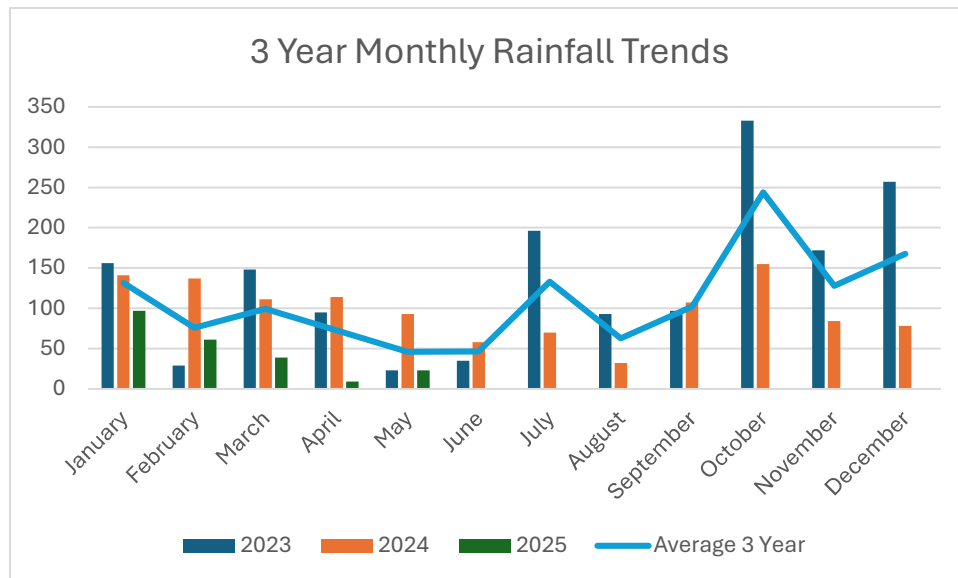


Spring Greens Report

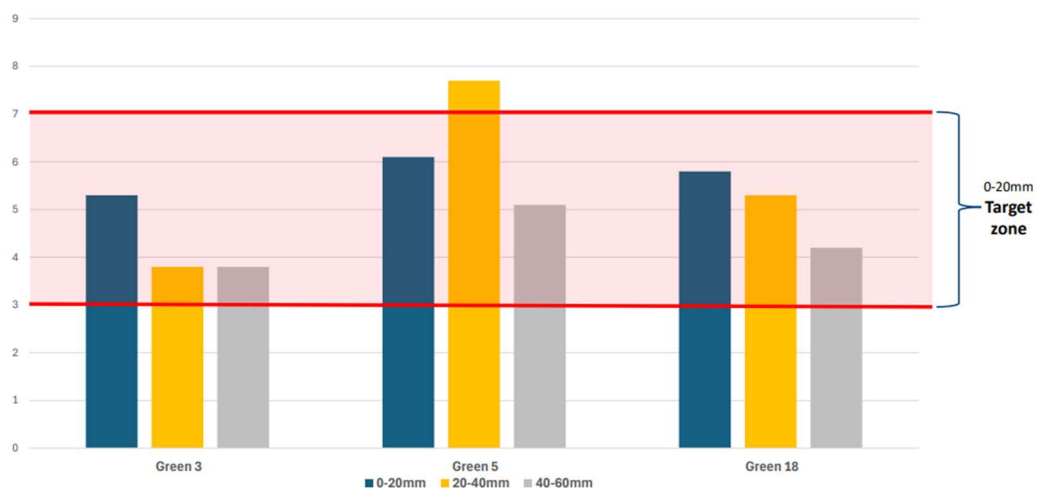
This year we have been dealing with much drier conditions compared to last year where we had already seen 596mm rainfall. This year we have had 229mm to date. With weather systems arriving from the west, we are now experiencing more consistent growth compared to recent weeks.



Greens at Present

We have recently had our organic matter re-tested on greens 3,18 and 5 (repeat of last year).

Organic matter – LOI% results



The results highlight the success of the work we have carried out throughout the past year; reducing thatch in the top 0-20mm significantly by 33% on average and these levels are now within the target zone we have been working towards.

We now need to concentrate on reducing organic matter between 20-40mm. We have started to do this already by applying thatch eater, aerating and top dressing regularly within this depth. We are aiming to apply 170 tonnes of sand by the end of the year with 65 tonnes already applied year to date.

By continuing with maintenance practices at the right time and managing the level of disruption, we will continue this downward trend to a desirable level. Our next planned work will take place after 'Presidents Weekend' where we plan to carry out a deep scarify to 30mm followed by top dressing with approximately 10 tonnes of sand.



Above are examples of the work we have been doing on the greens. The photo on the right is from the dryject which took place in March. The photo on the left is a verti-drain tine filled with sand. These are both good examples of how we are creating channels to speed up the percolation of water and encouraging thatch dilution.

Completed Work: Jan-May

Tree Thinning

We have now completed the 1st year of our tree management plan.



We hope you can see what we are trying to achieve by allowing more air and light through the areas, improving turf quality and allowing the healthier trees to fully establish.

All understudies of the woodland areas will be cut by our Ventrac and then sprayed if necessary to eradicate brambles etc. The next phase of our tree management will be started in early 2026.

Irrigation

The recent drought has allowed the greens team to concentrate on jobs that would usually take a backseat, one of which includes irrigation to the tees. After replacing over 30 sprinkler heads and repairing damaged pipe we now have the irrigation working manually. I am hoping to get the tees onto the automated system before the end of the year, which will make it a much more efficient process for the team.



Fairways

We have now begun our summer fairway regime by cutting twice a week at a height of 11mm and spraying monthly with wetting agent, Iron and Nitrogen. This process helps with a quick recovery from the drought through promoting water retention and nutrient uptake. We will continue this process until early Autumn.

Other Matters

Unfortunately over recent months, myself and the Greens Team have become a little frustrated. We have seen a massive decline in course etiquette with unrepaired pitch marks, unraked bunkers and players not disposing of their tee pegs in the cones provided on the tees to name just a few.

We have recently had to spend over £1200 on regrounding our reels on the mowers. Running over tee pegs cause mower blades to get damaged, resulting

in further cost. Down the line this causes our equipment to go 'off cut' resulting in poor cut quality which ultimately affects the condition of your course.



If you yourself are guilty of the above or see other parties showing these bad habits, please, as respect to the club, your fellow members and our Greens Team, remind them to stop! The Greens Team are putting in a combined average of over 230 hours a week of maintenance and it really is disappointing when we come across these traits

time and time again. We want to continue to improve the course and make it appealing to all players, members and visiting parties and need your help to do so.

As the summer months approach; my team and I hope you all continue to enjoy the golf season, remember to look after the course and let's hope the sunshine makes a re-appearance soon!

Jack Bryson

Head Greenkeeper