

Greens Report  
November 2023

Well, where to start! The weather!! I don't think I can remember any time where the rain has impacted so much with golf courses not just Consett but all around our area. The rain has been relentless and with such a high water table from the previous months the course was simply saturated.

	Oct 2023	Oct 2022
Rainfall	<b>257mm</b>	136mm
Closed	4 days	0 days
Buggies Off	12 days	2 days

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 17<sup>th</sup> Oct only 23mm of rain fell, from the 17<sup>th</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> a staggering 234mm fell.**

### Winter Work 10<sup>th</sup> Green

We started work on the 10<sup>th</sup> green, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. We borrowed Turfcare's turf cutter, free of charge to remove the turf from the main run and the laterals. This was cut into lengths and placed top side of the green in the order it was removed so as to be easily replaced when re-turfing occurs.

Tuesday the trencher arrived, but the work was delayed for 2 hours while the heavy frost thawed. Once we got started approximately 115m of drainage was trenched and tidied up within 3 hours. Wednesday seen the installation of 115m drainage pipe, 3 tonnes of gravel and the laterals topped up with 70/30 sand and soil. Progression was fantastic and well ahead of schedule, Thursday arrived along with the weather and we were simply unable to continue! Thankfully the majority of the work was done, so it was no great worry. If we can take a positive from the biblical weather, it did test the new drains and I pleased to say they coped really well.

We are now currently re-turfing the laterals as they are important to get down as soon as possible, especially with it being on the playing surface. The mains, which are off the greens can be done when the weather allows us to transport the remaining soil required. While the weather has been so bad and ground conditions dangerous, I took the decision to remove all vehicles from the course to reduce the impact of unnecessary damage.

### Forestry.

As mentioned last month Mr J Harker came out to inspect the tree at the 5<sup>th</sup> green. It was decided that as a matter of Health & Safety the tree was to be removed. Mr D.Robe who has worked with us in the past was contacted. The reason being with the tree being so close to the green and leaning towards the green, it wasn't just a simple fell. It needed to be climbed and taken down in sections. This was carried out on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, along with the dangerous leaning tree on 15<sup>th</sup> tee. The trees were successfully felled and we tidied the brash away.

As I briefly mentioned earlier, the weather impacted us a great deal and to save damaging the course we have been walking round on a daily basis checking the course, raking bunkers where possible, removing the dew and water from the greens and also back pack blowers.

I have juggled jobs around that have allowed to work from pathways to save the course. One such area is the “regeneration site” to the right of the 9<sup>th</sup> green. It was requested by Forestry Commission that this area be cleaned out and allow regeneration. The work was brought forward as to make use so to speak of the poor weather. This has now been completed and what a difference it has made. I'm extremely pleased with the result and the feedback from members has been extremely positive, so that is fantastic!

### General Work

Now that we are in November, we are now on our shorter 7 hour days. We have still been doing our usual course work where possible, e.g. Changing holes, bunkers, blowing and picking up leaves. We managed to cut the greens just before the bad weather arrived, along with approaches and the tees were cut by hand. Spiking of the greens with the sarel roller is still being successful and 1/2” solid tining of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> green to help with drainage.

I was aware that a H&S representative have been assisting the club with H&S issues regards the clubhouse. After speaking with Kris a few matters of concern were raised, in which we could assist. It was suggested that we relocated the Fire Assembly point, which we did, to the overflow car park, near to the water tank with the correct Green and White signage. We also cleaned out the fire escape route around the rear of the clubhouse. We removed all overhanging branches, any obstructions i.e. bins and old drum BBQ's and scraped as much moss from the paths as possible.

I have also managed to service several machines, oil changes, repairs, jetwash and degrease and put to bed for the winter, so to speak.

Also last week with the bad weather, after inspecting and doing general course tidy up from the weekend on Monday, Storm Debi hit us with further deluges of rain. I met with the team and discussed possibly taking a couple of days holidays as working conditions outside were horrific, gladly the team agreed and took the rest of Monday and Tuesday off. During this time I had some online training that had been set up by Kris. It was all Health and Safety related training (bar staff and Joanne have completed it) that needed to be completed from Fire Marshall, Safe Handling and Lifting, Slips, Trips and Falls and General H&S in the work place. I completed these over the two days and the green-staff have a couple to do also, this training is pencilled in for December.

Again access onto the course has been difficult, but due to being closed on Wednesday, we took the opportunity to trim back all the branches around the main car park, tidied the elevated garden by the Pro-shop and parking bays, burnt the rubbish and resituated the sign that had been knocked down and cemented back in.

Finally I have a Winter Work Plan spreadsheet that JP implemented and I will update this work schedule before each meeting as to update the directors of the progress of our planned winter work. If anyone has any questions please feel free to ask.

Regards David