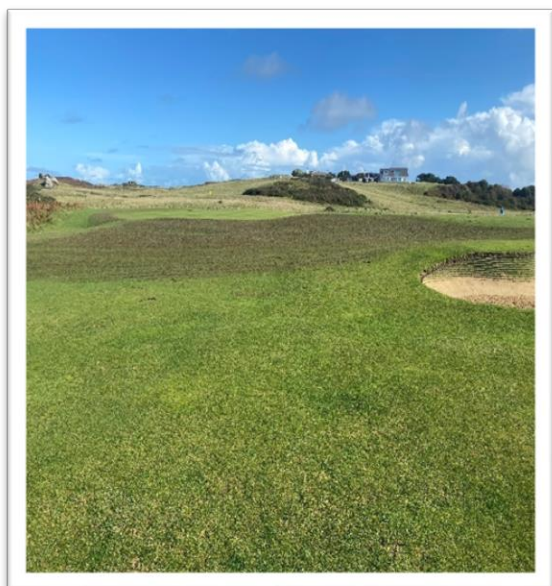


Dear Members

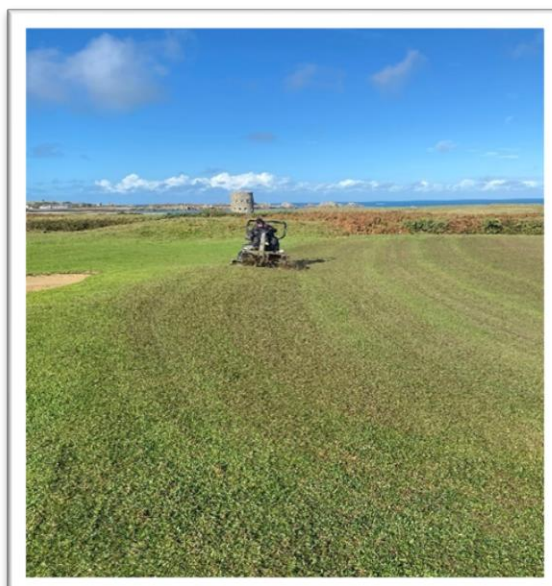
Apologies for the late arrival of our course maintenance update it has been an incredibly busy last couple of months.

Now the playing season has come to an end the Greenkeeping team have been working hard on numerous turf maintenance procedures that will aid the overall health and playing quality of our surfaces heading in to next season.

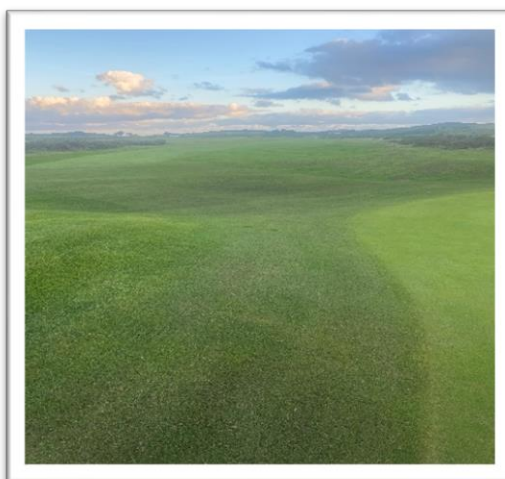
Just like Greens maintenance explained in my previous report the Tees and Approaches were also double scarified and core cultivated, the only difference was the fact that we left the cores on the surface to dry. This procedure enables us to break the cores up using an old set of scarifying units which recycles the sandy soil as a topdressing and the organic matter (Thatch) is then blown off the surface. In an ideal world we would top dress our Tees and Approaches but the cost of doing so just cannot be achieved within our maintenance budget as materials and shipping costs are soaring.



