

Green Keepers report 2026

Prepared by Craig Punshion – Greenkeeper

Special thanks to John Pickavance, year round maintenance of the green perimeter and hedges. Currently on mole duty.

Special thanks to Alan Oaks, currently maintaining and painting benches, hedge maintenance and general handy man.

2025

Warmest in the UK since records began in 1884

Driest in the UK since 2010

July was exceptionally hot, especially the weekend of 11th, 12th and 13th when the temperature was +30 degrees on all 3 days causing widespread dry patch to approx 80% of the green.

Dry patch is relatively easy to treat in small areas but when its over 80% of the green and no prospect of rain its a losing battle.

Measures i have introduced to combat dry patch

In September, aswell as scarifying and fertilising the green I introduced two measures :-

1. Slit aeration

- **Improved Soil Structure & Drainage:** By slicing through compacted surfaces (especially effective on heavy clay), slit aeration increases oxygen and water movement to the root zone, reducing standing water and puddling.
- **Encourages Deep Root Growth:** The, slicing action encourages grass roots to grow deeper and thicker, resulting in a more resilient and stronger turf.
- **Reduces Thatch & Enhances Decomposition:** It breaks down surface thatch and enhances microbial activity, which helps break down organic matter.
- **Enhanced Nutrient Uptake & Efficiency:** By opening channels, fertilizer and nutrients can reach the roots directly, reducing waste and boosting effectiveness.
- **Effective for Overseeding:** Slit aeration provides an ideal seedbed for new grass seeds, protecting them from birds and the elements.

- **Year-Round Lawn Health:** It can be performed in spring, autumn, or winter to prevent moss and disease, improve drought resistance, and speed up recovery from heavy use or mowing
- 2. Seeding with 30% creeping rye seed.
- **Rapid Recovery and Self-Repair:** Unlike traditional perennial ryegrass which grows in clumps, creeping perennial ryegrass cultivars (often labelled as "CSI" or "RPR" for Creeping, Spreading, Innovative or Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass) produce **determinate stolons (runners) that creep horizontally just below the surface**. This unique growth habit allows it to quickly infill bare patches and repair turf damage, leading to a denser, more uniform sward.
- **High Wear Tolerance:** This grass type is exceptionally durable and can withstand heavy foot traffic, making it ideal for family gardens, public parks, and professional sports pitches like football or rugby fields.
- **Fast Establishment:** Creeping ryegrass germinates quickly, often within 7-10 days under optimal conditions, providing rapid ground cover and helping to outcompete weeds efficiently.
- **Excellent Soil Stabilisation and Erosion Control:** Its robust and spreading root system effectively binds the soil together, which is particularly useful for stabilising embankments and preventing gully erosion.
- **Aesthetic Appeal:** Modern creeping varieties are fine-leaved and exhibit a dense, lush, dark green colour, offering a high-quality, attractive finish that can be mown to a very low height (as low as 4mm).
- **Disease Resistance:** Cultivars are often bred with good resistance to common lawn diseases like red thread, reducing the need for chemical treatments.
- **Versatility:** It is highly adaptable and commonly used in seed mixtures with other grasses like fescues to balance durability, shade tolerance, and fine texture, making it suitable for a wide range of applications and soil types.
- Winter
- The winter program is going well, the green looks healthy with no signs of disease. The cut is at 8mm through winter.
- Feb- First granular fertiliser application of the year has been done using Energise G which will prep the soil to better absorb nutrients and other granular fertilisers.

Mar- Spring fertiliser, cut remains at 8mm.

Apr- Energise G, cut reduces to 7mm.

May- Summer fertiliser, cut reduces to 6mm then 5mm depending on the weather conditions.

Jun- Energise G.

Jul- Summer fertiliser.

Aug- Energise G

Sept- Pre seed fertiliser, scarify, slit aeration, seed in 30% creeping rye.

Throughout the summer the green is sprayed fortnightly with compost tea and liquid seaweed, wetting agent as necessary and liquid iron as necessary.

NOTES

1. Would all captains please inform me of any rearranged games, cup games, changed start times etc as early as possible so I can schedule a cut if necessary.

2. I am hoping to open the green on Saturday 21st March. If the weather is favourable it will be earlier.