

Chipshots

The Lopez Island Golf Club Newsletter

December 2025

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2025 Diary of a LIGC Greenskeeper

It has been quite a year. In late January we experience a winter freeze which lasted a few weeks. Ponds were frozen and we had more than a few wind storms



that blasted tree tops off and left the course rough for the regular players. Clean up slowly progressed between wind storms and melting snow.



During the heavy freezes players respectfully stayed off the greens and chased their golf balls around the greener parts of the course, which were few and far between. Moving

into March the weather was sunnier. Now between rain events we had large puddles to contend



with; which leads to occasionally having to assist with pulling a member's cart out of the muck.



2025 Diary of a LIGC Greenskeeper



During March and April our old, tired equipment showed its age. Between flat tires and broken hydraulic hoses it seemed as if despite our best efforts things were against us. However the motto has always been take the job in little chunks and try not to get overwhelmed by the size of the task



before us. Slowly but surely tires are replaced, hoses



are fixed and the machinery roars back to life and the tasks are once again getting checked off the list. Soon the rains become less frequent and the irrigation is turned on. This brings a new series of concerns as now we have broken pipes, greens not getting properly watered and pond pumps not working.

2025 Diary of a LIGC Greenskeeper



There is always something to do between the consistent daily mowing of greens and weekly and sometimes biweekly mowing of tee boxes, collars and aprons, fairways and the rough. There is endless weed eating and the continual sweeping up of either needles or pinecones. Thank you to all the supporters of the equipment fund, this year the staff was able to get a new powerful sweeper to help with all those needles and pinecones from the course. After a

long dry summer fall is greets us with the return of rain and a greening up of the course. The winds return and the winter cleanup begins again. Overall it was a good year. We are still here, running the oldest golf course in the San Juan Islands, day in and day out. Unless it is snowing we are open for you, your family and friends and other island visitors.

