



Do your greens suffer from shade?

Do you have a problem green or tee that struggles to grow, has a thinning sward or regularly suffers from outbreaks of disease? Is the green or tee in an enclosed environment? Are light levels affected by overhanging branches or shadow caused by a dense tree canopy? No matter how hard you work with the turf, does it continue to perform poorly? If the answer to these questions is 'yes' then you have a problem with shade which requires action to improve the quality of the growing environment for turf.



Why reduce shade?

With Climate Change, wetter autumns and winters and drier summers, the improvement of the growing environment becomes even more important. The following are some of the impacts of shade on turf performance.

- Turf more susceptible to wear.
- Promotes disease activity.
- Results in weak etiolated growth.
- Aids surface moisture retention.
- Poorer root development.
- Greater drought susceptibility.



Removing trees

When planning which trees to remove it is important to recognise the following:–

- **Planning:** Decide which trees require removing, giving priority to the removal of those that reduce the penetration of morning sunlight as well as those that shelter surfaces from the prevailing wind.
- **Communication:** To avoid controversy inside the Clubhouse, ensure the reasoning for their removal is clearly understood by your membership.
- **Licence:** As a general rule, you require a licence from the Forestry Commission before you fell growing trees.
- **Advice:** Consult professional ecologists/arboriculturists before any action is taken. This may also help provide rationale to your membership for the removal of the trees.