

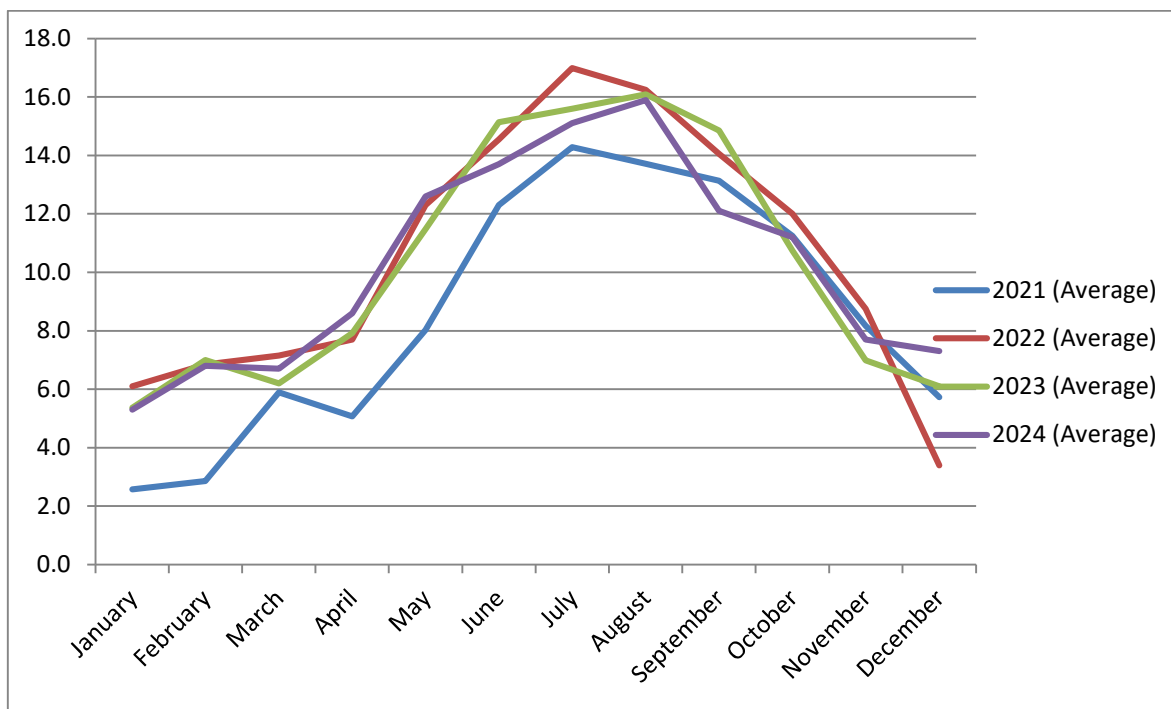


Course Report – January 2025

On behalf of the North Berwick Greenkeeping Team, I would like to wish all members and their families all the absolute best for 2025 and hopefully your “New Years Resolutions” were not broken as quickly as mine!

I wanted to write more of a reflective piece this month to highlight some of the work and projects that have taken place on the course this year. 2024 was another busy year for the team but they produced excellent results and gave us a great place to start 2025 from.

Weather



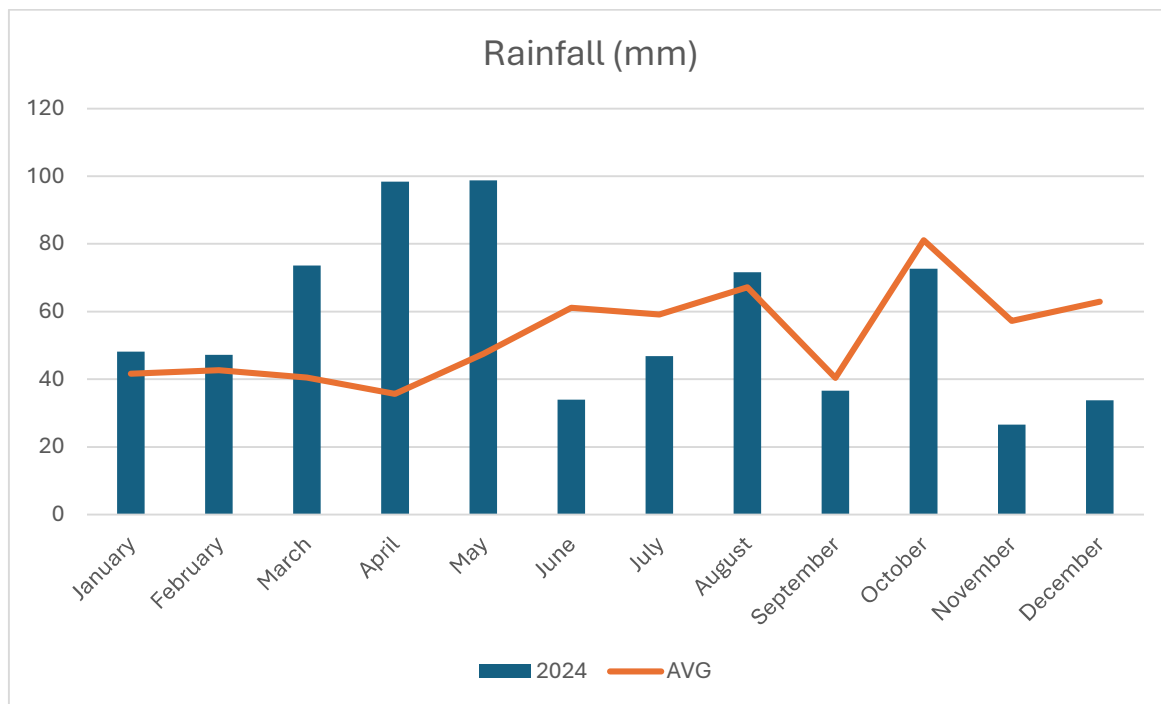
The chart above maps the average temperatures from the last 4 years. By comparison, 2024 had slightly warmer spring temperatures than the other years, but the type of temperatures we need for winter recovery and growth did not come until mid-May.

