

## Grass Clippings – February 2025

The weather has become a lot less stable over the last few weeks as a consequence of the Jetstream activity and the influence of polar air making dramatic effects on rainfall and wind speed. Fortunately, the chances of a recurrence of the volume of rain that we received last year is diminishing as we get closer to entering springtime.

During January, the example new bunkers were installed on the third hole, to allow Members to use the new sand and experience the feel of the bunkers at the opening of the season. The introduction of a capillary concrete liner and partial revet built with synthetic turf will help to keep the bunker sand cleaner and less prone to being corrupted by contamination which changes the dynamics of how the sand performs.

The sand recommended for use with this form of construction system is known as China Clay Sand and originates from the southwest. It is recommended for use with most of the new generation of liners, whether tarmac, rubber crumb or aerated concrete because the particle size gradient has less fine-end particles and allows storm water to move more quickly through the sand and drain better than previously. To minimize disruption for Members, our contractor will work on the holes where we are installing the Shelton drainage this summer.

### Left-hand side bunker



### Right-hand side bunker



### Lacking in light

Greenkeeping gives a greater understanding of the environment and how this affects the human species. Similarly to the grass plant we need the basic elements to sustain life which includes one important factor; light. In managing turf, the influence of the climate becomes second nature to ensuring the plant has adequate resources to sustain it.

At this time of year, we see all too often the effects of diminished light levels on the plant and the slowdown in photosynthesis and growth. Monitoring light levels and the number of days without direct sunlight is considered as we try to sustain the grass through the winter period. In humans, the effects of low light levels can be as acute and have consequences for healthy living.

The National Diet and Nutrition Survey has discovered that 29 per cent of adults have low levels of vitamin D between January and March every year and are consequently risking deficiency. For 11–18-year-olds, this jumps to 37 per cent. Known as the ‘sunshine vitamin’ because the body creates it from direct sunlight, vitamin D is only found in a small number of foods. The NHS recommends everyone over the age of five considers taking a daily supplement of 10 micrograms of vitamin D during these months. They add that children under five and people at risk of deficiency should take a daily supplement year-round.

### Royal Parks Project

The Royal Parks charity is set to transform a [disused plant nursery](#) into a biodiverse and climate-resilient garden, which will



be free to visit, to commemorate the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II. Key features of the new space will include a circular pond, a central promenade with an accessible platform over the pond, and a [flower garden](#) showcasing species significant to the late Queen, such as the specially bred Narcissus 'Diamond Jubilee' or Tulipa 'Royal Celebration'. Sustainable practices will guide the garden's development, such as reusing steel from the former nursery greenhouses to create elements of the new pergola and a repurposed water tower.

Sir Loyd Grossman, chair of The Royal Parks charity, said: 'We are delighted to receive this generous grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation, which will help bring this unique garden to life.'

The garden will be a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, offering a tranquil space for reflection and connection with nature. It exemplifies The Royal Parks' vision of creating a sustainable future by enhancing London's green spaces and promoting biodiversity. The new garden will add two acres of parkland in the heart of London, creating a vibrant space for everyone to enjoy.'

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