



1832

**NORTH BERWICK  
WEST LINKS**

## September Course Report

### Current Conditions

September has certainly felt like a month of two halves with a scorching and dry start which felt like the Summer we have been waiting all Summer for. The second part of the month has been a lot cooler and wetter with a strong Autumnal feel. From this point on, the Growing Degree Days (GDD) and Growth Potential (GP) do start to tail off as we head towards the cooler part of the year. As reported in the August Course Report, we are still dealing with the threat of some fungal diseases but with the current temperatures, we can still grow this out using fertilisers instead of rushing for a fungicide.

### Maintenance Week

Maintenance Week was a great success and as mentioned before, we managed to achieve a lot without being overly invasive and without the ability to topdress in behind the works.

As always, the team showed great flexibility and patience as we set up machines, and dealt with breakdowns and changes of plans. All of the greens and approaches were:

- Scarified using scarifier units on a triple to -12mm.
- Solid-tined with a blunt 12mm tine known as pot-seeding.
- Overseeded using a drop seeder using BAR Fescue
- Overseeded using the Blec Multi-seeder (dimple) using BAR Fescue
- Brushed to drag the seed into the holes.
- Double Rolled using our new rollers
- All greens and approaches will be fertilised using a 6.5.11 granular to help boost recovery.

The tees were overseeded using the new Vredo seeder the week prior to closing using a Dwarf-Ryegrass/Fescue mix called BAR Ultrafine 60. We plan to fertilise (foliar spray) the tees this week (18<sup>th</sup> of September) as soon as we see some germination.

We managed to make a good start on overseeding the fairways again using the Vredo overseeder with holes 1-8, 16-18 using a BAR SGT Fine Fescue which is a mixture that utilises drought tolerant and low input species of fescue. These fairways were then sprayed with a wetting agent and seaweed mix and will be fertilised as soon as we see some germination.

We were very lucky that the weather during maintenance week was in our favour with dry days and wet evenings which will help aid the recovery of the greens.



*Figure 1: Scarified lines and solid tine holes.*



*Figure 2: Gary Hawthorn scarifying the 5<sup>th</sup> green.*



*Figure 3: Fescue seed in the pot-seeding hole.*





*Figure 4: Richard Thorburn on the Pro-Core*



*Figure 4: Graeme Nisbet using a drop seeder to drop seed into the holes.*



*Figure 5: Scott Russell using the Blec Multi-Seeder on the greens.*



*Figure 6: Germination on the tees*



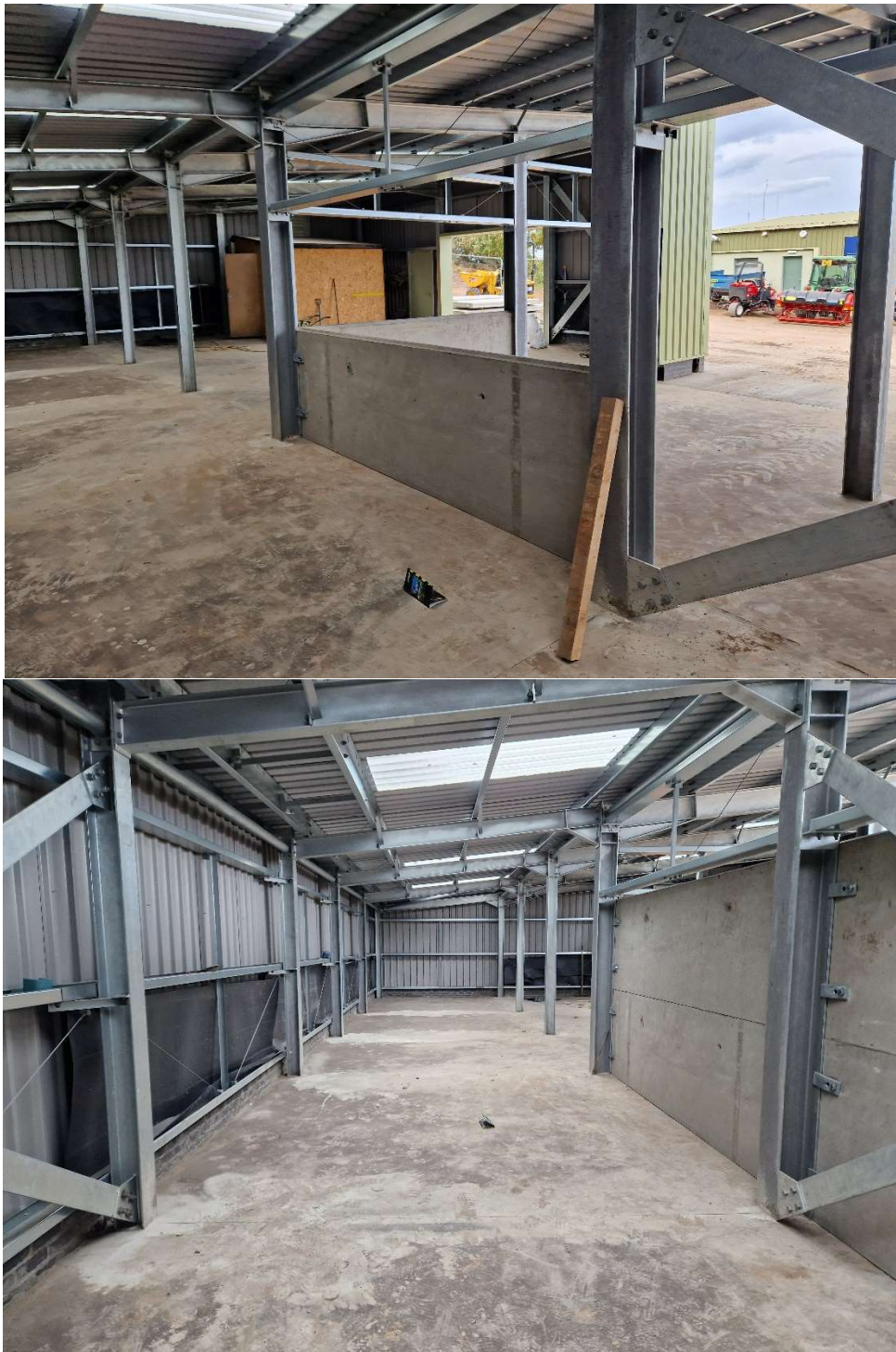
*Figure 7: The Vredo in action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fairway.*

