

Greens Report November 2025

It's continued to be a mild month so far, but also a bit of a mixed bag of high winds, rain and a couple of heavy morning frosts.

Our main winter project work on 11th green commenced on 20th October. This entailed removing turf, trenching a herring bone drain in (approx.. 170m), laying 80mm perforated drainage pipe, connecting drainage Y junctions, covering the pipe with 20mm drainage gravel and topping up drain runs with 70/30 sand soil mixture. We then tapped the drain into existing pipework, leading into the open ditch at the 11th fairway.

The whole process has gone well. We made good headway on the project but due to recent weather and staff annual leave, plus prioritising other course work when needed we are still ticking away. We have one drain run left to soil and then we're ready to start turfing.

Between doing the 11th, we dropped onto the course cutting, while the weather was dry and ground was firm. We managed to get, tees, approaches, intermediate, fairways and semi-rough cut, for what will probably be the last cut.

We are still continuing to cut greens but only twice a week. We have over the last few weeks started raising the height of cut, up towards our desired winter height of 5mm. We are currently sat at 4.5mm, we will in the next couple of weeks raise the height for the final time to 5mm.

All the par 3 tees have been hollow cored, the ½" hollow tines were removed and replaced with 1/2" solid tines. The remainder of the tees were solid spiked, along with the putting green. The tees were then fertilised with a 6-0-14 with Fe, to close them down for the winter months.

Also this month we've continued to sarel roll the greens and brush them, especially before cutting. We have also applied our autumn/winter close of season 7-0-14+8mg+3fe granular fertiliser. Over this last month we have also had another 2 demonstration greens machines. We demo'd the John Deere machine, after having it for the week, we collectively found the machine nowhere near as good as previous machines of John Deere standard and definitely nowhere near the standard of the Jacobsen GP400 demo previously tested last month by Rickerbys.

We also have just returned to Lloyds this week their Toro 3400 after a week-long demo. This machine is the same as we currently run, there has been a few slight tweaks since 2014 (that is our current machine), nothing drastic, but tweaks for the better. It proved to be a good machine, but being Toro, it will come at a cost. I did enquire of when the demonstrator machine will be up for sale, I'm just currently waiting for a reply, along with the quotes.

We have continued to tidy up leaves from the course, this is an ongoing process. We also tidied leaves from the car park and around the clubhouse and cleaned out the drains around the club.

You are all aware now that winter tee mats are in play on all the tees now, after the par 3's were phased in first. We have also roped off area or white hooped areas that are needing protected over the winter, to allow good playing surfaces in the coming season.

These areas are roped off for good reason, could I please ask members to respect the decision to protect these areas, we do it through necessity, not to be awkward, so please keep buggies and trolleys outside these areas. Also, the 1st tee and 7th tee are roped off around the winter mat, again

could we ask members and visitors to keep to the roped off teeing areas!

Finally regards the winter tee mats, in recent years, we 've noticed people teeing off next to the mat, not from it! This can't be accepted. Anyone found not adhering to the winter rules will be spoken to. Please help protect your course over the winter months.

Now we are into the winter months, we the green staff have 3 shift patterns. From the 1st November, we dropped onto our 7hr winter days. Also, weekends are covered by the same person who does the Saturday and Sunday then gets the following Friday off in lieu, we have used this method since 2017. This allows the team some much needed time off, over the winter months, of only working 1 in 4 weekends, considering we have done every weekend since April.

Finally, could I give a massive shout out and thanks to everyone who gave up their time to volunteer to help divot and litter pick. We had a great response from the members, and you covered a massive area in a short time. The help was greatly appreciated. This time allows us to continue with other essential tasks on the course. So once again, a massive thank you to all involved supporting myself, the team and the golf club. The main thanks must go to Mark Turner for organising it! Thanks.

Can I give my apologies for Presentation Night. I'm unable to attend as I'm taking my first few days of 2025 annual leave. It's been a long time coming but sadly falls on the same date. Congratulations to everyone who has picked up silverware this year! Well done.

Regards

David and the team

Key Course Indicators

Rainfall	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Oct	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	27	56			340	423

Buggies off	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Oct	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	0	0			12	12

Course Closed	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Prog to Oct	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	0	1			15	16