

Greens Committee Report 2024.

January 2024 brought the wettest winter for many years to Rosslare. In fact it rained continuously from November through February. This fact did not hold back our greenkeeping team from carrying out "Winter Works" which involved renovation of pathways, gorse maintenance, clearing overgrown areas of brambles and fern not to mention the construction of a new tee on hole 4 and reshaping and re-sodding of the walkway to the fairway on hole 16. The tees on holes 9 and 12 were levelled also. A new protective net was installed along the boundary of the Burrow Park and a new bunker installed between holes 5 and 11 to encourage the longer hitters to aim away from the left side of hole 5.

During the year we carried out our normal overseeding and rough management and succeeded in keeping the leatherjackets away. One of the challenges faced due to climate change is the fact that the seasons are not as predictable as they once were. Evidence of this is the appearance of daffodils last week beside the cabin in the Burrow course.

One of the many challenges faced by golf clubs since Covid is that costs have increased on almost every material that we need to maintain 30 holes. The base costs of everything we use in course maintenance has increased in price by, on average 30% in three years for all the reasons we are aware of, Covid, war, fuel prices, wages.

Despite this, the Management committee has backed the in purchase of new equipment this year to include 2 Greens mowers, 1 Progator, 1 high tipping trailer, 1 small tractor and 2 hand mowers. This is a big investment for the club but the comments on the presentation and quality of the course indicates that it was money well spent. There are always improvements to be made but no major projects are planned for the coming season. The improvement of the Burrow course is particularly noteworthy as it is coming under more playing pressure as our membership is close to capacity. The standards on this fantastic amenity will continue to improve once the fairways can be properly irrigated.

None of the above could be achieved without a dedicated workforce and we value their contributions very highly. We appreciate the fact that these men are out in all weathers and getting out of bed in the dark to keep the course in pristine condition. We now have a full complement of workers with three apprentice level staff who make up nine in total.

Mark Doyle, Dermot McCallion,
Sean O'Gorman, Eddie Furlong, John Browne, Denver Kinsella,
Shane O'Gorman, Jake Butler and Sean Carley.

. We are also grateful for the input of consultant agronomist Gerry Byrne who makes his twice yearly visit to cast fresh eyes on the progress of the team and the processes they are engaged in as well as a check on the materials being used.

The second half of the year has been all about irrigation. The management committee awarded Aquaturf Ltd the contract and it is clear that they are progressing very well. We agreed the use of Rainbird technology in our sprinkler system especially on Aquaturf's advice as it is a system that they have used extensively and was more competitively priced than the next product. By the time you read this the control system will have been installed and the system pressure tested for the first time. At our recent SGM it was evident that there was great support for the Burrow course to be included in the irrigation project. Even though we have no contract with Aquaturf they are prepared to wait until after our AGM so that we can raise the funds to proceed with the twelve hole course and prepare a contract. We feel this is an opportunity not to be missed when the contractors are on site and ready to move at the time of year that suits us best. In the event that this is agreed both Aquaturf and Rainbird have offered to fit out a 4,000m² turf nursery at no cost to the club other than the preparatory work.

Going forward we need new tee markers and updated signage in the year ahead. The practice range needs updating and may need a replacement ball distributor before the year end. On the equipment side it is likely that our rough cutting machine will need to be replaced soon but we are trying to keep it going for as long as possible due to the fact that the cost will run to six figures. We are still hiring some equipment at overseeding time which is acceptable as long as it is available when we need it.

Although the maintenance of thirty holes of links terrain is a huge undertaking the members can play their part by keeping buggies away from greens and green aprons, using divot bags and divot boxes on tees and repairing pitch marks. If everyone does their bit it makes a massive difference in the overall result.

Finally a thank you to all members who volunteered during the year to fill divots in the Burrow and carry out fairway watering at night on the main course and those who went out at dusk to collect the flagpoles at the height of Summer to prevent them being vandalised. A special thanks to another group of volunteers, our Greens committee, who gave up their precious time for the benefit of the club and all the membership.

B. Hall O'Mahony. Chairman

Committee Members.

Mark Doyle

Jim Cullimore

Doreen McGovern

Stephen Ainsworth

Phil Callery

Mary O'Shaughnessy

Ian Lynch.

Proposed Capex Budget for Greens 2025.

Turf nursery preparation.	€19,295
Eco bunker “sods”.	€18,094
Driving range	€20,910.
Vehicle for Links Superintendent.	€40,000. Plus vat

The turf nursery preparation depends on the continuation of the irrigation project for the Burrow course.

The price for the eco bunker sods is the cost of one load including importation duty and transport from the UK

The Driving range is a provisional sum as the ball delivery system is nearing the end of its useful life and will need replacement in time.

The vehicle for Links Superintendent was discussed on his appointment and is necessary on a daily basis ,whether it's pulling trailers or transporting fuels ,chemicals,fertilisers etc.It's not reasonable to expect his personal vehicle to undergo that level of wear and tear indefinitely.