The chart below tracks the volume of grass clippings we take off the greens every day. You can see where the “spring flush” of growth finally hit in May and how much of a spike we got from that. Once the flush of growth started to settle from mid-June, you can see how we managed to keep our clippings quite steady producing better surfaces to play on. This is a new type of data model that we

have started using this year and it became a valuable dataset for a number of reasons such as fertiliser application timings, whether we double cut greens and understanding the growing patterns of the greens. Ideally, we would like the amber and the red line to be as consistent as possible hovering around the “1” line. The spikes in growth tend to follow granular fertilising events in Spring and following September maintenance week.



The chart below shows the rainfall from 2024 vs the average rainfall since 2011. The chart shows a wet spring where we had approx. 100mm of rain in both April and May. June and July were drier than the average and we had a fairly dry November and December.



Course Work

On the course this year, the team managed to:

- Rebuilt 9 bunkers in the early part of the year and 10 bunkers since October including the renovation of the front bunker at 6.
- Cut and Collected all Eco-Rough
- Finished the second phase of the naturalised area on 4.
- Reparation work at the 6th tee along with the removal of the non-native, invasive Japanese rose.

- Remove self-seeding sycamores from around the course.
- Started clearing the ivy from the wall on the 4th of the Children's Course
- Successfully found underground water sources which will supply the irrigation system in 2026.
- Start using turf from the turf nursery for course projects.
- Remove patches of Sea Buckthorn from around the 9th tees and 9th pond.
- Upgraded the 3 bunkers on the Children's Course to Eco Bunker.
- Fairways slit twice in December.

Applications

- 324 tonnes of topdressing applied to Greens and Approaches – 162 on Greens, 162 on Approaches
- 500 tonnes topdressing applied to Fairways – 30 tonnes per hectare.
- Fungicide free from 2022
- Greens, Tees, Approaches and Fairways overseeded twice
- Increase in Nitrogen applications from 82kg to 100kg due to increased topdressing applications.

Staff Successes

- Team upscaled to 14 – 4 new starts in February, 2 leavers in July and 3 new starts in October.
- Scott Russell completed SVQ Level 2 and moved to a Hybrid Greenkeeper/Mechanic role.
- 7 staff members passing Pesticide Application – Boom Spraying course.
- 3 staff members starting SVQ Level 2
- 1 staff member starting SVQ Level 3
- 1 staff member completing HNC Golf Course Management
- Volunteering Opportunities
 - Graeme Nisbet – LIV Golf – JCB Club and Abu Dhabi Golf Championship at Yas Links.
 - Ryan Yuill – Tour Championship at East Lake CC
 - Daniel Taylor – BIGGA Support Team at the Open Championship at Royal Tron.
- 2 staff members completing Bernhards grinding course.
- Specialist training for the Workshop Team

Looking forward to 2025, the hard work will continue with the Shed Extension starting in January which will provide a modern and compliant workshop for the team to work in and improved and bigger welfare facilities. We hope to find out in January whether we have been granted permission to install 2 boreholes which will lead to the upgrading of the irrigation tank and pump set in winter 2025/26. We plan to rebuild another 10 bunkers including the second centreline bunker on 9, 3 on the left side of 10, 3 fairway bunkers on 11 and the 2 bunkers on 14. The walkway from the 2nd tees will be returfed with a new line of irrigation installed as well as continuing to returf worn areas around the course.

Rainfall Chart

Until the 31st of December 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	26.6
December	109.0	23	108.4	33.8
Total	675.5	515	725.93	688.1

Kyle Cruickshank
Course Manager