



— Founded 1780 —
**ROYAL ABERDEEN
GOLF CLUB**

**Course update - February 2024
Balgownie Links**

Since the turn of the year, we have experienced continued heavy rainfall with a total of 83mm falling in January and another 76 mm falling in the first 18 days of February. These totals surpass the average of 55mm expected for both January and February. We have had to close the course for 9 days so far this year due to heavy snowfall and had 1 full day on temporary greens due to frost conditions.

Greens and Approaches

A liquid turf hardener was applied to surfaces to help promote plant health and reduce incidence of turf disease. The application included Seaweed, Ammonia, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphite and a penetrant wetting agent to help aid water infiltration through the profile.

Greens have been cut at a height of 5mm and approaches cut with the triple mowers at a height of 6mm.

All greens have been rolled regularly to ensure surfaces remain smooth and true.

Greens and approaches were top-dressed with 20 tonnes of our indigenous sand and brushed into the canopy using soft dew brushes.

Tees

The construction of the new tee on the west side of the 4th hole is now complete and has been roped off as GUR until the spring.



The current blue tee has been increased in width to accommodate the white tee for the 2024 season. After recent storm damage the white tee on the east side is not safe to be used going forward and work will be carried out to remove the irrigation.

All tees have been cut at a height of 6mm and followed up with an application of liquid turf hardener, similar to that applied to greens and approaches.

Fairways

An application of liquid turf hardener and penetrant wetting agent has been applied to fairways and greens surrounds. All fairways have been cut at a height of 9mm.

Divot filling has been carried out to top up any divots in landing areas and semi-rough that have been washed out from recent rainfall.

The landing area at the start of the 4th fairway has been recontoured / shaped and turfed to allow better playability from the tee at the west side of the hole. This area will be roped off as GUR until Spring 2024.



Bunkers

Revetting work is now completed to all bunkers on the winter maintenance program excluding the greenside bunker at hole 5 which is still flooded. This will be undertaken at first opportunity.

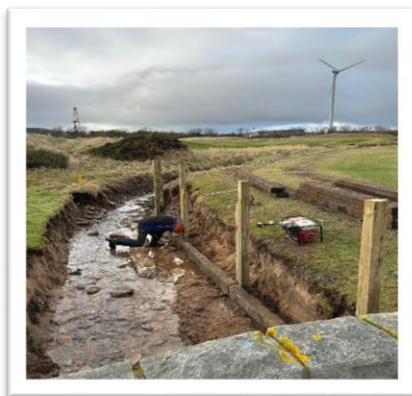
All bunkers have been edged and sand build up has been redistributed prior to new sand being added.

Gorse clearance

Many areas of young gorse and broom have been cleared across the course using the flail mower and strimmers with blades most notably the carries on holes 7 and 8 on Balgownie.

Other work undertaken

Installed a sleeper wall to 5th burn to stop the grass bank eroding and improve overall aesthetics to tie in with the stone bridge. (Pictured below on Left-hand side)



Clearance, redefining of the hazard edges and removal of debris in the burns/ditches at holes 5, 7, 12 and 14. (Pictured above in the middle & right-hand side)

Many of the worn pathways across the course have been re-turfed.

Irrigation

Three new pumps have been installed to replace the old pump system.

Irrigation has been added to the new tees at the 3rd and 4th holes and the extended fairway/landing area on the 4th hole. Faulty decoders have been removed and replaced on 4 holes as we prepare to start up our system for 2024.

Forthcoming work

Yellow, red, and green tee markers will be back out on the course from Sunday 25th February with the white and blue markers to follow on Monday 1st April.

Revet the right-hand greenside bunker at the 5th hole incorporating a drainage channel to stop any future flooding.

Fresh sand will be added and redistributed to all bunkers throughout the course to ensure consistency.

Remove a section of the left-hand dune system and recontour to allow visibility of green from the new tees on the 4th hole.

Decrease current size of the white tee at 3rd hole and create a small dune at the rear of the tee to prevent access to the dune edge. All access will be from the front path to this tee.

Clear ditches throughout the course to ensure easier maintenance, adequate hazard marking to allow players to easily identify if their when landing in the hazards.

Repair grass hollow/drainage pipe at the 14th hole.

Staff Training

Senior Greenkeeper Owen Mackay has recently passed his SVQ 3 in Sportsturf Management.

Richard Johnstone
Course Manager



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ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

Course update – February 2024 Silverburn course

Greens and Approaches

A liquid turf hardener was applied to surfaces to help promote plant health and reduce incidence of turf disease. The application included Seaweed, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphite and a penetrant wetting agent to help aid water infiltration through the profile.

Greens have been cut at a height of 5mm and approaches cut at a height of 6mm.

Greens and approaches were top-dressed with 10 tonnes of indigenous sand and brushed in to help firm up and smooth out the surfaces.

All greens were rolled to ensure surfaces are kept smooth and true.

Tees

All tees have been cut at a height of 6mm and followed up with an application of liquid turf hardener, similar to that applied to greens and approaches.

All tees were top-dressed with 2 tonnes of indigenous sand and brushed in to help firm up surfaces.

Deep aeration was carried out to areas of the course containing excess water using 19mm solid tines to help with moisture movement away from the surface and through the soil profile.

All fairways have been cut at a height of 9mm.

Fairways

An application of liquid turf hardener and penetrant wetting agent has been applied the fairways.

All fairways have been cut at a height of 9mm.

Bunkers

Revetting work is currently being carried out to the two bunkers at the practice chipping area. These will be topped up with fresh sand to ensure consistency with other bunkers across the course and left as GUR until Spring.



Gorse clearance

Many areas across the course have been flail mown to help manage the gorse and broom before it gets out of control. The focus most recently has been in front of the 18th tee and down the left side of the fairway when balls were tending to run off closely mown surfaces into the edge of the gorse.



Other work undertaken

All course benches and furniture have had a final coat of varnish and restored ready for the 2024 season.

The worn pathway leading to the practice nets has been returfed and rubber mats introduced to help better grass growth and ensure the bank does not become slippery during wet conditions.



The hedge at the 1st tee has been trimmed back to allow better maintenance as this was losing its shape, becoming too large and slightly out of control especially on the roadside for access to the clubhouse and greenkeeping facilities.

The area at the 5th tee has been recontoured with fresh rootzone, irrigation added, and new turf laid to ensure this high traffic area performs a lot better in the future.



Forthcoming work

All bunkers edged and sand build up will be redistributed prior to new sand being added in the spring.

An application of lawn sand will be applied to surfaces when weather allows to help kill and deter any further moss ingress to surfaces. This will be followed up by a scarification and sand topdressing.

Presentation work across the course as we head into Spring and the start of the 2024 season.

Richard Johnstone
Course Manager