Course Report October 2026

What a Summer! I recorded 23mm of rain on the 8th of June and didn't record any further rainfall until 12th of August. This obviously had a major impact on the golf course. We all know that we rely heavily on our irrigation system throughout the summer but as the weather patterns have changed, this reliance has never been under so much stress.

We maintain/repair our irrigation system in house and thankfully this year we had no major problems and we were able to keep it running at full capacity throughout the Summer. All greens and tees have full irrigation, and we have partial irrigation on 7 of our fairways. We also have irrigation on some of the drier approaches. There are 91 stations and 368 sprinklers on the course.

Irrigation was running every night on all areas which meant that we were using about 125,000L every day with a full program on the automated system taking 11hrs to run a full cycle. The system runs form a bore hole which fills a storage tank with a capacity of 95,000L so there is a short fall of 30,000L. We rely on the submersible pump which fills the tank to keep up with consumption.

Luckily, we have an excellent supply of water in our well (at the moment), and we didn't run out of water this year, however you probably travelled to other clubs that were running low on water or had run out completely. I know of a few clubs that were relying on water tankers hired in to haul water into the club just to keep the greens alive.







An area on the 4th collar that had dried out and the same area after overseeding.

With this in mind and the regular drought conditions over the past number of years, we are looking at replacing our storage tank. Our tank is now 30yrs old with an expected lifespan of 20yrs, so we are on borrowed time. If our tank was to fail, the repairs would take a considerable amount of time during which the greens would die. We will install a new tank beside the old one with a greater capacity of 150000L which means if should we run out of water we will have the capacity to keep the greens alive for a longer period.

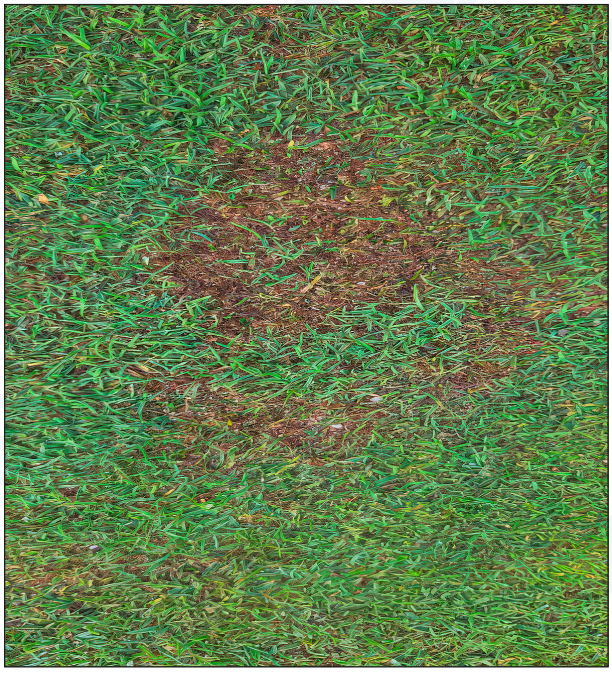
Greens

The greens performed very well this summer as the bent grass that we are trying to promote loves the heat, and we were able to have complete control over the moisture levels, although this was no easy task. It required a lot of monitoring and hand watering as moisture levels in some areas of the greens dropping by as much as 8% to 10% throughout the day.

Other areas on the course didn't fair out so well with many patches dying completely. We just don't have the resources to keep everywhere watered. Some areas on collars died so these have now been over-seeded to try and bring them back faster, however I'd say it'll be next spring by the time all the areas that have died back on fairways and rough have completely recovered.

We can now say that the greens are predominantly bent grass greens with most of the greens at approximately 60% to 80% bent grass. We had good speed and consistency throughout the summer and no disease until late September, which is the time of year when disease pressure is at its highest.

Below you can see where the disease (fusarium) has attacked the meadow Grass and the bent grass in the middle has been unaffected.







Damage caused by a badger on the 16th.