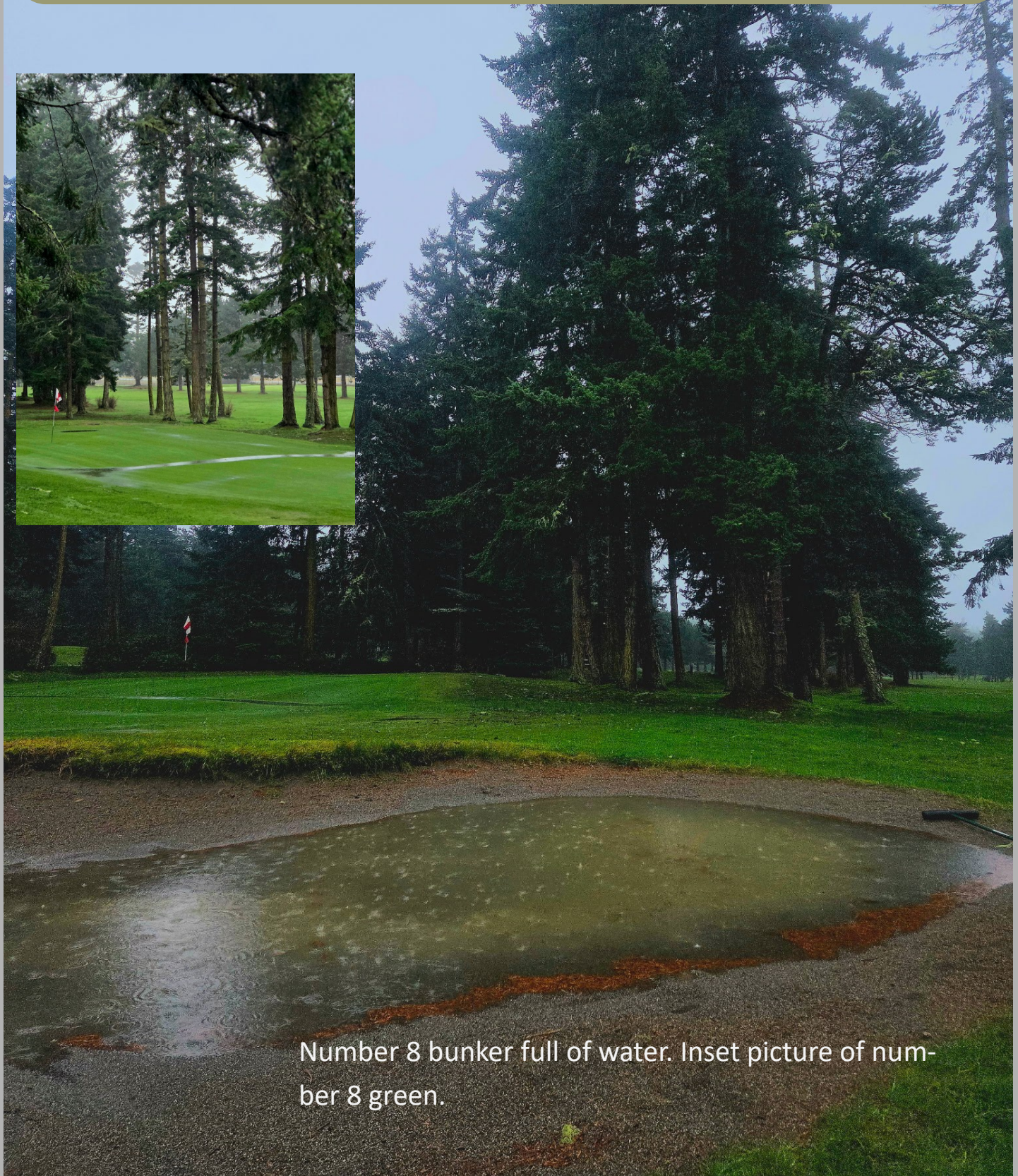


Around the Course



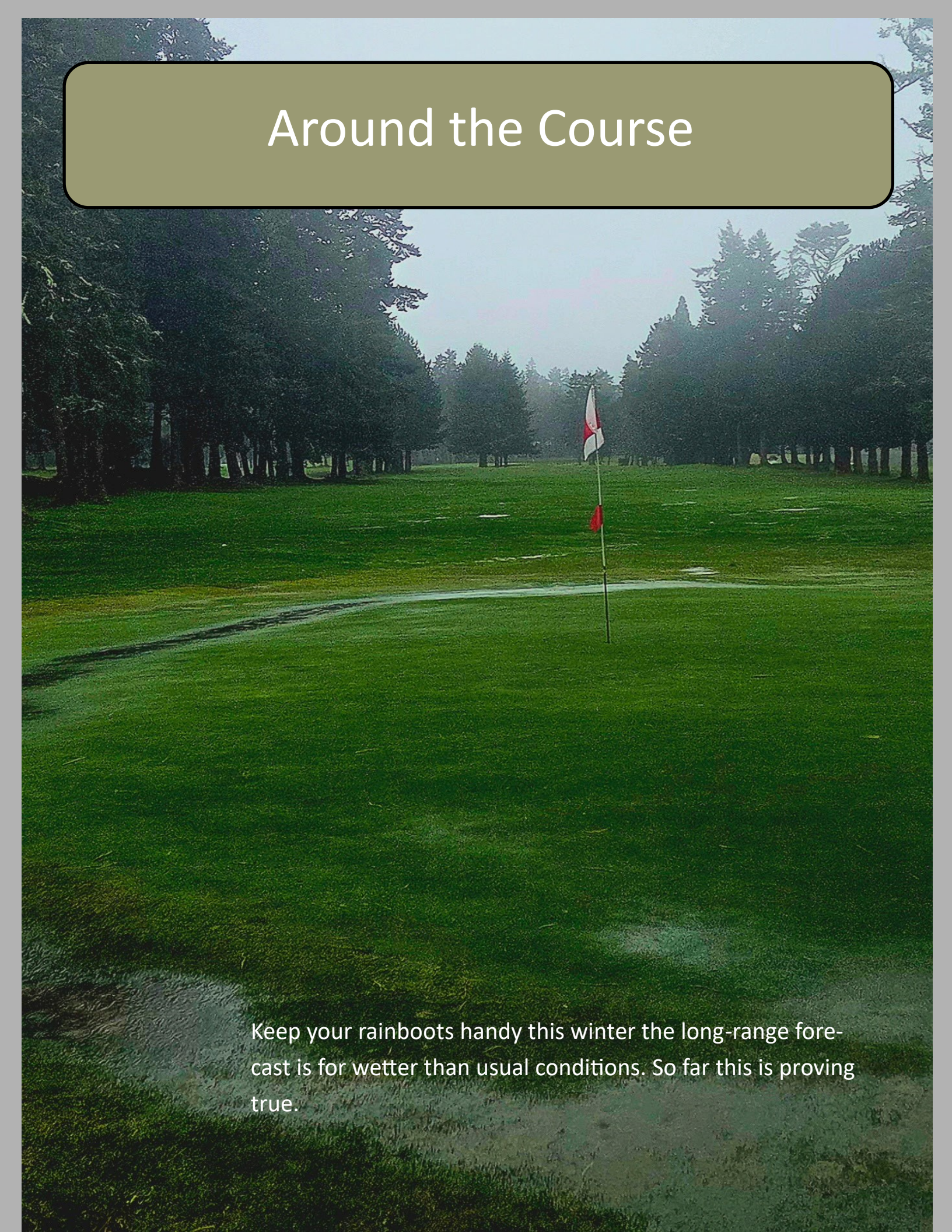
What was formally known as a pineapple express but now called an atmospheric river occurred in early December. Putting much of the course, even the seemingly high areas under water for a few days.

