

Greens Report February 2025

So far the start of the year has been a mixed bag. We've had very few sunny days but plenty of everything else, sleet, snow, rain and high winds. Yet again the high winds caused damage across the whole region. With the met office issuing severe red weather warnings the Directors, understandably requested the course be closed for Storm Eowyn. The storm hit and considering the force and intensity of the high winds we escaped quite lightly. We sustained damage to quite a lot of limbs, but regards full trees, we only lost 4. Two of these we're in the copse between 11th and 15th, one between 7th and 9th and another just inside the woods to the left of the 12th green. The brash was all cut up and burnt, while the trunks and larger limbs we're cut into sections, brought back and split for firewood.

At the start of the month, we had our first snow fall. This stayed around for nearly 2 weeks, purely down to the temperatures being so cold.

General

With the ground remaining solid for the first half of the month, we continued to do tree work across the course. This involved storm damaged trees, the remaining copses at 3rd and 4th that now completes all of them. We also cleaned back the bushes and limbs along the lane to Tower Cottage, as a few delivery drivers had mentioned some lower limbs catching the wagon curtain sides. Along with some storm damage that we encountered, we decided to clear the whole lane.

While we couldn't get on the course, Kris mentioned that the grant for the solar panels had been accepted and work was to begin soon and there were a few bushes to remove that would possibly cast shadows. We cleaned back the whole of the rear to the clubhouse (fire escape route) and removed all rubbish and gorse bushes. There were also some trees casting shadows across the locker room roof. All these were removed, along with the overgrown gorse along the back lane to the overflow car park.

On the Course

We have continued to keep our aeration programme going. We have power brushed and sarel rolled the greens. We also have solid tined all the greens with the Groundsman tractor mounted spiker. We used the 10mm tines, in the quad heads to a depth of 90mm (3.5 in).

We have also Sisis deep slit tined the fairways, all but the 13th. (Stopped on 13th as it was making too much mess). We have also tined drain runs and main traffic areas where the buggies and machinery runs, to break up the compaction.

With the smaller sisis slitter, we have slit greens and tees. After we slit the tees we applied a 4-3-2 organic soil conditioner. With the remaining 4-3-2 fertiliser, we applied it to the larger approaches like 3rd, 4th, above and below 10th green, 16th and 17th approaches.

After we spiked the 13th green, we then followed up with the thatch-away units and double passed it, this was due to the effects of snow mould. We then applied just a small amount of winter fertiliser to help aid recovery. The green has responded fantastically well and the amount of unwanted organic matter which came out of the profile due to this process was phenomenal. As soon as ground conditions improve and firm up sufficiently, then we will carry out this process on all the greens.

