

Dear Members

Over the past month the Green staff have been incredibly busy with many winter projects going on around the course. I hope many of you have had a chance to look through our Ecological Development Plan that details many of the works to be undertaken in the coming years. Our management plan concentrates on habitat management and to begin the management of the golf course with biodiversity in mind.

Links golf courses are particularly important where scrub invasion can be quick and aggressive which is the case here at L'Ancrese.

The following ecological objectives are to be undertaken over the coming years at L'Ancrese

Ecology objectives

- Restore coastal dune habitats and increase the diversity of coastal dune habitats including the creation of bare sand scrapes.
- Reduce the areas of unfavorable and encroaching scrub across the golf course.
- Improve management of existing dune grassland to prevent further habitat loss to scrub encroachment and inappropriate management.

Landscape Objectives

- Improve the playability of the golf course through management/removal of scrub which impacts on sight lines.
- Establish a landscape which is cost-effective to manage and maintain.
- Re-establish a Links landscape.

Golf Course Management received our Ecological plan in December. It was decided to undertake some of the smaller works this winter due to the later than planned arrival of the Ecological report. Whilst also allowing time for the membership to review and show a smaller scale of works which will be undertaken in the years to come.

Golf Course Management decide to tackle areas on the 2nd 17th & 18th Holes.

Our first area was to remove stands of degenerate blackthorn, rank greases and thistle (*Cirsium ssp*) to the right of the general tee and create an informal sand scrape which was to be plug planted with Marram (*Ammophila ssp*). (**Ecological Plan Figure 2A**).



(Area of degenerate Blackthorn, rank grasses and thistle)



(Excavator removing all vegetation & clearing to bare sand)



(Greenkeepers Plug Planting Marram)



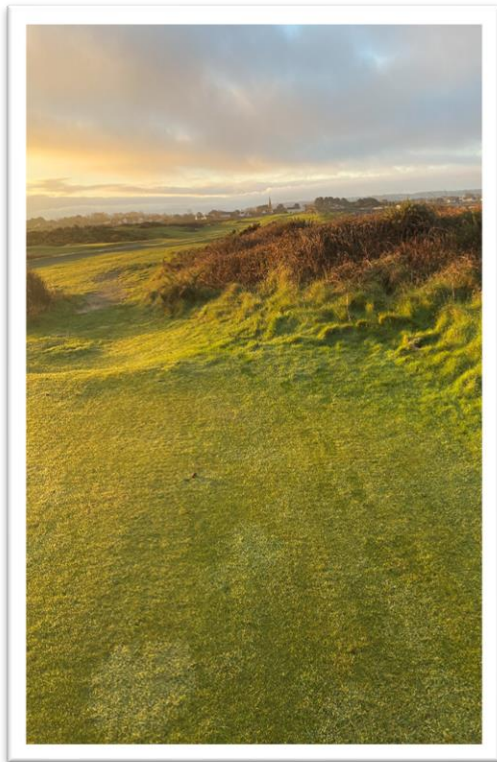
(Completed Works)

Marram Grass (*Ammophila ssp*) is native to Guernsey and can be seen around the coast lines especially on the West coast of the Island. Marram grass grows in the sands of coastal regions and plays an important role in the stabilization of sand dunned areas. Marram grows well in open free draining low nutrient soils making the natural sand at L'Ancrese an ideal site for establishment. Many areas of Marram can be seen to have been lost over time to the invasive colonization of bramble and bracken across the common. Our aim going forward is to reduce the scrub and scape the enriched soil this has caused away to the natural sand where native plants will then be able to outcompete these invasive species.

Gorse & Bramble Management 2nd Medal Tee Sight Line (2C Ecological Management Plan)

The sight lines off the medal tee on the 2nd hole were becoming compromised by leggy stands of Gorse smothered by invasive bramble. It was decided that this area should be managed to open up the golfers sight line of the hole, whilst giving golfers and members of the public using the coastal path adjacent to the 2nd hole improved visibility when players are teeing off. Ensuring improved visibility for both parties when players are on the tee.

The encroaching bramble were to be removed with the degenerative gorse coppiced to 150mm to allow recovery to a more dense healthier plant. All brash were to be removed and allowed to recover naturally.



(Before & After Improved Sight Line)

17th & 18th Hole Scrub Removal

Our next area for works were the removal of scrub to the rear of the 17th green and surrounding 18th tee, pushing away from the crest of the Dune. Scraping away all brash to the natural underlying sand and to leave recover naturally over time. ***(17D-17E Ecological Management Plan)***



(Existing 18th Tee Bramble Encroachment. Winnie cutting bramble)



(Wayne, Shay & James Raking Brash to Expose the Natural Sand)



(Raking Brash)



(Completed Area)

11th Tee Dune



(Existing damaged dune)



(Marram Planted on Dune)

Course Furniture

Golf Course Management has recognised that our general housekeeping around the course is in desperate need of refurbishment and in some instances replacement.

