



## **COURSE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS**

29 August 2021

*Dear Members*

*Our Course Staff have been very busy since lockdown started, taking the opportunity of a clear course to try and squeeze lots of big tasks in.*

*Our new Superintendent Chris Neville is very excited about the potential of our course and is putting in big hours as he, Chris A and Joe get a range of works completed or underway.*

### **GREENS**

*We have commenced a green fungicide program with 2 applications in the past 3 weeks to prevent or control a range of issues with the intention of having the greens in continued good condition heading into the warmer months. A full greens coring and sanding program will take place on November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Verti draining the greens has continued. To alleviate compaction in the putting surfaces a 6 inch star tyne is being used for this, this tyne shatters compaction in the top 4-6 inches of green profile allowing for better air and water movement through the soil profile.*

*On the greens, we have also started a poa seed head suppression program that requires 3 applications in the coming 40 days. This is necessary to stop poa seed heads from germinating and creating uneven putting surfaces.*

*With daily mowing and rolling still taking place, the greens are looking good and members will enjoy putting on them once we return to golf.*

### **FAIRWAYS**

*A fairway spraying program has also commenced. After close inspection, we have significant couch grass sitting under poa on fairways and we think we can make substantial improvements in surface quality and aesthetic presentation.*

*We will be applying multiple herbicides to eradicate - poa, broadleaf & kikuyu - usually this process requires extreme management practices as these products cannot be tracked onto putting surfaces. With the course*

*being closed at present, it allows this process to take place in a manner that minimises tracking and we can make the necessary applications in a timeframe that enhances the outcome.*

*Some fairway shaping has commenced to create definition. These will change a little until Chris is ultimately happy with the shaping.*

*Root pruning took place last week around all fairways and some greens that have been previously identified as having root issues.*



*The practice fairway has also been sprayed and should return to a really good couch cover as the weather warms up.*

*If members are back playing in the next week or two, the fairways may look a little brown or dry. This is just the winter grasses dying out. We will then be fertilising heavily to promote the warm season grasses.*

#### **TEES**

*Tee complexes will also have the same applications made to remove poa, broadleaf & kikuyu. We will also be starting to core some tees and tee collars in the coming weeks to promote healthier growth as the weather begins to warm up.*

#### **BUNKERS**

*Bunker trimming has commenced and will continue over the next week. We will also check sand depth and add sand where necessary.*

#### **TREES**

*We have trimmed lots of branches to allow better machinery access, removed sideways growing branches encroaching on fairways as well as to let more light into many areas where we have struggled to grow grass. In a few areas, we have removed some weaker trees to allow stronger and more dominant species to flourish.*

*Our arborist Rob Rojewski will be in when time permits to grind many stumps away and to remove a range of branches that are beginning to impact on play.*

*Fingers crossed, we can be out there pretty soon to enjoy golf and friendships.*