



Autumn 2025 Greens Report

Royal Liverpool Golf Club

Following on from the last update, I am pleased to report that we have continued to enjoy a remarkable spell of weather this year, conditions that have been a delight for golf, but at times a stern challenge for greenkeeping. Thanks to the Club's continued investment in materials, irrigation improvements and staff training, we have come through this testing period relatively unscathed. Only a modest amount of remedial work has been required this autumn, while, regrettably, many clubs across the country, particularly those reliant on less secure water sources, have felt the strain far more keenly.

To safeguard our own position, we are now working closely with two independent consultants to help secure our water allowance and ensure the Club remains water resilient in the years ahead.

On the competitive front, we are immensely proud to be hosting the BIGGA National Championships on 21st October, which will bring greenkeepers from across Great Britain to both Wallasey and Hoylake. It is a fine opportunity to showcase our links and all the work that has gone into presenting the course in the best possible condition.

Immediately thereafter, we will begin our drainage project. While it may seem surprising that a sandy links requires drainage, over recent years, a rising winter water table has caused flooded bunkers and a closed range. A main drainage artery will run from the 16th through the range and out to sea, with spurs to drain the 16th bunkers and 1st fairway. This will allow us to monitor how the range drains before potentially adding extra spurs in the future. Our long-term aim is to ensure the course remains as playable in the wet winter months as it is in summer, a multi-year process requiring careful investment, but one that will make a significant difference in the face of increasingly wet winters. During this work, there will be temporary changes to the 12th, 13th, and 14th holes where fairways are crossed, though we will do all we can to maintain 18 holes in play.

Looking ahead to an exciting year in the Club's history, we are preparing for 131st The Amateur Championship in June 2026, which will be shared with West Lancs GC. This winter, there will be some minor course changes, including re-landscaping the left side of the 7th to prevent balls running onto the 8th tee. The bunker will be removed and replaced with a swale, reminiscent of the old "Dowie Hole" but without the cop and out of bounds hazard near the green. Additionally, after discussions with our architect Martin Ebert, several bunkers on holes 16-18 will be revised. This will be to encourage play away from the left side of holes 16 and 17, and to lend some variety to the shape of our bunkers to enhance enjoyment of the links.

From 22nd October to 3rd April, mats will be in play in designated landing zones only, to allow divots and fairways to recover following a particularly dry year. Members are asked to play the ball from the mats rather than moving it to the rough.

Many of you will now be aware of our more visible boundary on the left side of the 8th hole. This is to try and minimise balls leaving the links to the left side of the hole. We hope this simple change will encourage play towards the right side of the fairway and to facilitate this aim, the right side of the fairway will be softened over winter, to reward well struck drives.

On the greens, the campaign to remove Yorkshire Fog has been highly successful, with fresh seedlings emerging soon, they will be nurtured through the winter months, promising purer greens in 2026.

Regrettably, the drought has affected our honey production, leaving only enough for the bees' winter food supply, and there will be no Hoylake Honey this year.

We are, however, delighted to announce that Assistant Greenkeeper Jamie Beattie has finished second in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Jamie impressed the judges over interviews, exams, and a two-day practical assessment at Rudding Park Golf Club, and delivered an inspiring presentation to the Royal Liverpool Greenstaff in preparation. We are all extremely proud of his achievement.

You may also have noticed improvements between the 8th and 9th and on the 10th holes, where burnet rose and rank grasses have been replaced with sand. Approximately 1,500 tons of sand have been mined, screened, and will be reused on the links for topdressing and bunkers. These sand scrapes support biodiversity by mimicking natural dune processes, providing habitats for rare plants, insects, and ground-nesting birds. More areas will be transformed in the coming months, with marram grass from our thriving 12th scrape farm. Being able to use our own sand for links maintenance creates a significant financial benefit for the Club.

We are in a strong position going into the winter, and members are encouraged to sign up for Bledge's course updates via WhatsApp:

[Join here](#)

Alternatively, please ask another member who is already in the group to add you.

Finally, as always, I would like to pass my thanks on to James Bledge, our tremendous Links Manager, not only for his help in compiling this report but for his tireless efforts and those of his team, which have given us a links, the condition of which, is a match for anywhere.

If you have any questions about the links, please don't hesitate to contact me at christopher.peterson@nhs.net

Many Thanks

Chris Peterson, Chairman of Greens