### **Bulk Materials Building Update**

We are getting closer to completion with a handover date of the 28<sup>th</sup> of September from the contractors. Although it felt like a slow start with not much movement or visible construction going on, as soon as the steel beams were installed, it felt like the building just appeared out of the ground. Once the concrete slab was poured, it felt like the finishing touches to the building had been done and it was just a matter of sorting out a few smaller details such as doors, pre-cast dividers in the bays and some landscaping around the sides. I'm sure everyone will agree that the new building is a vast improvement on the old building and a huge thank you has to go Aviva (the insurer) for approving the works, Struan Allan from Thomasons (the Project Manager) and Stuart Bell and his team from Bell Building Projects (the Contractor) for their advice, professionalism and their



efficiency in working around a live irrigation system and a busy compound/golf course. Also, a big thank you to all members for their patience as the building process went on.



*Figure 8/9: Internal photos of the Bulk Materials Building.*

### **Turf Nursery Update**

There is now a good coverage of grass on the turf nursery with a good growing in period. The amount of weeds that are currently growing in the nursery is a consequence of not being able to



spray the site with a total weedkiller before the project started, but we will be able to spray this with a selective herbicide once we are closer to 100% coverage. Again, thanks to all members for approving this project and showing patience and a keen interest in the developments. This really is a huge step to help future-proof our facility for the future and although it will be a few years before we can harvest any turf, the long-term vision will save the club a lot of time and money going forward.



*Figure 10: The Turf Nursery sward starting to thicken following a cut.*

### **Hot Topic – Crane Fly (Daddy Long Legs)**

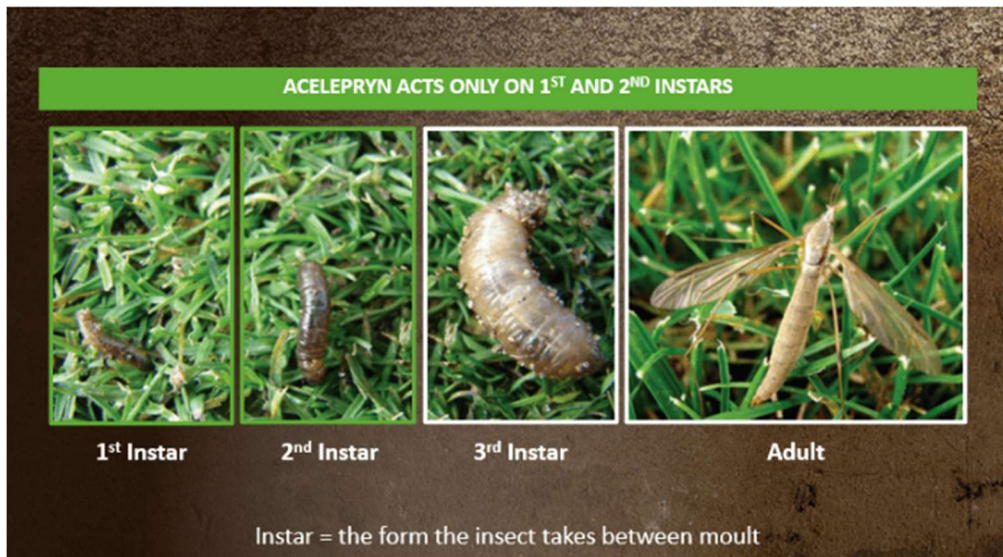
Whether it's been on the West Links, around the Clubhouse or in your own homes, I'm sure you will have seen a big emergence of Crane fly (or commonly known as Daddy Long Legs) in the past few weeks. The warm temperatures at the start of September helped to create a large hatch of Crane Fly which was a lot more intense than this time last year.

The vast majority of Crane Fly do not have any impact on turf and with past chemical control, their numbers were kept in check. However, with the withdrawal of these chemicals, it has been tougher to control their numbers which provides challenges for managing turf. It is the larvae of Crane Fly that do the most damage. The Chafer Grubs will eat plant roots which will reduce drought tolerance and reduce the access to nutrients. Leatherjackets that live in the aeration holes will stop the holes from covering over, eating roots in the holes and shoots at the surface and a reduced plant vigour that leads to slower or no infill in turf.



There is also damage created by birds pecking for the grubs in the ground with badgers and foxes also pulling at the turf to find these grubs.

Acelepryn is a control product that can be used to control early larval stages (instars 1 & 2) which is ingested and will paralyse the larvae. It is critical to control them at this stage as late-stage larvae do not feed so Acelepryn will have less effect.



*Figure 11: The different stages of the Crane Fly development.*

The right time to apply Acelepryn is one-month post peak flight of the Crane Fly. Peak flight is usually mid-September so we will be looking to apply Acelepryn in mid-October.



*Figure 12: The difference between a controlled area with Acelepryn on the left and an untreated area on the right.*

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