

**Course Superintendents Report August 2025**

With Winter coming to a close and the growing season just around the corner it’s now coming into the busiest time of the year for us, so we are trying to finish up some of our Winter projects before the silly season begins.

A lot will be happening over the next 4-6 weeks renovation wise, and it will seem like we are damaging the golf course but unfortunately in our industry you must be cruel to be kind, and the benefits will show once the grass starts to grow in September/October.

Our current plan weather permitting will be:

Scarify Fairways – August 25th- 29th

Aerate Fairways – September 1st – 5th

Scarify Greens – September 1st

Aerate and Topdress Greens – September 7th – 9th

Aerate Tees – September 8th – 9th

Among this plan there will be a lot of chemicals and fertilisers being applied to the playing surfaces so we need everything to go our way so we can produce the best possible playing surfaces we can for the upcoming Club Championships which commence on the 11th of October.

Soil tests on the greens have been conducted on the 7th of August so once we have the results we can work out exactly what needs to be carried out leading up to and during renovations.

The irrigation rewire is coming along but the wet weather has slowed down the process because due to the heavy machinery being used to perform the task it will unfortunately cause a lot of damage to the golf course if the ground is saturated. We are coming to a stage where we need to get it done because we need the water back up and running for the upcoming growing season so apologies for the mess, but we are doing everything we can to clean up afterwards and over the next 6 months there should be some improvement to the damage being caused.

A lot of members may know Shane Attard from my team who next month will rack up 45 years of service which is an amazing achievement, unfortunately due to length of time he has been employed at the club he has accumulated a lot of leave entitlements therefore we have agreed to allow him to take most Mondays and Tuesdays as leave and work Wednesday through to Friday and one weekend shift a month which will hurt us especially at the start of the week but luckily I have a great team around me who go above and beyond and do an amazing job. Ideally it would be great to employ another apprentice to compensate for the loss because Shane is a big part of our team but unfortunately, I feel financially it wouldn’t be possible.

I’m hoping the weather plays its part over the next couple of months so everything goes according to plan, and we can get back to some normality. I understand a lot of members are frustrated about golf carts being called off, believe me this decision is not taken lightly, I know as soon as golf carts are called off we lose around half of the field, and it hurts the club financially so I would never intentionally go out of my way to do this, unfortunately due to the time of year, the amount of rainfall, low air temperatures and during periods of lower wind speeds it takes longer for the course to dry out but I always try to allow golf carts back on the course sooner rather than later when I feel they can navigate around the wet areas with limited damage.

Peter Chard

Course Superintendent