

Greens Report September 2025

Even though it's been a busy month since the last report, there is nothing really anything out of the normal to report!

We have continued to keep up with our cutting regime to keep the course tidy, with there still being medal rounds and a few big days on the horizon (Rotary Annual Charity Day and Murray and Lamb). Along with the general cutting, we have had the added task of starting to tidy and pick up leaves. These are falling very early this season due to the drought stress they have suffered this year. We have had the tractor mounted blower out (this is the attachment we purchased start of last season), what an amazing time saver this piece of equipment is!

We have continued with our monthly fertilising and wetting agent plan. This has been continual throughout the season along with sarel rolling and verti-cutting the greens.

We have continued to work on the bunkers, removing the stones, especially from the 8th, 12th and 14th bunkers. The bunker sieve shovel I purchased last month has been a fantastic purchase. We have also tidied and trimmed the sprinkler head, strimmed around the main car park and wiped down the advertising boards as well as the 'Welcome' and 'Exit' signs.

We also noticed that a paving slab at the first tee had cracked at the steps leading down onto the teeing area, this was removed, chipped out, replaced and cemented in.

We took delivery of our topdressing, in preparation for our main maintenance week, commencing on 1st September. As you can appreciate, this for the green staff is our biggest week of the year. This year I decided to revert back to hollow coring. The last 2 years due to the wet weather and ingress of moss, I took the decision to ½" solid tine and deep scarify with a Sisis TM1000. In 2023 we single passed the greens on a 45 degree angle as this had never been done. The greens reacted well so in 2024 we again solid tined, but then double passed at opposite 45 degree angles.

So yes even though the greens had been tined, and also pencil tined and sarel rolled every 2-3 weeks, I felt it was time to hollow core. This breaks up compaction, allows air into the profile, helps with surface drainage and root development. Considering the time scale, the cores removed were surprising in good condition, showing signs of strong roots but more so visually showing no of excessive thatch or black layer.

For this process we used our Groundsman 1.8m tractor mounted spiker unit fitted with core collector. The spiker was fitted with 5/8" tines in the triple cluster. We tined to a depth of 3 ½".

Monday

We started hollow coring, weather was ideal. We made fantastic progress. By the close of play all the greens had been hollow cored, cores removed, greens blown, greens brushed and cut. The spiker was removed from the tractor and top dresser fitted, ready for Tuesday. Fantastic effort from the team!

Tuesday

Started dressing greens 4 and 5, with our spreader, Turfcare dropped their 3tonne spreader and conveyor along with Kubota tractor at 7am. This saves us so much travel time and speeds the job up. We use their spreader and conveyor to simply refill ours. We load both vehicles, spread the

dressing with ours, then park alongside theirs, and fill our hopper, it saves multiple journeys to the bottom end of the course which saves literally hours. By the close of play on Tuesday we had 13 greens top dressed, drag matted and brushed. Again, fantastic effort by the team!

Wednesday

Weather has turned, rain and mizzle all day. We took this day to do course work, cutting tees, non-flying green banks, but did also manage to brush the sand in a bit more from yesterday.

Thursday

Weather was fine, managed to get the remaining 4 greens dressed, drag matted and brushed in. We then started to drag mat, brush all the greens again, to make sure we could get the sand off the surface. For the second brush, we changed brushed to the counter rotating brush, this picks up and recycles the surface sand into the holes and away from the surface.

Friday

Continued to counter rotate brush the greens and pick up excess sand and remove.

All in all, it was nearly the perfect week, weather was canny, no hiccups! So again I'd like to thank the team for what is a stressful week, working to get the job done as quick, but at a good quality. It was nice to get so many positive comments from members and visitors, throughout the week, commenting on how good the process was going. Thank you all, positivity goes a long way. I'd also like to give a shout out to a good friend of mine Paul Charlton - MD Turfcare for giving us, again the tractor and spreader unit, free of charge for 3 days. It's much appreciated Paul. It turns what was a 2week job into a week, so thanks.

Finally, as you are aware, we are looking into replacing our current greens machine. Just prior to hollow coring, I organised a demonstration machine from Rickerby's of Hexham. The machine was dropped off on the Tuesday after the August Bank Holiday weekend. We had the machine for a week and it seemed a decent machine. We demo'd a Jacobsen GP400, it had some pro's and also some cons but nothing that was hugely negative. The cut quality was fantastic, the cons were probably just it was a completely different drive and feel to our current Toro. Mark came down to have a look, I explained to him about some of the differences, one being the steering, to which I gave him a quick 'crash' course in the shed, so he could understand what I was talking about. Thankfully no crashing was involved Mark.

I also have other machines to demo, I have a John Deere 2550 coming October from Sherriff, I have a Toro 3400 from Lloyds (new version of what we currently run) and I'm currently in communication with a company called Baroness, regarding their greens machine. As soon as I have any more info, I will relay it to Mark.

Thanks for your continued support

Regards David

Key Course Stats

Rainfall	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Aug	Year
2023	64	67	139	104	64	27	154	136	118	257	219	189	755	1,538
2024	97	85	97	96	184	48	148	36	116	130	31	87	791	1,155
2025	89	51	35	11	23	36	68	27					340	340

Buggies off	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Aug	Year
2023	27	3	24	16	0	0	0	4.5	6	12	21	31	75	145
2024	26	25	28.5	22	4.5	1	1	0	0	4	1	7	108	120
2025	4	7	1	0	0	0	0	0					12	12

Course Closed	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Aug	Year
2023	6	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	6	4	9	5	11	35
2024	5	3	2.5	8	2.5	0	1	0.5	1	3	2	3.5	23	32
2025	13	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0					15	15