



COURSE REPORT FOR MARCH 2026

Prepared by Stewart Poole, Golf Course Manager

Overview

The warm, dry season has continued throughout the past month, with only a single rainfall event recorded—amounting to less than one millimetre. While daytime temperatures remain high, cooler nights are providing some relief for the course.

Greens

Our recent greens renovations were successful, with recovery occurring more quickly than in previous years. Although the volume of material removed was similar to last year, additional focus on post-renovation preparation enabled the greens to return to playable condition sooner.

The third and fourth greens were slower to recover, having experienced sustained salt stress over the past six to eight weeks. Targeted maintenance helped preserve turf quality, though stressed turf naturally responds more slowly during renovation periods. These greens have improved significantly in the past week; however, several small areas will require patching in the coming weeks.

Salt mitigation practices remain in place year-round. Typically, increased maintenance begins in late January, but due to emerging patterns we plan to commence earlier—around early December—to proactively manage salt-related issues.

Salt levels rise considerably during the dry season due to low rainfall, increased reliance on lower-quality irrigation water, and declining aquifer levels, which result in higher salinity. Fresh water is required to flush salts from the turf profile, and its scarcity intensifies these challenges.

Tees

The tees have responded well following renovations and are currently strong and healthy. While we planned to overseed with rye grass after last year's successful trial, the early-May irrigation shutdown poses a high risk of rye loss shortly after establishment. Instead, the tees will receive topdressing and substantial fertilisation ahead of the shutdown to maximise resilience.

Soil is currently being relocated in preparation for the rebuild of the eighth tee, which we anticipate completing within approximately two weeks.

Fairways

The fairways remain a highlight of the course—performing exceptionally well heading into the cooler season. Our routine maintenance will continue throughout the water shutdown, and we are hopeful for early rainfall in May. The new electric fairway mower has significantly improved surface quality by allowing more frequent mowing.

Bunkers

Maintenance activities have intensified in the bunkers over recent weeks. Efforts include reshaping, weed and root control, and rejuvenation of bunker faces. These activities will continue to increase as we move into a particularly busy period.

Irrigation & Water Supply

Following a difficult start to the year—including system breaks, wiring faults, and pump issues—we have finally experienced a period of stability. Installation of the new irrigation system is scheduled to begin between late April and early May.

Staff

There are no incidents or accidents to report for the month. As the upcoming period includes multiple staff leave requests, we will continue to manage schedules to ensure sufficient staffing levels for all maintenance and capital works.

General

Stage one of the 17th green rebuild has been completed. The reshaping presents well, and the turf is establishing successfully. We anticipate reopening this area—potentially with preferred lies—in approximately three to four weeks.

Turf salvaged from the 17th green project has been used to repair worn areas at the ends of various tee paths. These sections have recovered effectively and are expected to reopen within the next few weeks.