(14th Approach and Surround cores drying)



(14th Cores dried and being broken up)



(5th Hole completed)

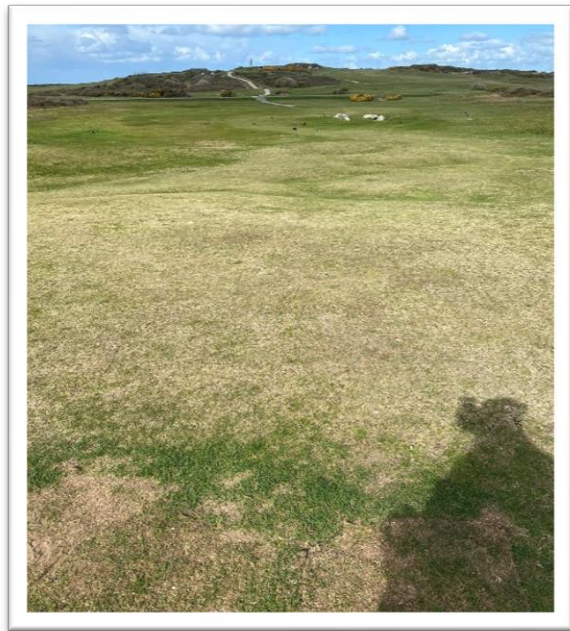
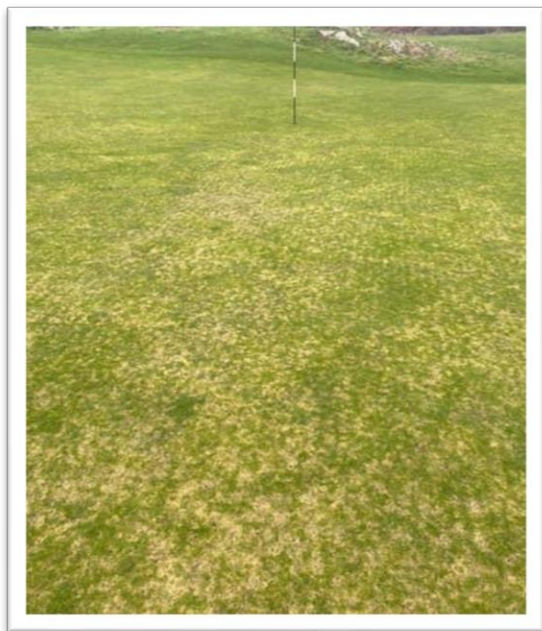
Leather Jackets

Many of you would of noticed the thousands of Crane fly (Daddy Long Legs) that emerged during October. The Crane fly were coming to the end of their 12 month life cycle where most of their life they are under the turf feeding off the grass plant. When they emerge in October as Crane fly the females will lay up to four hundred eggs back in to the turf and the cycle repeats.

The damage caused to the whole golf course earlier this year was on a scale I have never witnessed before. This was down to the Island wide ban on the emergency approved U.K Insecticide Acelepryn. During this time G.C.M applied to Guernsey Health and Safety Department about the possibility in being granted a license to apply to all our closely mown playing surfaces. After numerous meetings and phone calls with the relevant authorities I am pleased to say our application was successful and our licence to apply under strict conditions was granted.

This past week spraying conditions were favourable, with light winds not a common occurrence in November we took one of the few opportunities we had to apply. I understand there was some disruption out on the course with certain holes closed but getting these products down in the small window we had just had to take priority.

We have now treated all our closely mown playing surfaces and I am hopeful of a significant reduction in damage than that was seen earlier in the year. Time will tell when we hit the low growing months from January through to April on how successful the treatments have worked.



(Damaged caused by Leather Jackets at the start of the year)



(Sprayer Applying Acelepryn to Fairways and Approaches)

Rabbits

Since the start of the hunting season the volunteer rabbiters have been out every Saturday with their ferrets and dogs netting around the rabbit sets trying to reduce the population. As of now the guys have had over five hundred rabbits. I understand that this is probably only the tip of the iceberg. We are currently doing everything we can with the resources and restrictions we have. Hopefully in the coming years with the rabbit population at L'Ancrese increasing at an alarming rate the States Vet could reclassify to vermin and control could be carried out throughout the year instead of the small window we have currently.

The forecasted Myxomatosis currently has not been witnessed on the Links, although I have heard reports it has been seen in nearby areas it certainly has not taken the projected hold first thought.



(Rabbit Control Holes 3 & 4)

Golf Course Ecology

During October L'Ancrese Links was visited from one of Britain's leading Golf Course Ecologists. Sophie Olejnik has worked for many of the UK's Open Championship venues and has also consulted for the R&A and Great Britain's Olympic Games Committee. Sophie has also been on ITVs Countryfile where her works on golf courses were broadcast across the U.K.