Around the Course



Number 8 bunker full of water. Inset picture of number 8 green.

Around the Course



Keep your rainboots handy this winter the long-range forecast is for wetter than usual conditions. So far this is proving true.

Clubhouse Report

We enthusiastically welcome Shaun Chappell back to the Lopez Island Golf Club crew, seen here running the bunker rake. Shaun returns in the position of Greens-

keeper. You all may remember Shaun from a few years back when he worked as Clubhouse Manager and was known for making delicious grilled burgers on Men's day. Changes to the crew positions was announced at the General Membership meeting in October. We retain Benni Snoer, our skilled and competent Course Manager. Many of our longer members will agree that Benni's attention to detail has raised our course's playability and beauty from the



“old pasture look” from BB (Before Benni). Jodie Snapp is back inside to take over as General Manager. She will absorb the role of the Clubhouse Manager, as well as, many of the very important business duties that Joyce our president has consistently taken care. If you have ideas, complaints or concerns bring them straight to Jodie and she will get the right folks on the task.

With this new arrangement, we are optimistic about Lopez Island Golf Club's viability and success in 2026 and beyond.

Parting Shot

Hard to recognize the number 8 green littered with all this debris. After a significant wind storm this is often what is presented to the greenskeeper first thing in the morning. Usually by the time members or other players are out this situation has been cleared using a blower and then mowed with the greens mower. Once again making it a clean and playable green.



Mark Your Calendars



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 15.

A membership notice of Annual Dues was sent out December 5th to everyone's email. Dues paid after

March 15th are considered late and will incur a late fee unless a special payment plan has been established prior with Jodie.

POSTING GHIN SCORES

November 15 to the end of February is an **inactive** posting season in Washington and Northern Idaho. You can't post scores for rounds played here during that period. However, if you play rounds in states with active posting periods you can post your scores.

GHIN fee going up to \$42 in January. You'll be able to pay this when you pay your 2026 dues.



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