

NOVEMBER 16th - 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 Course Superintendent Dylan Knight, 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.

On behalf of the members, we thank Dylan, Glen and Chris for their continued work to have our course looking and playing in great shape.

FAIRWAYS

- With the removal of all of the Winter grasses over the last six weeks, we are starting to get a clearer picture of the amount of common couch, santa ana couch and kikuyu (warm season grasses) on our fairways. Dylan is very pleased with the amount of warm season grass coverage on the fairways and the focus will now be to promote growth over the next five months. Fertilising will continue to promote this increased growth.
- Prime conditions for the growth of the couch is when the soil temperature is at 16C/17C +. With our current cool night air, soil temps are at around 12C/13C. Once the soil temperature increases and stabilises, we should see a significant increase in growth activity
- Each Spring, we envisage having an increasingly healthier fairway surface each time Winter grass is removed.
- A key to healthy spring coverage and growth is the health of the couch heading into winter dormancy in May/June. Dylan's spraying and feeding program will take this into account.
- Members are reminded to be vigilant in carrying and using sand buckets.

PRACTICE FAIRWAY

- We were pleased this week to receive support from the Axedale Recreation Reserve Committee for the establishment of our santa ana nursery on the current practice fairway. We thank the Axedale Recreation Reserve Committee for their support.
- In the coming weeks, the current surface will be sprayed to kill all of current grass coverage.
- The irrigation system has been designed and will be installed by Dylan, Glen and Chris. We are planning to use a number of our second hand sprinkler heads to reduce costs. There is approximately \$5,500 worth of irrigation infrastructure being installed.
- Jock Catto, an Axedale member, will complete the trenching and backfill works.



- Once the irrigation is installed, we will water for a week to build up the moisture content before cultivating the soil. A pre-emergent will then be sprayed to enhance the santa ana's growth potential. Once the soil has been significantly 'tickled up', we will then be ready to scatter santa ana sprigs over the soil, to be hoed in, levelled off and watered.
- If everything goes to plan and the weather is supportive, it will be roughly 12 weeks from sprigs going down to full mown coverage. We are planning for sprigging in the second week of January.
- Dylan has organised for us to have access to unlimited sprigs from the Sandhurst Golf Course in Carrum. Sandhurst GC is a top level course and their turf program is as good as anywhere so we can be sure we are getting very healthy sprigs. This is vital so that we don't waste money trying to solve inherited turf issues.
- We anticipate the santa ana being ready for harvesting in spring 2020.
- A section of the current rye grass coverage will be left 'as is' to provide a hitting area for the Winter months.
- During these works, the main part of the practice fairway will be out of action. We apologise for the inconvenience – a bit of short term pain for long term gain.

GREENS

- **We would like to make members well aware that we will be completing two greens renovation over the coming months.** Dylan feels it is vital to regenerate the soil profile sooner rather than later and the quicker this can happen, the healthier our greens will be in the long run.
- Our greens will be cored and sanded on Tuesday 3rd December. They should be back in good putting condition in time for the Christmas Ambrose.
- A second coring will take place after the Pro-Am and the Australia Day long weekend, probably Tuesday 28th January, leaving four weeks for the greens to recover for the Volkswagen Scramble.
- Greens will likely be cored twice a year for the next three years to improve our soil profile.
- Members are reminded that while our greens are firmer, pitch marks still need to be repaired. Looking at the greens early in the morning or later in the evening, shows that there are many unfixed dints in the greens. Thanks for your support. Fix yours +1 other.

TEES

- Some tees are being scarified to reduce thatch levels.
- 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

- Missing distance markers in sprinkler heads have been made up and have been installed. Thanks Rod Threlfall.

COURSE WORKS

We will be working with Ken Morrison to establish a number of ‘significant planting zones’ around our course. These zones will be highly visible, but out of play areas, and will add significant numbers and varieties of indigenous species to our course. A focus will be on planting trees rather than shrubs. An example area would be the hillside between the 18th and the 2nd.

Some older shrubs around the course (7th tee, 2nd tee, 9th/10th fairways) are being removed to increase sunlight and moisture to turf areas, to facilitate new works, to improve playability and to remove plants at the end of their time.

The Course Committee will be completing a number of course walks to look at planning ideas for all 18 holes as part of a developing a long term course plan. Holes 1, 2 & 3 were covered last week.

At our next meeting, the Course Committee will be looking at a number of our non-asphalt cart paths in regard to resurfacing, re-aligning and re-directing.

We have begun to spray the Parramatta Grass on the 13th fairway and will monitor the success of the spraying in regard to future works. The fairway areas are the current focus.

BEST WISHES

Dylan and Alice are due to have their first baby in the next few weeks. On behalf of the club, we would like to wish them all the best for the birth and as they welcome a new member to their family.

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

With thanks, Course Committee