: Simon Muller



During this unprecedented times, we at The Dunes saw an opportunity to proceed with some major works on our renowned Cups course. The work had been in the pipeline to build a new set of alternate tees and move the 5th green forward around 50m from existing site upon the ridge to below in the valley. The existing 9-hole Cups course has had minimal changes in its 25 year history and the opportunity with no golf and the support of the owners, meaning all staff maintenance staff were still employed in a full time capacity, we took advantage and had the project completed in six weeks.



The major works on the 5th consisted of the removal of the existing Cobra turf and laying out in the rough. The new site was stripped of existing fescue/couch and built up around 600mm with clean dunes sand and shaped. The thatch was removed from the former site and the profile was excavated and used to cap the new site with 300mm. With the input from Darius Oliver, Duncan Andrews (Owner) and myself we shaped the new green. After several attempts, we were satisfied that we had a good product.

The staff then started tying in the green with the existing surrounds followed by irrigation installed which was all done in house. The stockpile turf was then re-laid with great precision as the new green was very similar in size (520m²) to the original green. The staff did an amazing job with only one sod left over. The remaining surrounds (750m²) were turfed with Fine Fescue from our nursery. This was helped with Clubhouse staff lending a hand and getting a real appreciation of how hard us turfies work when doing construction.

Most holes had alternate tees built to give different angles and try to expose new parts of the amazing terrain we are lucky enough to be situated on. This has given the members a genuine 18-hole course and a freshen up of a great little hidden gem.

This period of lock down was something of a bonding experience for our staff. With little contact with other people, the staff seemed to relish the opportunity to be around other work mates (obviously still social distancing) and enjoy doing a large construction project and have secure employment. As many of us have always said, golf courses are a wonderful place to work when you don't have golfers!!

