

Dear members,

Crisp and white fairways greeted us this morning with a beautiful blue sky. A welcome change after the extreme wet conditions we have witnessed of late with October being the wettest since 1960.

Despite the rain and the course having been closed on occasion, the greenkeepers have not sat still and continue to work tirelessly to keep the course open, the douits running and the greens draining.

I am sure you will all agree that the team under the guidance of Rick have done a fantastic job this year to get and keep the course in such great playing conditions, despite the weather.

Welcome to Alex Murrell

Alex joined us recently as teaching pro and having previously worked with John, he has very quickly settled in. Good news travels fast and I am sure you have heard about his 'hole in one' on the 6th on his first round here at La Grande Mare. If you fancy brushing up your game or know someone who would like to get into golf, contact Alex for his introductory offer of four private lessons of 30 minutes for just £99.00.



Winter works

Just because it is winter doesn't mean the team it gets any quieter for the team on the course and here is some of the work they are carrying out at the moment;

- Additional drainage has been laid at the back of the 2nd and at the front of the 5th green to continue to improve the drainage around the course
- Daily clearing and rodding of the gully pods and douits in particular during the heavy rain periods to ensure continued flow of water and alleviate the impact of the heavy rain fall
- The greens continue to be treated with the Air2G2 machine and the results on the drainage and recovery are fantastic. Helped by the high germination rate after the maintenance week in September, the greens are now in a lush and strong condition.
- Machinery and course furniture repair and maintenance including painting of stakes, repairs to the ball collector and maintenance to golf buggies
- The practise bunker has been filled with new sand, the bunkers on the range filled to aid with clearing of the range balls
- The water pump to clear the douits has been serviced so that we can continue to pump the water away as needed
- The wet weather and high wind did play havoc with our trees and extensive tree work to maintain the course has been carried out and this will continue as and when required.

Turkey Trot – new date 15th December meal afterwards

Sign up sheets as well as the menu are now available in the Club bar for the re-scheduled Turkey Trot, with a run of good weather it will be a great event and it will be fantastic to see all of you here on the day and enjoying some lovely Christmas Fayre (or not as there are non-festive options on the menu) afterwards.

Shoe cleaner

A brand spanking new shoe cleaner has been manufactured for us and will be with us imminently. Unfortunately the manufacture of the machine, which needs to have the capacity to deal with the high volume of golfers coming through in quick succession takes 6 to 8 weeks. It is currently being safety checked, ready for dispatch and installation shortly.

Carpark Gravel

To keep on top of the potholes and puddles in the carpark, the team continues to rake the car park at least weekly and more often if required, we have also in the last few weeks added a further 20 tons of gravel and will continue to maintain the carpark as needed.

Restaurant and Bar news

A new team of chefs has arrived at La Grande Mare and the feedback on the changes to the menus have been very positive. With all our dishes cooked fresh to order and traditional cooking methods at the heart of the kitchen brigade, the flavours speak for themselves. There are great new dishes as well as old time favourites and we continue to work with our members to provide you with regular specials on the menu – for you and chosen by you. If you have a favourite dish you would like to see on the club menu, please speak to the team and dishes with the most requests will feature in the Club Bar (the big breakfast is a hit!) New menus have also been launched in the restaurant and brasserie with traditional winter favourites such as lamb shank, braised feather blade of beef available as well as beautifully pan fried cod with black olive crushed potato, red pepper aioli and parsley sauce. We look forward to seeing you in the brasserie and restaurant and thank you for your support to your club.



Winter Sale & Pro-shop offers



The pro-shop has some amazing deals available this December, pop in and see John, Yonca and Alex and they will be delighted to assist.

To keep up to date with the latest Pro-shop offers, please do opt-in to receiving John's pro-shop offers via Foremost. It will let you know the best deals as soon as they hit the shelves and you won't miss a deal again. You will have received an email with the option to 'opt – in' (due to an error two of the emails had to be send twice, we do apologise about the inconvenience and do hope that you will opt-in)

Q&A – date for the diary 12th December

Come and join us at the Q & A with Stephen Lansdown after the AGM on the 12th December, where Stephen and the team will be available to answer any questions you may have with regard to the club, the course and the future plans.

Afternoon tea for two?

Yes please! Our new team can only bake large scones and beautiful cakes, so the new afternoon tea menu will not disappoint and you certainly won't go home hungry. A special 'voucher only' offer is available at the moment, which can be purchased from the hotel reception and is valid until the 31st March for afternoon tea and bubbles for 2 for just £35! We have received some amazing write ups about it off late, so don't miss out and treat yourself or use it as a stocking filler for Christmas.



Gindulgent Staycation

Book your winter staycation at La Grande Mare with our 'Gindulgent break'. Enjoy a complimentary G&T, amazing value accommodation, 4 course dinner and award winning breakfast from just £149 for two people, that is right that is less than £75 per person! And that is not all, we also offer to collect you from your residence and drop you back of home in our Mercedes Courtesy Vehicle, so you can enjoy that extra G&T without worrying about driving the next morning. Also available as Christmas voucher gifts valid until 31st March 2020.

We wish you all a fantastic festive season and see you around at the Club very soon.

With Warm Regards.

Sacha Cauwels – Wigan
Resort General Manager