

WELCOME TO VRA NEWSLETTER



Greens Newsletter.

Bunkers.

As this is a subject that is often discussed, I thought I would give a little insight into some of the issues we have and what we are going to do to improve them.

The bunkers at VRA are unique and differentiate us from many courses in the area. They are designed on typically large, American style bunkers. Because of their unique size and design, they require a significant amount of labour and other resources to maintain in good order. They are a major asset to the club and do require special attention, the bunkers upkeep has been the subject of many a discussion here over the years.

Because of their size, design and overall positive impact on the course's playability and aesthetics, they must be maintained to the highest level, otherwise we will receive negative feedback.

This style of bunker was designed to facilitate the use of a mechanised bunker raker, because of their large size, hand raking is just not an option. While the sand base can be raked with a machine all the edges and associated upkeep must be done by hand.



The problems.

There are several issues with the bunkers, after 25 years of use many are in need of attention. Common observations are there is not enough sand in them, the edges are damaged and ill-defined in places, there are stones contaminating the sand, drainage problems and they are not raked often enough. It is also worth pointing out that because our bunkers are significantly bigger than most, the resources needed to maintain them are obviously going to be far higher than other clubs.

The improvement of the bunkers is one of the priority issues highlighted within the SCIP document.

I am currently in the process of writing a detailed report explaining what the problems are and what the solutions are likely to be. The bunkers here at VRA are not your typical, average club bunker. My report will be presented to the executive board and the greens committee for discussion, with a view of starting some bunker improvement work over this winter.

With regards to normal, regular bunker maintenance and expected levels of presentation, it is worth pointing out that we have had a bit of a perfect storm happening recently as our bunker raking machine has been out of action, couple this with continues rain fall for the past 6 weeks, and this has meant that it has been extremely difficult to maintain the bunkers to their usual standard.

I am now pleased to report that our bunker machine is now fully operational again, and the weather has started to improve, thus normal levels of presentation will resume.

As usual, if anybody has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or a member of the Greenstaff out on the course.

Kind regards Justin,

Course Manager Vale Royal Abbey.



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