



Course Report – February 2025

Current Conditions

February has presented a mix of weather conditions, with cold, frosty mornings alongside periods of clear, mild, and sunny days. In mid-January, we applied a granular fertiliser (4.3.8) to promote growth, strengthen the turf against disease pressure, and aid recovery from late-2024 disease patches. While fusarium and dollar spot scars remain visible on most greens, they are gradually healing and will fully recover as temperatures rise.

We have now operated fungicide-free on the greens for three years, enhancing the long-term resilience of our greens. Given the uncertainty surrounding future chemical regulations, maintaining this proactive approach ensures that our course remains sustainable and well-prepared for potential legislative changes.

Pitchmark damage continues to be an issue, particularly in wetter conditions. While we strive to keep greens firm, winter weather naturally softens surfaces. All golfers are encouraged to repair pitchmarks to maintain course quality for all players.

Effective February 28th, we will return to full course setup, including:

- Full-yardage tees
- Fairway play without mats.
- Reinstatement of most rebuilt bunkers

However, the 6th tee and the bunkers that have newly been rebuilt may remain designated as Ground Under Repair (GUR) for a few additional weeks to ensure full establishment.

March Maintenance Week

Our upcoming March maintenance program will focus primarily on Dry-Ject aeration of the greens. Given past challenges with early spring recovery, we have opted for a less aggressive approach this year. Additional work will include:

- Overseeding of tees and fairways
- Topdressing of greens, tees, and approaches
- Refinement works on fairways.



Figure 1: Dry-Ject in action on the 1st green.

Winter Projects

We are in the final stages of winter improvement projects, with significant progress made across the course:

- 21 bunkers rebuilt this season, with final work on the 14th hole cross bunkers and 17th long bunker walk-in repairs underway.



Figure 2: The right-side cross bunker on 14 with the revetted wall built.



Figure 3: The left side cross bunker on 14 before the revetting works begin.



Figure 4: Finished front fairway bunker on 11. All bunkers apart from the long greenside bunker have now been rebuilt.

- Turfing at 10th green/11th tee surround.



Figure 5: Left side of the 10th green.

- Returfing around the Children's Course Hub. This area was excavated to a depth of 400mm to remove the poor material that was in place and was backfilled with screened soil from the turf nursery project. This will improve both turf quality and aesthetics.



Figure 6: Graeme digging out the poor soil at the Children's Course Hub.

- Marram grass planting will commence in the 4th naturalized area, with hydroseeding of this area and the 6th tee bank once conditions allow. These areas will take time to naturalise.



Figure 7: Marram planting at the 6th tee banks.

- Landscaping improvements at the 9th tee toilet area, including tree stump removal and marram sprigging on a new sand bund.
- Rebuilding of the steps at the 11th tees using an anti-slip product called millboard and built to the right pitch.



Figure 8: Framing for the new steps on the 11th White Tees.

Shed Extension

The shed extension project is progressing ahead of schedule, with concrete foundations poured and the first steel delivery expected on February 10th. Work will continue to ensure the extension is weatherproof before internal slab and blockwork begins. Contractors BBP report they are currently 10 days ahead of schedule.

Borehole Installation

Following a year of test drilling and regulatory approvals, we are set to install two boreholes near the Greenkeeping Sheds and 5th hole. This work is expected to take approximately two weeks, with minimal impact on play aside from some noise and debris, which our team will promptly address. These boreholes will be capped until 2026, when they will be integrated into a new irrigation system, including a tank and pumpset, ensuring long-term water sustainability.

Fairway Topdressing

Starting February 10th, WB Prentice will apply an additional 500 tonnes of sand, bringing the total winter application to 1,000 tonnes. This ongoing program helps dilute organic matter, complemented by continuous slitting, fertilisation, and irrigation to aid incorporation into the turf profile.



Figure 9: Topdressing on the 3rd fairway.

Rainfall Chart

As of the 9th of February 2025.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	80.0	20	26.2	48.1	39.6
February	51.0	66	33	47.2	4
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	26.6	
December	109.0	23	108.4	49.8	
Total	675.5	515	725.93	692.2	43.6

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