

Greens Report October 2024

So far this month the weather has started to change and become more autumnal, we've encountered high winds and a substantial drop in temperatures. This last week especially, overnight temperatures have dropped to -1 and -2, resulting in white ground frosts, which in turn slows the growth rate due to cooler soil temperatures. We have also had a few heavy rain showers, that the course has taken relatively well. Unfortunately, this is what we can expect, especially this time of year. Now with us being into October we have now stepped down from our summer 9hr shifts to our 8hr shift.

	2024	2023
Rainfall	116mm	118mm
Course Closed	1 day	0 days
No Buggies	0 days	12 days

Since the last greens report, we have continued to concentrate on the cutting and presentation of the golf course. We have more or less stuck to the same regime due to September into October being busy with club competitions and also hosting Rotary Club annual Charity golf day and also Murray and Lamb Charity Day. I'd like to add that the feedback from the organisers, Mr Morley of the Rotary and Mr Lamb of Murray and Lamb was extremely positive and complimentary, a good day was had by all!

We have continued to sarel roll the greens and power brush over the last month, as well as our application of autumn liquid fertiliser and wetting agent. This is for the lead up to the colder temperatures and also help the recovery from our main maintenance week, which was at the start of September. The processes that we did in the maintenance, recovered extremely well and have been very beneficial and I'm pleased with the results. I still have processes that I need to do at the close of the competition season and will get on with them in the coming weeks. I have just ordered our granular Autumn/Winter shut down fertiliser. Once this arrives, as soon as the conditions allow, this will be applied. The tees have also been fertilised with a low nitrogen and high iron autumn/winter granular fertiliser, this will help them recover over the cooler temperatures.

We have also verti-cut the greens with our own Thatch-away units in the last 2 weeks, this again has been very beneficial. With the heavy rain we encountered last Tuesday and Wednesday, we followed up the weather with 6mm solid tines on the Ford/Groundsman spiker, we had the sarel roller on the John Deere X740 and then slit with our Sisis green slitter on the X740. These processes helped remove the excess surface water.

With the bad weather forecast, we cleaned all the drain outlets, in preparation, cleared the plastic path drains to get the water off the course as fast and effective as possible. During the bad weather last week, we took the time to split logs, we also trimmed the trees and bushes back around the 11th tee and burnt in the woods. While in this area we started to thin the copses out, starting at the 15th/11th, removing broken and low branches, this was also burnt in the woods at the 10th.

After the storms of last week, it was noticed that the lower, black drain, at the 17th path was blocked. Upon inspection it was discovered that the pipe had taken gravel and was blocked. About 4m of pipe was dug out by hand, replaced and connected with new pipe, back filled and re-turfed to great success.

We also took the time during the bad weather to replace the baffle net on the practise net, the net was ordered 2 weeks ago and arrived last week. Leaves also play a big part this time of year. Hopefully with the purchase of a tractor mounted leaf blower earlier in the year, this job will be made a great deal easier and time effective, allowing us to get on more regular.

With the cooler and wetter temperatures, we have raised the height of cut on the greens machine from 3.25mm to 3.65mm. Over the next few weeks, we will slowly continue to raise the H.O.C to get to our desired winter height of around 4.5-5.0mm.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended the divot fill party that the club organised. I think on paper we had 5-6 names to help, but on the day, in excess of 15/16 people turned up ! Fantastic ! Its great to see members supporting the club, I can't thank you enough, it was a huge productive effort. I'd also like to thank the few who concentrated on repairing pitch marks on the greens, as we ran out of buckets. Good job, well done by all involved.

Once again, thank you for your continued support

Regards David