Many members have commented on where the ball washers have disappeared? Currently we have sent all our washers off to Guernsey powder coating to be fully refurbished. The final washers are due back in the coming days and our aim is to have them back in place come the start of the golfing calendar.

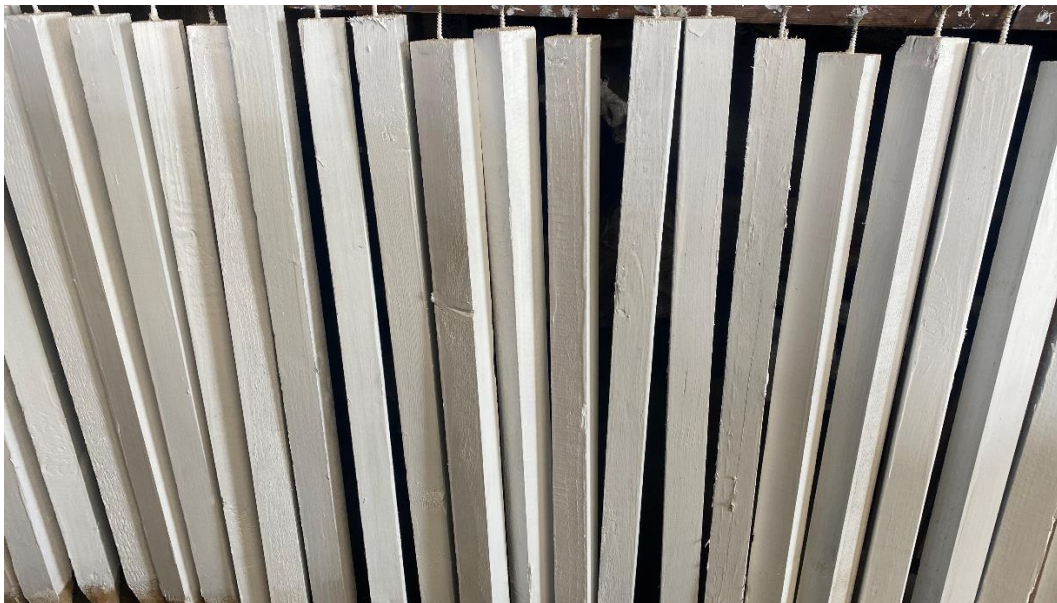


(Refurbished Ball Washers)

We are currently painting our Tee markers, Out of Bounds and Red Penalty area posts. G.C.M will be replacing our tee markers in the coming years moving to a more in keeping professional Tee marker. These will all be in place by the start of the season with all posts being line marked accordingly.



(Refurbished Tee Markers)



(Refurbishing Out of Bounds Posts)

G.C.M have also purchased new flags, flagsticks and hole cups. These will be in place once spring arrives and the adverse weathers are behind us.



(Tournament Tapered Pins with Embroidered Flags)

Many of you will have noticed that our Tee yardage plates are becoming worn/untidy and in desperate need for replacement. G.C.M are looking in to ways to help fund the replacement of our Tee yardage markers. We are looking in to sponsors for each hole where the company would be displayed on the plate along with the hole info. If any members feel that this is something they would be interested in could they please speak to Phil in the Pro Shop for further details.



(Existing Tee Plates)



(Proposed New Tee Signage) (Sponsor Plate to be Added)

Irrigation Project

It was great to see such a large turn out to the E.G.M last week. Adrian Handbury our irrigation consultant gave all members present a brief overview of our existing system and the benefits a new system would bring. Adrian was also available for any members queries and to answer any technical questions that members brought.

Steve Sharman from the States of Guernsey Sports Commission also gave a very informative talk on the importance of sport on the Island and the need to keep improving the facilities the Island has to offer.

Thanks must also go to our G.C.M Chairman Neil Tanguy and the board who have put in an incredible amount of work behind the scenes to get this project to where we are today. All the information was able to be relayed to the members and also to answer any questions involving the finance of such a large project.

This has taken everyone involved a great deal of time to put everything together and I am delighted to say members voted unanimously in favour for the irrigation project to go ahead.

There are now certain areas that need addressing before confirmation can be made. G.C.M are putting plans in place and decisions will be made shortly that then can be relayed to the memberships on the finer details.



(E.G.M. Full Clubhouse)

I hope this brief report has given you all an insight in to the ongoing work the green staff have been up to these past six weeks. The golf season is just around the corner now and we intend to start work on the playing surfaces and the finer details during March.

Although the competition calendar will be commencing soon we are still in the middle of winter and grass growth remains slow. We must wait until soil temperatures start to rise and consistent grass growth occurs before we can really start work on the overall definition, aesthetics and playing quality of our surfaces.

Finally I hope everyone has a great start to the season. Going on how busy the course has been over December, January and February I would expect many are on top of their game and are in a good place once that scorecard goes in the back pocket. I will update regularly as we move through the playing season.

Kind Regards

Ollie