

Greens Report
January 2024

Firstly I would like to wish all the members, Directors and staff of Consett GC a healthy and happy 2024 and hope that you all had a wonderful relaxed festive period.

It's now a new year, a fresh start and from a green keeping point of view, I will surely be glad to see the back of 2023. 2023 had been a tough year in the respects of the diabolical weather! Not just for us, but its been an issue for all, right across the UK and at times, I think we've not had it as bad as others (for once). It just never seemed to relent from August until now. I have been green keeping for 27 years and I can quite easily say, that in that time I have never seen or experienced anything like it, over such a long period. Having to change tasks on a daily basis, simply to be able to get jobs started due to the weather conditions has been a problem in itself, and juggling to simply get jobs started. But we managed, at times it felt like we were going backwards. So looking forward, let's hope the weather changes and allows us to have a good run into the spring and pre-season.

	Dec 2023	Dec 2022
Rainfall	189mm	44mm

In the last quarter of 2023 (Oct, Nov and Dec) we had a total rainfall of 665mm. In the same three months of 2022 we had a total of 377mm. 2023 was an incredible - 288mm more than the previous years' same 3 months! Having records going back to 2017, the wettest year to date, with a total annual rainfall of **1240mm** was 2019. This total had been surpassed by November of 2023. The annual rainfall for 2023 was a staggering **1515mm!!**

With the amount of rain that we have encountered, if we can take any positives from it, is that the greens have taken the deluges extremely well. Yes, they have pooled at times, but the general health and firmness is a testament to all the aeration from spiking, hollow coring, verti-cutting, verti-draining and sarel roller that we have undertaken over the last several years. With this in mind, it has proven that these traditional methods are tried and tested and therefore we will continue with this programme. Most of our issues on the course being closed is simply tee to green and the saturation of the surface, making the course unsafe to be played.

Over the Christmas period we experienced some high winds, and with it brought a little damage. We have had a couple of trees blow over and a limb has snapped and fallen on the driving net causing damage to both the net and frame. The tree has now been cleared but work is still needed to repair and secure the frame. Traffic cones are in place to restrict access to the net area. While we have been working on the 1st path it made sense to trim back all overhanging branches heading down to the 1st tee, brash back the hedges on the left side, burn the brash and limbs that had damaged the driving net and also discard the rubbish left from the workmen that repaired the patio.

Also, you may have noticed between 2nd and 3rd fairway near the 150yd marker, water has been coming to the surface and flowing down across 4th. We drained this area back in 2019 and replaced a section of clay pipe, which had filled solid with tree roots, with a plastic perforated pipe. After investigation it appears that after 4 years the perforated plastic pipe again has become solid with tree roots, in search of water. It had taken over 80+ years to block the solid clay pipe and only 4 years to block the plastic. With this in mind, we have felled the tree, and also cut back as many ground roots as possible before we re-instate a new pipe.

All the wooden tee markers (160 in total) have now been double coated with wood stained and the facias of the ladies red markers have now been glossed, the medal markers have also been glossed and completed, but the yellows have had one coat of gloss, a second coat still required.

We have also started chipping out and edging the paths, the 6th has been completed around the garden. This task will continue when we can't get on with other work and when weather allows. We have also continued to process logs in preparation for this year. We have had a far better response with the sales of logs and are literally down to our last 2 dumpy bags. I think last year we managed to sell about 8 bags in total, this year from March, then especially Nov, Dec we have shifted 20+ bags. The old halfway house cabin in the yard has now been fully restocked and I also allocated a corner of the main machinery shed inside for the purpose of drying out. The plan is to stock both, so that for this coming winter, we have sufficient to both sell and run the clubhouse fire.

I have also continued to service, oil change and repair the fleet of machines in readiness for the season. The majority of ride-on machines are now completed, with only the powered hand tools i.e. strimmers, flymo's and chainsaws to service. We have also continued with our everyday tasks, from blowing leaves, cleaning ditches, changing holes, dewi greens and squeegee greens and continued with our other normal daily tasks as usual.

Regards David