

Winter Programme 2025–26 Member Report

The greenkeeping team has completed a full and extensive winter programme across both courses. This was delivered in exceptionally challenging conditions, with around 714mm of rainfall recorded between October and March. The prolonged wet weather created very difficult ground conditions, affecting everything from essential maintenance activity to the day-to-day challenge of keeping the courses playable.

Despite that, the team worked hard throughout the winter to deliver meaningful improvements while keeping both courses open for play as much as possible. Every task was selected with a clear purpose: to improve turf health, aid drainage, create smoother and more consistent playing surfaces, and put the club in the strongest possible position for the 2026 season. Below is a summary of the work carried out and the direct benefits it will bring to members.

Greens

Greens were scarified and verticut to remove excess organic matter and relieve surface compaction. This creates a cleaner, truer and faster putting surface, with improved ball roll and reduced risk of disease, softness and inconsistency.

Solid-tine aeration was then carried out, followed by overseeding with browntop bentgrass in both October and March. Alongside this, between 150 and 200 tonnes of top-dressing sand were applied. Together, these works help dilute thatch, encourage denser and more upright grass growth, and produce firmer, smoother greens that will retain their pace and quality far better through the coming season, you probably reading this thinking they are still bumpy at the moment but it is when the greens recover from the aeration and top dressing that we really begin to see the results, over the next week or two the greens will start to really come to life.

A double vertidrain pass provided deeper aeration through the soil profile, allowing roots to grow more strongly, water to drain more freely and oxygen to reach the rootzone. In simple terms, this means the greens will recover more quickly after heavy rain and remain playable for longer.

Insecticide was also applied to eliminate leatherjacket activity, protecting the greens from significant damage from the leatherjackets and birds digging in the greens hunting for them.

Granular and liquid fertilisers were used throughout the winter to maintain steady plant health during periods of stress. This supports a stronger, denser and more resilient sward rather than one that thins out under pressure.

Penetrants were applied to help water move more efficiently through the soil profile, reducing waterlogging and helping keep the greens as dry and firm as conditions allow.

Finally, new irrigation was installed on the chipping green, while the problematic pipeline serving the putting green and bowling green was repaired. These upgrades will ensure more even water distribution, healthier surfaces year-round and greater control during drier periods.

Tees and Approaches

Tees and approaches were scarified, verticut, top-dressed and vertidraind. This work removes thatch, improves surface levels and drainage, and promotes stronger, more consistent grass growth, giving golfers reliable playing conditions.

A new ladies' tee was built at the 11th hole on the Carrickstone, providing a fairer and more enjoyable starting point for that hole.

Irrigation has now been installed on the 16th and 9th tees on the Carrickstone, helping these high-traffic areas stay healthier and recover more quickly during periods of stress brought on by dry weather.

Winter tees were also added on the 2nd and 18th on the Antonine, and on the 8th and 17th on the Carrickstone, to protect the main teeing surfaces during the winter months. This will help improve the standard of winter golf at the club, we plan to fit four of these each winter over the coming years. A massive thank you to our member Joe Elder who has helped to construct the winter tees.

Resin steps on the 1st on the Carrickstone are to be finished early next week, matching the steps at the 1st tee and the new steps on the putting green, again a huge thank you to Joe Elder for his help in building the steps.

Fairways

Fairways were scarified to remove organic build-up and improve surface smoothness. This helps produce better lies, cleaner contact with irons and more consistent ball roll, making the course fairer and more enjoyable from tee to green.

Bunkers

Every bunker was edged, weeded, topped up with fresh sand and had any damaged bunkermat repaired. These routine works help keep the hazards looking tidy, playing consistently and free from hidden stones, poor lies or excessive washout.

The bunkers at the 15th and the right-hand side of the 12th on the Carrickstone, were reshaped and fitted with new Bunkermat. The matting stabilises the sand, reduces washouts after heavy rain, limits the need for repeated topping-up and provides a more consistent and reliable surface for play.

Wacker-plate compaction will be carried out on all bunkers ahead of the 2026 season, firming the base so sand remains in place for longer and bunkers stay in better condition with less ongoing maintenance.

Roads and Paths

New astroturf was laid on the path between the 15th and 16th on Carrickstone, potholes were filled, whin dust was applied to paths on the Antonine, and existing astroturf was repaired where needed.

These improvements create safer and drier walking routes, reduce wear on turf edges, minimise mud being carried onto playing surfaces and help maintain a neat, professional appearance across the courses, even during poor weather.

Unfortunately, the wet weather has resulted in some of the paths suffering washouts since the work has been carried out, these paths will be repaired as and when the weather allows, it is a constant battle for the greens staff to retain the material on the paths during wet weather.

Ditches

Ditches on both courses were edged and cleaned out. This improves water flow, reduces the risk of flooding or standing water near playing areas and helps the overall drainage system work more effectively, keeping more of the course open and playable after rain.

Tree Work

Trees encroaching on tee boxes were carefully cut back at the 9th Carrickstone, 14th Medal Carrickstone, 12th ladies' tee Carrickstone, 11th Antonine and 2nd Antonine.

This work improves sightlines, allows full use of the teeing areas, increases air circulation around the turf and reduces the shading that can weaken grass growth and encourage disease.

Drainage

A burst tile drain in the semi-rough at the 8th on the Antonine was repaired, drainage improvements were carried out at the 11th tee on the Carrickstone, and an open ditch was installed in the heavy rough at the 8th on the Antonine to prevent the green from flooding.

These measures will improve water movement, protect key playing surfaces from prolonged saturation, reduce downtime after severe weather and help affected areas recover more quickly.

Other Works

Resin steps were installed at the putting green to provide safer and more durable access with improved aesthetics.

Ground Under Repair areas were returfed and restored to improve surface quality and presentation.

Broken pipe drains were replaced to keep the underground drainage network functioning properly.

All machinery was fully serviced, and cutting units were sharpened using the Juno grinder, helping maintain presentation standards and deliver precise, high-quality cuts.

The team also carried out grinding work for Braehead Golf Club, generating additional income for Dullatur while continuing to make full use of in-house machinery expertise.

Ongoing Daily Maintenance

Alongside project work, the normal day-to-day maintenance programme continued throughout the winter. This included switching greens to remove dew, blowing leaves, moving tee markers to ensure even usage, monitoring and preventing disease, and maintaining overall presentation and playability.

These daily tasks are less visible than major projects, but they are just as important. They reduce long-term damage, maintain standards and ensure members continue to enjoy a course that feels cared for even through the off-season.

The team's commitment and expertise have delivered real and lasting benefits across both courses. Greens should putt truer and run faster, tees and fairways will provide cleaner lies, bunkers will play more consistently, and the overall layout will drain better and recover more quickly.

Members can look forward to improved playing conditions, fewer interruptions and a course that continues to move forward in quality as we head into the 2026 season. We are proud of what has been achieved over the winter and look forward to welcoming members back to enjoy the results.

Regards

Richard Bell

Course Manager