



February 2024



**Thank You Charlie!** Charlie Jackson stood down from the role of Course Chairman earlier this year. He managed the course magnificently through a very turbulent time when even the weather didn't help, with two of the wettest winters we've seen. This didn't stop Charlie and Margaret from completing many jobs that have improved the appearance of our club. Any members or visitors to the club will have seen them working tirelessly around the car park. Tidying and turfing the wall area to the right as you drive in, rebuilding the walls and creating planters down by the green keepers' sheds, tidying the gardens and many more jobs I probably don't even know about. I personally thank Charlie for still being there to help me when I've needed him! Thank you Charlie – Dave McColl.



**Proud of What I've Helped to Achieve!** After 49 years of loyal service David has decided to hang up his work boots for a final time! Davie started work at Durham City Golf Club in July 1975 at the ripe old age of 16. Since then he has been an ever present member of the green staff. Whenever the Head Greenkeeper was missing, either through holidays or illness Davie was the man to step in and save the day. I have had the pleasure of knowing him since 2011 when I first became involved with the course. I quickly learned that his knowledge of the course is second to none, he is the first port of call for anyone needing historical information. His knowledge of the course will be a great miss as will his dedication to Durham City Golf Club. **Thank you for your service David Bird.** Enjoy your retirement!



Our course in the 1970's.  
View from the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee.

**Jack's Corner.** The weather has not exactly been ideal but hopefully we have now turned a corner and can look forwards to the preparation for the coming season. **February** should see us completing the work to the first green. The old drainage channels have been cleaned out and new ones added to both the green and surrounding area. Much of this work has had to be done by hand as the weather has prevented machinery being used, as a result the work has been held up. At some point before the end of the month we will need to use a temporary green for a week or so. Other areas we plan to re-turf in February are left of the 3<sup>rd</sup> green, right of the right hand bunker on the 4<sup>th</sup> and right of the 9<sup>th</sup> tee box. **March** sees us preparing the greens, tees, aprons and worn areas. This will mainly involve various tining, sanding, seeding and fertilising the above. Weather permitting we will be able to start cutting which instantly transforms the course giving it more definition. The **course closures** have been very frustrating for everyone but we will do everything in our power (and budget) to improve the problem areas before next winter.



Jack Richardson  
Course Manager

Hand digging the drainage channels at the 1st hole.



**The Apprentices.** I'm glad to say that **Liam Potts** completed his Level two Apprentice Greenkeeper with a Merit-Well done Liam. We are now looking to encourage him to continue his professional development by completing a Chainsaw Maintenance course. **Thomas Goodwin** is due to complete his training in May and if successful he would like continue his professional development by taking spraying qualifications. Good luck to both of them.



**Liam**



**Thomas**

**Winter golf**



We have always played golf at Durham when it has been **frosty** but in our notifications we encourage you to take great care as conditions can be slippery. Golfers can make their own minds up as to whether or not they wish to play. It is, however, wet conditions that regularly close our course in the winter. This year has been particularly wet. We have diligently noted the worst areas and hopefully if our budget allows we can try to rectify them. Our **practice area** is one of these areas so we ask that you note and respect the signs at both entrances. Thank you.



**The Badgers** have made a right mess especially around the 15<sup>th</sup> green but also the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping that with increasing amounts of golfers as the season gets closer they will retreat into the woods. Until then Jack has tried diesel soaked rags tied to posts to deter them from approaching greens. If anyone has a suggestion to deter them please let us know. We think that they have migrated to our neck of the woods due to all the work further down the river.

**Tree work left of 2<sup>nd</sup> tee.** This work had been planned for October last year but the weather intervened. The trees are far too close together, they are fighting for light and growing too tall for their root systems. Some have already died and others have uprooted themselves. We hope that when the work is finished we will have a healthier copse that the ground staff can access with machinery in order to maintain properly. Until we can access the area with larger machinery the trunks will be left where they fall and there will also be piles of chippings around. I am assured by the contractor that these will be removed whenever conditions improve. I am also assured that the unfinished work behind the 11<sup>th</sup> green will be completed and tidied when access is possible.



**Thank you Peter.** Peter Toole has very kindly allowed us the use of his digger, when it's not being used by his company of course. This is going to be incredibly useful in helping to rectify some of the wet areas on the course. All we need now is for some drier weather to allow us to get the digger onto the course! This is incredibly generous of Peter and will save the club a considerable amount in hire charges. **Thank you.**



- Please repair your pitch marks.**
- Please replace your divots.**
- Please respect the roped off areas.**

**Thank you from the Ground staff Team**