Sophie brings with her a vast knowledge on Links Golf and how the course can be enhanced aesthetically whilst providing a haven for the local flora and fauna to thrive.

Once G.C.M receive Sophies report it will be circulated to the memberships for any member interested on the potential works suggested.

I have no doubt that the works Sophie has recommended will help restore the link's full potential.

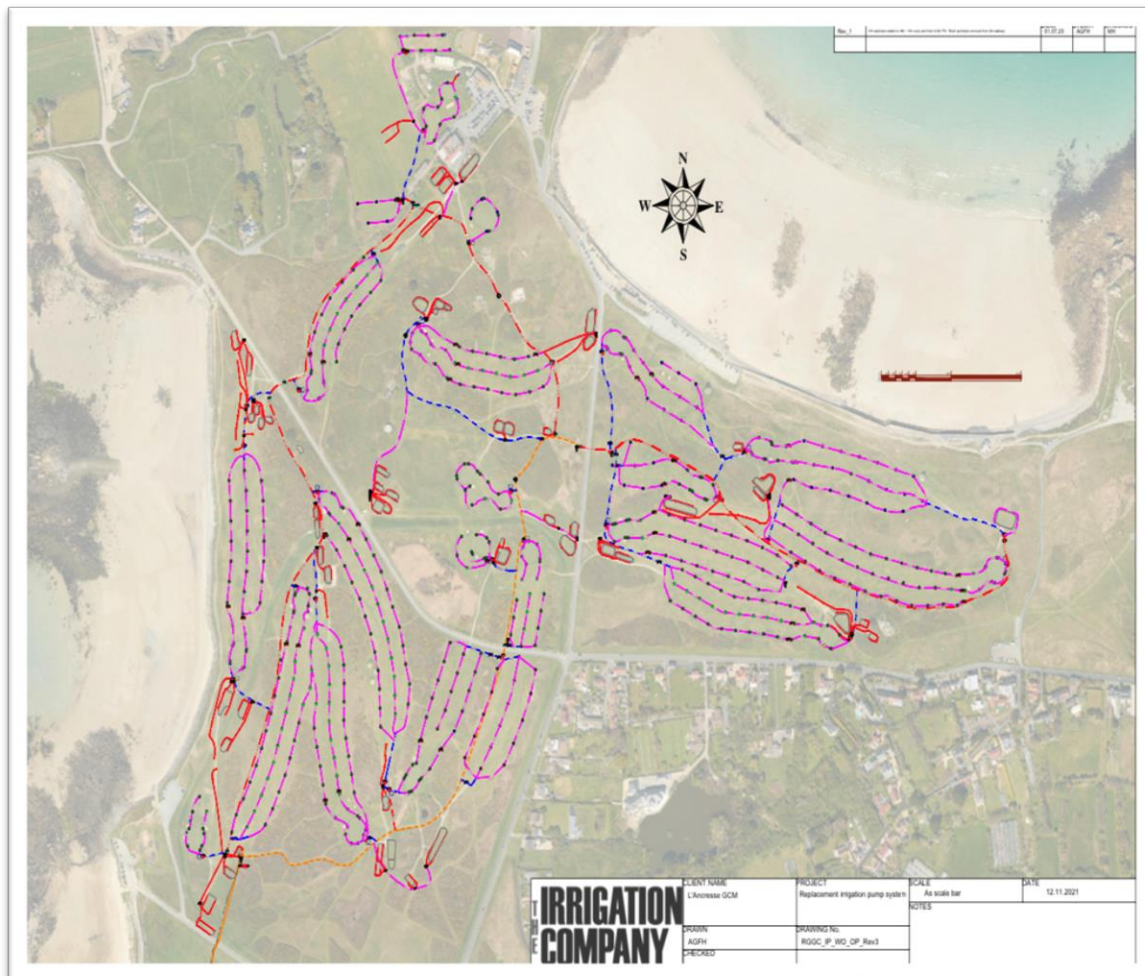


(Sophie Olejnik site visit L'Ancrese Links)

Irrigation

G.C.M has employed Adrian Handbury an Irrigation consultant who has recently visited the course to start mapping out a new irrigation system. A new state of the art Irrigation system is being considered.

