

OCTOBER COURSE COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

Each month, your Course Committee will endeavour to provide an update of upcoming course activities. This information will be shared on Monthly Medal Saturdays (when Course Committee meeting dates align) and the following Wednesday and Thursday competition days.

Your Course Committee is Rod Connelly, Jan Walklate, Ian Kerr, Fred Kath, Steve Jeffrey and Lex Johnstone. As your representatives, suggestions and ideas can be fed to the Committee via these people.

Our Course Superintendent Dylan Knight will be present after our Monthly Medal golf on November 2nd to speak with members in the clubhouse prior to presentations about current course projects and future plans.

FAIRWAYS

- In September, all our fairways were sprayed with propyzamide to remove all grasses other than warm season grasses. Members will have noticed a colour change to our fairways as the poa annua (winter grass) dies off as planned.
- Simazine was sprayed earlier this week to further remove unwanted species. Members may notice further dying off of unwanted species over the next two weeks.
- The aim of these sprayings is to leave only common couch, santa ana couch and kikuyu (warm season grasses) on our fairways.
- Once Dylan is confident we have killed off the Winter grasses, fertilising and watering will begin in earnest. Fertilising before the die off has occurred will only assist unwanted grasses to prosper again.
- Next week, iron and pigment will be sprayed on fairways, providing a deep green colour to our fairways, further defining the contouring and shaping of the fairways.
- The actual amount of couch in our fairways is still a little unknown, but Dylan is very happy with what is starting to pop up, especially given we have had minimal warmth to date.
- **Members are reminded that our spraying plan will have some impact on the playing surfaces for this year's tournament and Club Championships** but by the pro-am in late January, we feel we can produce fairway conditions similar to, or better than, last year. Each Spring, we envisage having an increasingly healthier fairway surface each time Winter grass is removed.

PRACTICE FAIRWAY

- We are aiming to establish a santa ana nursery on our entire practice fairway. Any of the course fairway patches that require remediation this Spring and Summer will be sprigged, line planted or sodded from the current or future nursery area depending on size of areas being addressed and



time of year. Some of our healthier santa ana tees may also be scarified to provide sprigs for patch planting. Scarifying tees is a normal part of turf maintenance practice.

- This approach to grassing our fairways is cost effective, will limit impact to playing conditions and builds on our current coverage. It will allow Dylan a full season to understand our local weather and turf conditions, before we develop long term plans for fairways, greens, tees and rough.
- An irrigation design has been completed, costed and included in the budget. We have made contact with local clubs and also state-wide scarifying contractors, and we will have access to santa ana scarifies when required.
- It is anticipated that irrigation and planting will be completed before Christmas.
- A section of the current rye grass coverage will be left 'as is' to provide a hitting area for the Winter months.

GREENS

- Greens dusting by hand continues every Monday –allowing a three week rotation across the full course. Dusting will assist with providing a smooth, dry and consistent surface and will regularly add organic matter to the greens. Dusting will be completed with hand spreader to the reduce damage to the green surface.
- A heavier dusting will be completed 2/3 times/year.
- Our greens will be cored and sanded on Tuesday 3rd December. Our Ground staff will carry out this coring, reducing costs and allowing Dylan to manage the process.
- A second coring will take place around February (date to be identified to have the least impact on events) as we need to urgently get new sand/soil into our soil profile on the greens to reduce the significant thatch issue in all of our greens.
- Greens will likely be cored twice a year for the next three years to improve our soil profile.
- Soil test results gathered recently will dictate the level/depth of renovation required and the backfill materials to be smudged into the greens.
- Members may have noticed some brown spots on our greens. This is mainly due to the level of thatch in our greens.
- The 15th green is often the first green to 'go'. The 15th green is significantly affected by tree roots and members may be interested to know that the 15th green gets three times as much water as other greens.

MOISTURE METER

The club has purchased a Moisture Meter for the purpose of gathering detailed information about the moisture content of our greens. When we have a clear understanding of moisture levels, we can manage our watering and preventative spraying programs more efficiently, both reducing power costs and increasing the health of the greens. Our 'Pogo' moisture meter is connected via blue tooth to Dylan's phone, with information then uploaded to the cloud. Data collected is then stored and comparisons built up over time. Below is a snap shot from our very first usage.





Two readings are taken for each green – moisture content and salinity.

Ideal moisture content is around 10%, our greens vary between approx. 20% -50%. The meter will help to identify sprinkler areas that may need varied allocations.

Because our greens have a high level of thatch, we will need to keep our moisture readings higher than 10% and then as greens renovations are done over the next three years, the soil profile will become healthier, enabling a reduction in moisture content, while still improving the overall surface for our golfers. The Pogo stick also allows GPS logging, which has been used to create the green shapes above. GPS logging will also be used to plan pins for events such as tournaments and club championships.

TEES

- The Course Committee have discussed our teeing areas in depth. In regard to re-building or re-levelling tees, we are keen to 'do it once and do it properly'. Our teeing areas are generally small (particularly our par 3's) and many have significant shade issues.
- Some tees required a small amount of work, while others require a full rebuild and re-surfacing.
- Once established, our Santa Ana nursery will be particularly useful in re-surfacing tees. Some shadier trees may need to be re-surfaced every 2/3 years. Full tee re-builds will probably not take place until our nursery is well established.
- The Course Committee is still prioritising tee works – in two categories - tees needing minor works and tees needing major works.
- When done, tees will be laser levelled and sprinkler heads removed from teeing areas where possible.

DISTANCE MARKERS

- Members are reminded that there are trees (pictured) that are 150m markers from the middle of greens. The same species is planted on all par 4 and 5 holes.
- Missing distance markers in sprinkler heads will be replaced over the coming months.

MACHINERY

- A log is being completed of our current machinery. Photos have been taken of all machinery and machinery will be listed with details such as serial number, model details, age, purchase price, hours worked, life hours, general condition etc
- Over the next month, a 5-10 year machinery plan will be completed and presented to General Committee. This will assist in future budgeting and in strategically sourcing required machinery upgrades.



A reminder - Our Course Superintendent Dylan Knight will be present after our Monthly Medal golf on November 2nd to speak with members in the clubhouse prior to presentations about current course projects and future plans.

Please contact Rod, Jan, Ian, Fred, Steve and Lex with any ideas or issues.

With thanks, Course Committee