



— Founded 1780 —

ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

Course update - January 2024 Balgownie Links

Since the turn of the year, we experienced more heavy rainfall with a total of 68mm falling to date. This has already surpassed the average expected rainfall for January and continued the trend from the last 3 months of 2023. With over 520mm falling since October it has been one of the wettest Autumn/ Winter's on record with water lying in areas never seen before on the links. Heavy snowfall also caused a 6-day course closure from 15th – 20th January.

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.

Selected areas of greens were verti drained using 19mm solid tines to help moisture move through the soil profile.

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

All greens were rolled post aeration to ensure minimum disruption to surfaces.

Tees

The construction of the new forward tee on the east side of the 3rd hole on the Championship course is now complete and will be roped off as GUR until the spring.

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 the greens and approaches. All tee banks have been cut and any debris blown from the surfaces to improve the overall presentation.

Fairways

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.

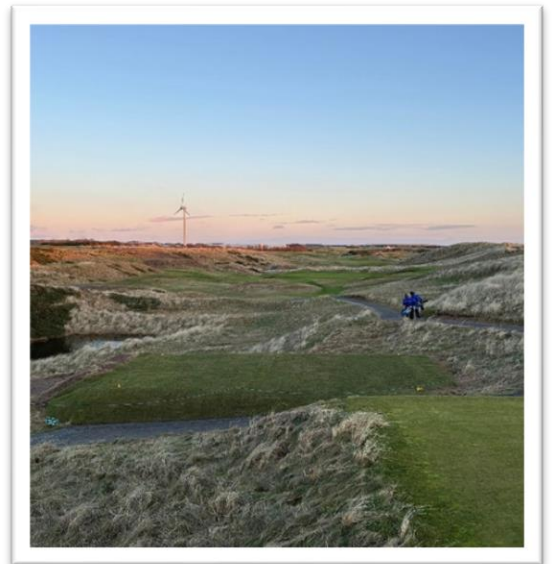
All fairways have been cut at a height of 9mm.

Divot filling has been carried out to top up any divots in landing areas and semi-rough.

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. We have attempted to pump the water from the bunker on several occasions and will now be completed at the 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 flail mower and strimmer's with blades.

Other work undertaken

All course benches and furniture have been painted and restored ready for the 2024 season.

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

Irrigation

Three new pumps have been installed to replace the old pump system; old pumps retained as back-up.

Forthcoming work



- Level and turf new tee on west side of 4th (Shown above – Left picture)
- Recontour landing area at 4th hole to improve playability from new tees (Shown above – Middle picture)
- Remove a section of left-hand dune and recontour to improve visibility of hole (Shown above – Right picture)

Decrease the current size of white tee at 3rd hole and create small dune at rear of tee to stop access form golfers and members of the public. All access will be from the front path to this tee.

Install Sleeper wall to 5th burn to stop the grass bank eroding and improve overall aesthetics to tie in with stone bridge.

Clear ditches throughout course to ensure easier maintenance, adequate hazard marking and allow players to easily identify if their ball has entered the hazard.

Repair grass hollow/drainage pipe at 14th hole

An application of liquid turf hardener will be applied to fairways and greens surrounds.

Staff Training

From 22nd – 24th January several members of the team attended BIGGA turf management exhibition to participate in education, view the latest releases in products and machinery and network with over 5000 other industry professionals.

Richard Johnstone
Course Manager



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**ROYAL ABERDEEN
GOLF CLUB**

**Course update - January 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 hand cut at a height of 5mm and approaches cut with the triple mowers at a height of 6mm. All greens were rolled post aeration to ensure minimum disruption to surfaces.

Tees

The reconstruction of the 18th tee and surrounding area is now complete. The tee has been levelled and realigned to face directly down the 18th hole and has been roped off as GUR until the spring.

All tees have been cut at a height of 6mm and followed up with an application of liquid turf hardener. All tee banks have been cut and any debris blow from surfaces to improve overall presentation.

Mats have been introduced on tees at holes 4 and 8.

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.

Bunkers

Revetting work is now completed to all bunkers on the winter maintenance programme.

Gorse clearance

Many areas across the course have been flail mown to help manage the gorse and broom before it gets out of control.

Other work undertaken

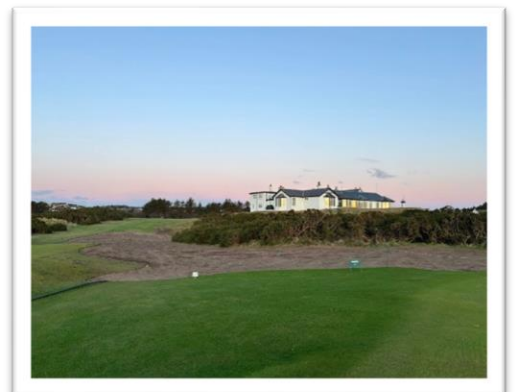
All course benches and furniture have been painted and restored ready for the 2024 season. A new grass bay has been added out of sight at the 5th tee.

Forthcoming work

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

Turfing the area at the 5th tee which has been recontoured with fresh rootzone and irrigation added to ensure this high traffic area performs a lot better in the future. (Shown in picture to the right)

An application of liquid turf hardener will be applied to fairways.



**Richard Johnstone
Course Manager**