

# Greens Report Committee Meeting

October 2017

## Cutting heights

Greens 4.5mm, Tees and aprons 7mm, Fairways 14mm

## Greens

Autumn maintenance has been carried out on the Greens and with the weather on our side. Between spells of heavy rain and trying not to affect the golfing calendar we manage to hollow core solid tine, overseed and apply 20 tons of top dressing sand to the greens. Although this type of maintenance may affect the smoothness and trueness on the greens for a short period of time, it is however very important part of turf maintenance of improving the overall quality of our greens.

Greens were micro-cored to a depth of 25mm and rolled after

Top dressed with approximately 10 tons of dressing sand

Soiled tined using 12mm tines to a depth of 12mm

Overseed using R117 fescue blend containing Chewing fescue Greenmile and Greensleeves. Slender creeping red fescue Turner 1 and Beudin. This will help increase sward density, optimises recovery from stress, especially drought and salt laden winds.

Dragging the sand and seed in the holes created using a drag mat. Greens Rolled, to help improve the smoothness of the surface.

Two lighter application of top dressing to help in true the surface.

Greens height of cut was raised to 5mm after work carried out and cut in dry conditions wherever possible. We raised the H.O.C to help protect the seed and not pick up too much sand with the cylinder when cutting.

Monthly application of foliar feed will be applied to help keep sward density and harden the turf through the winter months. This will consist of ferrosol (liquid iron), prem k (potassium) and calcium

## Aprons

We are cutting aprons around the greens and are maintaining these exactly the same as a green, apart from height of cut these will be at 7mm raising to 8mm through the winter. The aprons have a lot of coarse grasses in them and will require regular brushing and grooming to encourage finer grasses.

## **Tees**

These are cut at 7mm and the H.O.C will raise to 10mm to help protect the tee from wear. The tees are starting to show signs from worm activity. Unfortunately we will not be able prevent this as all chemicals used to control worms has been withdrawn from the market. A tank mix of a Elevate(liquid iron for colour and strengthen the plant) and Greenor (selective herbicide) has been sprayed to help control weeds on tees

## **Fairways**

Height of cut has been raised to 14mm this will help with wear in the winter months. There has been damage to some of the fairways from birds pecking for grubs. Although the damage is minimal for now, please bear in mind that all pesticides are currently banned and have been removed the market. We are waiting for a replacement to come into the market to help in the control of pest. For now all we can do is repair the damage caused.

## **Irrigation**

Recently we have had two incidents where the control box on the 10<sup>th</sup> green has been opened and the stand point has been turned on. The last time the water ran for approximately 12 hours causing a small land slide to the back right of the 10<sup>th</sup> rough behind the green.

## **CASTING WORMS**

This poster will be displayed in the Clubhouse to help make golfers aware of the issues we will be dealing with since the removal of all chemical control of casting earth worms.

# The real story about **worm casts**

Earthworms are considered a 'beneficial species' due to the good work they do recycling nutrients within the soil.

However, as of September 2017 there are no chemical controls for casting earthworms approved for use on golf courses, leaving greenkeepers with a dilemma as to how to combat them.



## Problems caused by casting earthworms include:

- Unsightly and numerous casts
- Collection on soles of shoes
- Uneven playing surfaces and adversely affected ball roll
- Build up can in the short term ruin playing surfaces
- Casts encourage weed seeds and germination
- Casts can be sticky and slimy
- Problems with machinery
- Damage to bottom blades of mowers
- Casts alter the height of cut, due to build-up on mower front rollers
- Smearing after mowing
- Casts smother finer leaved grasses
- Difficult to control

Alternative methods for controlling or suppressing earthworms are labour intensive, potentially costly and with no guarantee of success.

### Options include:

- Cultural practices to remove food source
- Lowering the ph of the soil
- Introducing abrasive material through top dressing
- Lowering volumetric water content in the soil via improved drainage and/or use of penetrants

Unfortunately for many golf courses, there is no effective way of managing worm casts. It is important that golfers understand this and exercise patience as the greenkeeping team seeks to reduce the impact as much as possible.

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