



INGREBOURNE  
COUNTRY CLUB

# 'Ben on the Course'

Welcome to my Spring / Early Summer Update

**This time in a slightly different format !**



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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

I don't have to remind you that it's been a very wet autumn, winter and early spring with record amounts of rainfall.

The picture to the left shows the irrigation reservoir at the end of last September 2023 – virtually  $\frac{3}{4}$  empty.





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## ‘Ben on the Course’

And this picture was taken a couple of weeks ago ! We have had thousands of m<sup>3</sup> of rainwater on our course – The reservoir has never been this full to the point of overflowing – but the rain keeps falling ! Although the irrigation system is primed up and ready to go, we haven’t needed to use it so far.....





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## ‘Ben on the Course’

We have been able to get on with a lot of projects during this past off season. The bunker on the approach to 3<sup>rd</sup> North green was one of them.

Work started last October with the removal of the original timber facias and the introduction of a links style ‘revet’ face.





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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

Slowly but surely the face was constructed, and the bunker base was shaped up and connected to the drainage.

Despite all the rain we were able to pick our moments and progress forwards.....



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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

Area turfed and knitting in. Base prepared awaiting a dry period for sand.

We introduce sand at 50mm depth to start with and follow up with two applications of 25mm to build up the bunker surface.





## **‘Ben on the Course’**

The finished product !

We all think this style of bunkering is visually effective and like the true links style.

We will be looking to do more in the future.





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## ‘Ben on the Course’

This year fairway drainage has been a priority.

We identified areas (and there are many) where additional drainage would be helpful. Overall, we have installed more than 500m of secondary drainage in known areas. You will see our work on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes.





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We trenched these areas systematically – added 100mm drainage pipe to a positive outlet then overlaid with gravel and rootzone.

Catch basins were strategically placed to maximise the drainage and catchment area.





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Some areas we trenched to a local soak away which allowed us to pick up on large surface areas.

Each drainage run was different, but I'm pleased to report they are working well.





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Very pleased with the outcome and the immediate benefits from better drainage.

Our plan is to continue this process during the winter months, focusing on the known wetter areas. It's a time-consuming task but the benefits far outweigh.





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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

A few weeks on and the turf recovery over the new drainage runs is very good.

All these types of works are ongoing, they are a little inconvenient for the golfer but in the long run assist our ability to play the course all year round.





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We hollow cored and slit our greens early this year and for once were lucky with the weather during that week.

Doing renovations earlier in the year offers us the opportunity for a less intrusive renovations in August when our green surfaces are at their best.





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The left-hand side edge of the lake on the North 2<sup>nd</sup> hole has suffered subsidence and you will see that this has now been repaired.

We have taken the opportunity to fill in the far-left bunker as well. Our plan is to adjust the centerline of the hole slightly to the right so that the lake is further left when playing the hole. Either way it has been a good repair and will support the surrounding soils.





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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

Last October we regraded, levelled and re-turfed the 13<sup>th</sup> tees (East 4). The back and middle tees had become uneven, so we took the opportunity to level them and, in that process, enlarged them as well.





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Pleased to report the turves have all knitted in and made for two super new teeing grounds. Again, our ongoing plan is to address other tees that require this type of work.







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## 'Ben on the Course'

Essex Golf Union celebrates its Centenary this year and Ingrebourne Links is hosting the inaugural CENTENARY CUP – 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> July.

This is a prestigious Amateur golf event played over 3 rounds and a WAGR ranking event for low handicap golfers (4.0 and below). My team and I will be pulling out all the stops to make this a memorable event.



WORLD  
AMATEUR  
GOLF  
RANKING™





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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

Very pleased for Ingrebourne Links to be voted number 5 in Essex ( there are nearly 90 courses in the County).

Our ranking puts us just behind the likes of Thorndon Park, Orsett, Chelmsford and Chigwell Golf Clubs. Our ranking is one of the highest new entries in the UK.






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## ‘Ben on the Course’

Our course is still very soft – Please, Please repair your pitch marks on the green.



And although our course marshals do a great job sand filling divot scars can I plead with you to replace your own divots as this not only helps but is the etiquette of the game – Thank you.



*Thank  
You*



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## **‘Ben on the Course’**

Thank you for taking the time to review our new format of ‘Ben on the Course’ It is much appreciated.

Currently the grass is growing like mad – but hopefully we see some sun and warmth and we can get back to enjoying golf at our fabulous club. Have a great summer season !