



Course Report – November 2024

Current Conditions

As I write this on the 18th of November, the tropical temperatures of the first part of the month are now a distant memory. We are now in the period of scraping car windows, multiple layers and all the team praying to spend a day in a tractor in the warmth. The chilly weather does not stop us from pushing ahead however and we continue with our winter work.

The mild end to October and November has been very welcome and has provided us with great conditions to continue with our bunker rebuilding, rough management and maintaining the golf course. I have been delighted to hear a lot of positive feedback on the current playing conditions on the course and it was great to have such a good recovery following the maintenance works in September. The mild weather has brought some issues as the disease pressure has increased with quite a few outbreaks of fusarium on the greens. I am hoping this cold spell will knock back this disease pressure and once we have an opportunity to spray a foliar fertiliser application, this will help aid recovery in some of the areas that have been hit the hardest.



Figure 1: Fusarium patches on the greens.

We have also continued to cut greens daily till this point keeping on top of any growth there has been. The chilly weather will slow the growth down and we will be cutting less frequently, and we will look to increase rolling where the temperatures allow to provide a good putting surface through the winter months.

Scott Russell has expertly produced our latest Your Course video update which can be viewed on the West Link's Vimeo page - vimeo.com/user222650085



Figure 2: Your Course Update Video.

Winter Projects

The team has made excellent progress so far on bunker building with 7 bunkers undertaken. It has been really pleasing to see the bunkers on 11 and 16 transformed from being in poor condition and losing their shape and scale over the years, to being rebuilt to a high standard. As many of the bunkers need to have the surrounds returfed and landscaped, some of the time taken to complete these bunkers has been quite long. By doing this type of shaping work now, it means in the future, we only have to tear down the revetted wall and rebuild it in its place. It is very much a case of doing the hard work now to save ourselves a lot of work in the future.



Figure 3: Before and After - The first bunker on the 16th fairway.



Figure 4: Before and After - The second bunker on the 16th fairway.



Figure 5: Before and After: Fairway bunker on 11th fairway.

Chris Haspell and Clyde Johnson will be back on site on the 25th of November to carry out some project work. As described in the Winter Enhancement booklet (as shared a few weeks ago), they will be working on:

- Correcting the front portion of the 6th tee.
- Renovating the front bunker on 6.
- Some gentle shaping works to the right of the 5th green and rebuilding the greenside bunker.
- Finishing the rocky outcrop area on the left of the 4th hole
- Cleaning out the burn on 3 and 16.

We ask for members' patience whilst this work is being undertaken and to adhere to any roped off areas whilst these areas are recovering. Please be aware that the 6th hole will be closed for play whilst there is work being undertaken but will be reopened for play on the weekends or days when there is no work being undertaken.



Figure 6: Course Enhancement Projects document.

Topdressing Fairways

Grant Prentice will be onsite in the next few weeks to apply topdressing to all the fairways. We are looking to apply 500 tonnes of sand to the fairways in both November and January which will help to dilute the organic matter build up and help to create a better playing surface. This will be part of our winter work every year going forward. Please bear in mind that preferred lies are now in play to help with any sandy lies following this work.

Course Walks

We held two course walks on the 1st and 9th of November, during which we discussed updates to the team, facilities, course, and future plans. We walked from the 4/15th tees to the 6th tees to discuss some of the winter work that will be undertaken. Thanks to everyone who came along; I hope you found the walk informative. It was also good to answer any questions and get some feedback on the course.

Rainfall Chart

As of the 18th of November 2024.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	80.0	20	26.2	48.1
February	51.0	66	33	47.2
March	24.0	19	78.4	73.6
April	3.0	41	34	98.4
May	69.0	48	24.39	98.8
June	38.0	24	43.6	34
July	39.5	36	48	46.8
August	44.5	21	37.4	71.6
September	39.5	67	50.4	36.6
October	155.0	56	152.6	72.6
November	23.0	94	89.54	3.4
December	109.0	23	108.4	
Total	675.5	515	725.93	631.1

Kyle Cruickshank
Course Manager