Our current irrigation system is failing and a new system must be sought. This past summer we have had nothing but trouble with the current system with leaks occurring on a weekly basis, software and controller issues and a pump system that has cost thousands of pounds to get to an operational standard.



(Proposed New Irrigation System Layout)

I have recently been to St Georges Hill Golf Club in Surrey to observe their new irrigation installation. Discussing the process undertaken and all the necessary logistics involved. We also discussed disruption to members where they were very confident that in a worst case scenario only two holes would be closed at any one time.

This obviously is of a huge expense and G.C.M are exploring ways to enable financing of such a large project. I am hopeful that funds can be found as the course would benefit immensely from an efficient irrigation system.

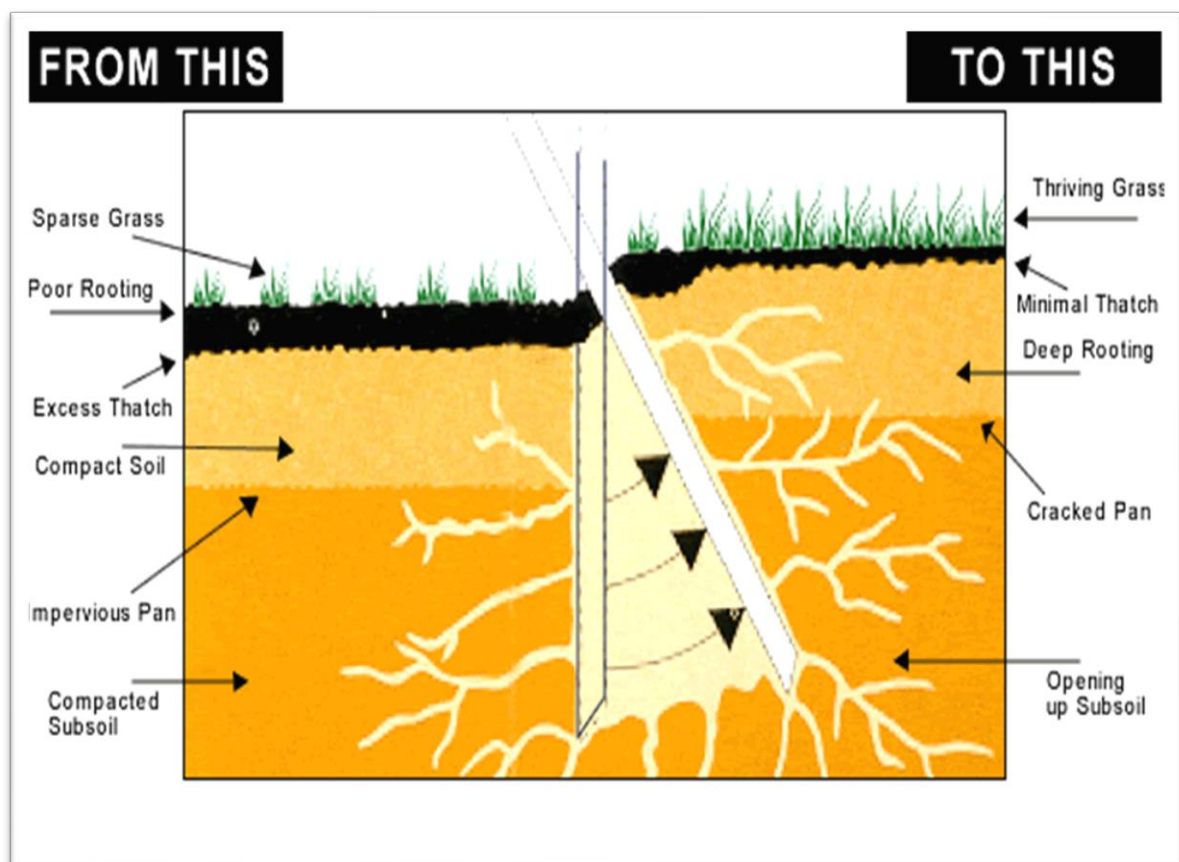


(Irrigation Instalation St Georges Hill G.C)

Fairway and Semi-Rough Aeration

Over the coming weeks we will be starting our fairway and semi-rough aeration practice. This will involve a tractor mounted Verti-Drain. The Verti-Drain is a tractor mounted aeration machine introduced to the U.K in 1982 from Holland. The Verti-Drain's primary use is to relieve soil compaction that occurs from golfing traffic and greenkeeping practices. Verti-Drains also create channels through undesirable layering within the soil profile. Benefits also include greater drainage in poor soils and deep rooting turf.