Wildlife

I have commented before on the diverse wildlife we have living on the course and although it's always nice to see them about the place sometimes, they can be a pest also. Over the last few years, we have started to see a few badgers on the course, and they have decided



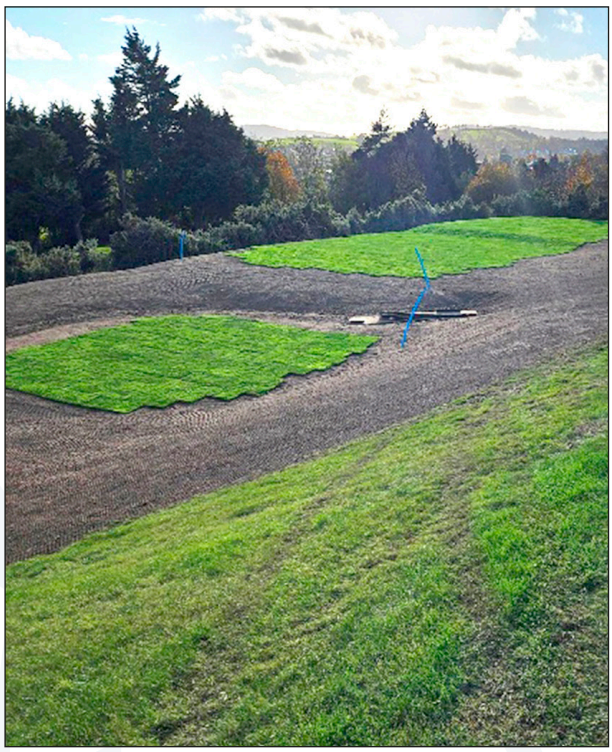
to use specific distance markers as their toilet. They also dig up areas of fairway on a regular basis foraging for grubs and worms.

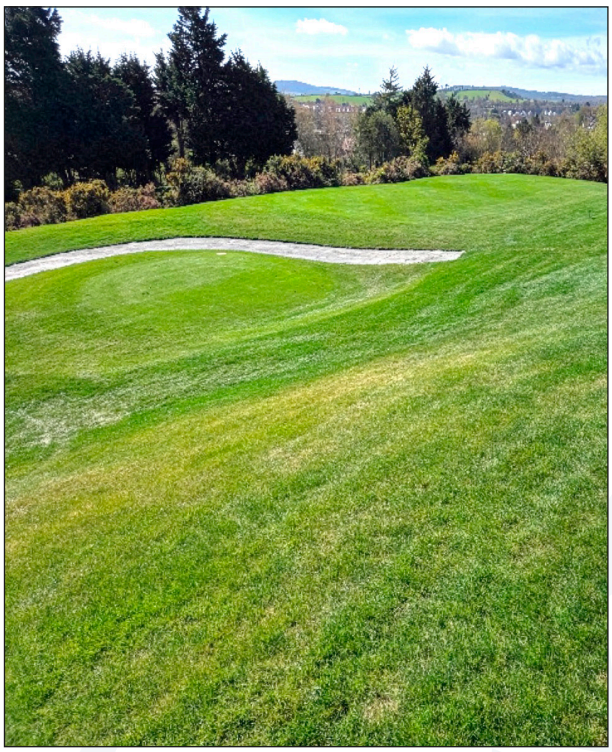
Foxes continue to be a major problem digging into the faces of bunkers which undermines the stability of the edges even after they have been repaired and can collapse when our cutting machinery goes around them. They have also started to dig up greens with a fox taking a shine to an area on the 7th green. We have repaired it 11 times over 14 days and finally had to cover it with mesh and mark it as GUR.





Damage caused by foxes.





8th tee under construction and completed.

8th hole

This time last year we were building the new 8th tee. It opened on schedule early last spring and the feedback we have received has all been positive. Although the out of bounds on the left and the extended long grass might not be a popular, combined with the waste area and the relocation of the tee it appears that the efforts to prevent balls from leaving the golf course and landing in neighbouring properties have been successful. Can I remind all members that all balls that leave the boundary of the course must be reported immediately. This helps us to know where the problem areas are and exactly where the balls are leaving the course from. We can then come up with a plan to prevent it from happening. One stray ball could close a hole for good!

Maintenance.

We are well along with our Autumn maintenance. All fairways have been shock-waved, and we are nearly finished verti-draining. Both these machines help to relieve compaction, increase air movement and speed up water movement through the profile.

We have also started to spread sand on fairways. This also helps to keep the fairways drier during the winter, reduce thatch and maintain any drainage that has been installed. All tees have been scarified and sanded. Greens have been aerated and top-dressed. All long rough has been double cut. All fairways will receive a liquid fertiliser to help them through the latter part of Autumn.

Some other winter jobs this year will include.

- Extend the chipping green by approx. 300m2
- Remove some trees from 3 and 15
- Redesign the 2 bunkers on the 9th fairway
- Fill in some bunkers on 5 and 9
- Some Irrigation upgrades
- New irrigation tank
- Upgrade the practice facility at Pig's Hollow
- Drainage on 7, 8 and 9 fairway areas
- Construct a second storage shed for machinery

Keith Clancy
Course Superintendent