

## Course Report – October 2024

### Current Conditions

It has been another month of mixed weather with the first frost of the year coming halfway through the month. We have had everything in between from 40mm of rain in 24 hours, wind gusts of 40mph and a few days of clear blue skies.

Following maintenance week in September, the temperatures have not been ideal for seed germination and although we did see seedlings starting to sprout after 17 days, the germination compared to last year has been slower with soil temperatures dropping to 5°C. We require consistent soil temperatures of >10°C for great results. There were also a few outbreaks of disease on the greens with fusarium being spotted on most of the greens. We have not applied a fungicide to our greens in 2 years and even though we are keen to continue to reducing our chemical inputs, we would spray a fungicide if conditions were really bad. However, a mix of the colder temperatures knocking back the disease pressure, the warmer temperatures coming back and encouraging growth again, as well as a post-fescue germination granular fertiliser, I have not been too concerned about the disease pressure just yet.



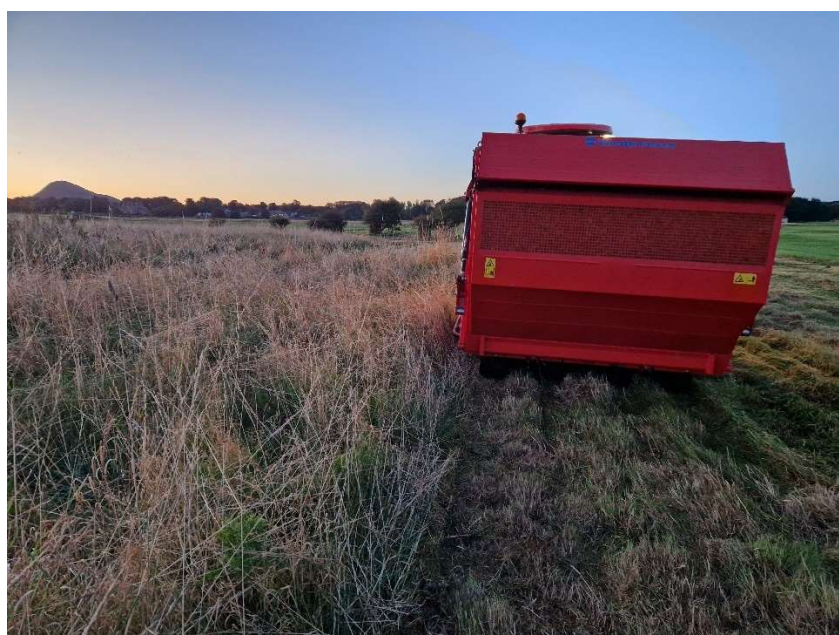
*Figure 1: A patch of fusarium is quite evident on the left vs a patch that has nearly recovered on the right inside the red circle.*

As mentioned, greens, approaches, tees and fairways have a fertiliser application to help with recovery following maintenance week and it's been great to hear the feedback from Members about how well the greens have recovered. We have also sprayed Acelepryn on the greens and approaches to help control the threat of leatherjackets forming as we had a few issues with this on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> greens this year. We will follow up with an application of Nematrident, which involves spraying nematodes into the surface which will also attack the leatherjackets, reducing the risk of damage in the spring.

As we move towards winter and even cooler temperatures the grass growth over the course will naturally slow. With this, our need to regularly cut all surfaces reduces and this is when we move on to our winter course set-up. At this time some of our attention turns to our winter enhancement work including bunker building, surface aeration, turfing worn areas, and some irrigation installation.

### Rough Management

We have been making good progress on the rough management with the Super 500 cut and collect machine. The rough on 2,6,8,9 and 11 has been cut, raked and cut again to catch any missed bits or straggly growth. This work will continue through the winter to cut down the thickest areas on the course with some of the ranker areas around tees where the Super 500 can't reach will be cut down with trimmers and raked up afterwards.



*Figure 2: The Super 500 in action cutting down the heavier rough.*

## Bunker Building

The first fairway bunker on the 9<sup>th</sup> was stripped on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, taking just over a week to finish the revetting work and landscaping. We have made this bunker slightly wider as we felt it had become very narrow over the years. The bunker was dug out and reshaped with the digger before Ryan Yuill and Graeme Nisbet carried out the revetting with Ryan Fox helping to finish off the landscaping. We are moving onto the 2 greenside bunkers on the right at 9 next which should take about a week to complete both.



*Figure 3: The digger excavating the old sand and revetted wall out before shaping.*



*Figure 4: The revetted wall almost complete.*



*Figure 5: Graeme and Ryan placing in the top row after chamfering the edges.*



*Figure 6: The 2 Ryans doing the landscaping works round the sides.*

Many of the bunkers have shrunk over the years so we have to spend quite a bit of time excavating the faces to where the bunker edge should be, but also doing quite a bit of shaping work around the sides. By doing a lot of this work now, in the future, we can complete the revetting work a lot quicker by just tearing down and rebuilding the wall to the existing contours. With 72 bunkers on the course, 16 have been rebuilt in the last couple of years and it will take another few years to get on top of them all.

## Winter Projects and Course Set-up

As members will have seen in the Friday Update, our winter enhancement project work is much smaller this year with the focus being on reparation work on the 6<sup>th</sup> tee, work on the 6<sup>th</sup> quarry bunker and the naturalising of the area left of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The ecological management work on the area to the left of 4 will also be completed with the remaining organic material and new growth of sea buckthorn removed to expose the natural sand area before being seeded with a fescue and wildflower mix. This area will take a few years before it looks “finished” which will accentuate the feature and the hole. We will start work in the next week or so on removing the Japanese Rose from the hedgerow on 6 and 7, and our tree contractor will be in to remove some more of the non-native sycamores around the site.

There will be areas of the course which will GUR for most of the winter, so we ask all members to be mindful of where they are walking and to help protect these areas as much as possible. As part of the winter course set-up, tees will be moved to help recovery after another busy playing season, traffic management rope and stakes will be in place to give some areas a break from footfall and to spread the wear and tear.

## Rainfall Chart

*As of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2024.*

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>January</b>	80.0	20	26.2	48.1
<b>February</b>	51.0	66	33	47.2
<b>March</b>	24.0	19	78.4	73.6
<b>April</b>	3.0	41	34	98.4
<b>May</b>	69.0	48	24.39	98.8
<b>June</b>	38.0	24	43.6	34
<b>July</b>	39.5	36	48	46.8
<b>August</b>	44.5	21	37.4	71.6
<b>September</b>	39.5	67	50.4	36.6
<b>October</b>	155.0	56	152.6	63.6
<b>November</b>	23.0	94	89.54	
<b>December</b>	109.0	23	108.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>675.5</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>725.93</b>	<b>618.7</b>

**Kyle Cruickshank**  
**Course Manager**