The Verti-Drain works in a way that as it enters the rootzone it will also have a heaving motion as it reaches its desired depth, this in a moist soil will open up pore spaces within the profile. Solid tines may up lift and fracture the soil mass during extraction with substantial increases in soil macro porosity, benefits are most pronounced when executed in dry soils; conversely, if soil moisture is high no improvements in soil macro porosity may occur.



(Benefits of Verti-Drain tines with heave action on dry to moist soils)

Verti-Drain machines can usually reach depths of up to 300 millimetres and tine diameters range from thirteen to twenty-five millimetres. Centres will vary depending on machine but are usually between 50 millimetres and 200 millimetres.

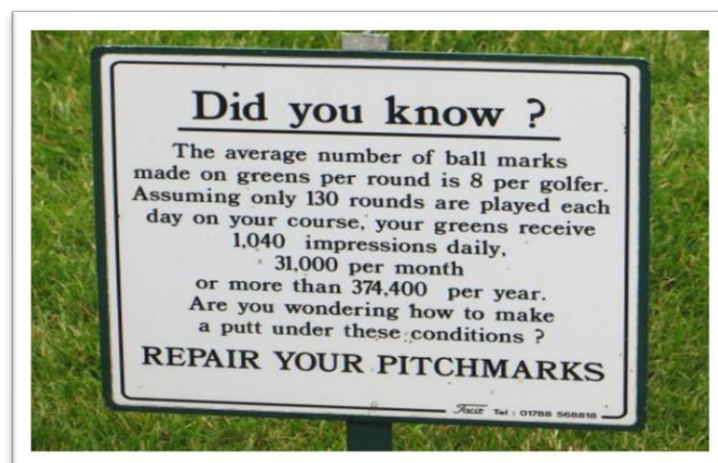
This will be a long process and to keep the machine working I would like to kindly ask members to either pick up or move their ball to play around the tractor whilst it is working. I recently visited a golf course where a sign was placed on the tee of the hole in question informing members.



(Sign Informing Members)

Pitch Marks

As we are moving in to the winter months the greens will be becoming softer, could I please remind all members to take a moment to repair their pitch marks as currently we are seeing many unrepaired marks. The green staff work tirelessly to create as true a surface as possible but with the increasing amount of ball marks being seen it is making this near on impossible.



Links Forum

Earlier this week I was lucky enough to be invited to Royal St Georges Golf Club on the Links Managers Forum. This is a get together of many Head Greenkeepers in charge of links golf courses around the U.K. and Europe where ideas and new techniques are shared. I would to thank G.C.M for

giving me the time to visit Royal St Georges as the knowledge gained was invaluable. Some of the topics are shown below.



(Infiltration Rates)

Here we are being shown the difference in time that water passes through the profile and the benefits aeration has on the speed the rootzone drains.



(Root Depth Measurements)

The importance of root depth being shown on the performance of putting greens. Here we are being shown the benefits of aeration on root depth and the many other factors that need to be addressed on achieving deep rooted healthy turf.



(Rough Management)

Rough is an integral part of the golf course and management practices have to take in playability and the local flora and fauna. Here we are being shown the benefits of burning the rough enabling improved playability and encouraging local flora to flourish. Royal St Georges have been working with Natural England on their management practices. They have found best results are achieved from burning with many local wild flowers flourishing there after.

I hope this brief report has given you all an insight in to the works we have been up to these past couple of months. As can be seen G.C.M have been very busy behind the scenes and the future looks promising going forward.

I would like to personally thank all the greenstaff for their continued efforts over the season without them it all would not of been possible.

To the members who have had to put up with us working with disruptions at times we really do appreciate your patience.

I hope everyone has a great winter season with plenty of time to work on your game ready for next year which isnt too far away now.

Kind Regards

Ollie