

Fereneze Golf Club

GREENS COMMITTEE AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

NEWSLETTER



Photo courtesy of Jim Pyke

Dear members

Welcome to the Autumn and Winter edition of the Fereneze Golf Club greens newsletter.

Course

You will have seen that the winters greens have been cut in preparation of the winter season and as always these are only utilised when necessary to protect the main greens in times of adverse weather conditions so here's hoping for a mild winter.

The 2nd green last year suffered from considerable wear and tear, and we had to use the winter green far more than we would have liked.

The committee have been looking at various options on where to site the winter green as options are limited, and over the past few years we had tried to place this

on the old 3rd medal tee however the position of this and approach over the rough have been deemed not to be suitable.

With that in mind we have returned the winter green to its old position beside the current 3rd medal tee but have moved the winter tee forward. This is to hopefully make the tee shot a bit more manageable as a shorter club will be used.

We will be looking to rope off areas on the approach to the 2nd green to minimise and alleviate wear and tear and would ask members to use the path for buggies and trolleys to help protect that area.

We have also been looking at ways to increase the walk off from the 2nd green and one was to remove the bunker. After some consideration this was rejected as it is a feature of that hole and one, we don't want to lose.

We will monitor usage over the winter, and any changes or updates will be communicated accordingly.

Winter Works

I have listed below details of some projects and maintenance work that the greens staff have highlighted will be getting worked on over the next few months.

Winter works and Projects 2025/26

Winter maintenance on all machines.

General work

Course accessories/furniture (bins/tee log plates/new flags reviewed) replaced as required.

Spike fairways and semi rough areas.

Scarify main tees.

Core drain lines (fairways)

Prepare winter mats, wash, weeds removal and edged.

Verti drain greens November/December.

Verti drain wet tees and wet areas of fairways.

New Projects

Review paths and use up remaining astro turf.

Review and cover rock areas with soil and turf.

Install steps on 2nd tee.

Repair drain on 11th fairway, left hand side.

Hollow core 11th fairway, (bottom area) use cores to fill lifted areas at practice fairway.

Lift back area of 14th tee, level, widen and returf (to allow back of tee to be used)

Burns cleaned out (digger).

Paths - extend shed road from corner up to 2nd path. Dig out/Type 1.

Connect a small (pedestrian / trolleys only path

Clear gorse left hand side of the 18th from road.

Remove dying sycamore tree from next to the shed.

Remove small tree left hand side at 8th semi rough.

Connect a small (pedestrian – trolleys only) path from the front right 2nd green to 3rd Tees. Dig out/Type 1 /Astro Turf.

Temporary tees

Fereneze is due to have a course rating review from Scottish Golf next year as this is carried out in 10-year cycles. We have been looking at ways to see if we should make any course adjustments however it would be prudent to have the Scottish Golf assessors in first to see how we stand at present before making any changes rather than make any adjustments that have no bearing to our course rating.

We shall be looking at installing some temporary tees on 8th, 10th and 12th to see how these play.

These “tiger tees” will add some length to these holes and if implemented would only be in use for certain competitions, club championship qualifies/ties and would need to be rated.

The easiest way to change any course rating is to add length but there are a number of factors that come in to play when determining the course rating of a club.

As stated, these temporary mats are just to gauge how these would affect the distance and playability of these holes and no changes will be made until we have been reviewed by Scottish Golf.

We will update on the progress as this develops, and we would welcome any feedback when you have had the chance to try these out.

If any member is interested on how courses are rated, then I have attached a link to the Scottish Golf section that you can read at your leisure.

[Course rating - Scottish Golf](#)

Staff

Kevin Rankine our part time member of staff has left the club due to moving away from the area.

We shall continue with our current level of staff head greenkeeper Kevin, Colin, Tony and Dean at present and will be looking to employ a new member of greens staff in the new year.

This will have no effect on the standards of the course and appreciation is given to Kevin and his team for working with reduced personnel until this place is filled.

Winter fairway protection

That dreaded phrase and if you are a new member, you might not be aware but we shall be moving to fairway protection on 3rd November (a week later than normal).

This means that white posts are placed at each side of the fairway, and you can place your ball and play from the semi rough. In addition to this winter tee mat are in place also so we would ask you to play your tee shots from these also to protect the tees throughout the winter period. If you have a mat, then you can play from where your ball lies on the fairway without having to move.

These adjustments shall be in place from November through to March and we would ask you adhere to this to preserve the course condition for the following season.

General course condition

Just a reminder when playing to replace any divots taken and also repair any pitch marks that you make.

Pitch marks are a regular issue and unfortunately needs to be mentioned. I am sure most members will repair these but there are still too many that are appearing on greens. I have mentioned before we all have a collective responsibility to ensure the course looks its best and all these small things help to ensure that the course plays and is presented well.

Trolleys and buggies should be kept to the designated paths and a reminder please to keep these off tees and greens surrounds to save wear on these areas.

Going into the winter months Kevin will continue to put updates on X on course status i.e. Any winter greens in use and he does regularly upload pictures and progress on work being undertaken.

As always if you have any questions at any time, please contact the club.

Thanks

Stephen Richardson

Greens convenor

