

FEBRUARY 4th - COURSE COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

Each month, your Course Committee will endeavour to provide an update of 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, queries, suggestions and ideas can be fed to the Course Committee via these people.

PRO-AM

On behalf of the Course Committee, I would like to thank our ground staff Dylan, Glen and Chris for their considerable extra work in having our course in excellent condition for the Pro-Am. Our fairways and tees looked were all striped up and looked great. Despite obvious difficulties with the greens, players were able to enjoy beautiful putting surfaces at a perfect speed. A big thank you to all the members who pitched-in in one way or another to help to present our course in such good condition given our recent difficulties and extreme weather conditions. In particular, thanks to our Tuesday volunteers for their continual input.

GREENS

As members will be aware, we have had some significant issues with our greens during Summer.

All greens have been continually sprayed for disease and insects, with a final application due next week. This should have the roots and plants in a position where growth will continue and recovery of bare areas will begin.

We are investigating bringing in some green sods to replace significant bare areas.

Green coring was planned for after the Pro-Am. This will not go ahead as planned. Soil tests indicate that a better result will be gained by punching 6mm thick tynes 200mm into the greens to allow increased oxygen exchange with the roots. Following the tyning, the greens will be dusted and watered and will quite playable again within a number of days. This tyning will occur in the next four weeks.

Tyning will take place again with 250mm tynes in April/May to improved green drainage heading into Winter.

Once our fairway nursery is established, we will begin planning for the development of a sizeable greens nursery which will allow both repairs to patchy greens, and in time will make rebuilding some of our green surfaces possible and cost effective.

We thank members for their patience as we endeavour to regain full grass coverage on our greens.

Our greens were not able to be mown this morning (Sat. Feb 1st) as per normal Monthly Medal rounds. Committee will be working to solve this issue.

TEES

- A full audit of all our teeing grounds has been completed - tees were scored for flatness, % couch cover and % sun/shade. Tees with the lowest scores will be targeted for improvement works first. The square metre age of all teeing areas was also calculated
- When done, tees will be laser levelled and sprinkler heads removed from teeing areas where possible.
- The 1st will be the first tee to be re-levelled. Following General Committee discussions, we will notify members prior to works starting.

To complete works on the first tee, we will be scarifying the tee area and then hoeing the base up to create a flat surface. The Course Committee is wondering if any members have access to either a hand held rotary hoe or a small rotterra that may be of use for the project. Please contact Lex.

FAIRWAYS

- Our fairways are currently being cut at 16mm, a height most members enjoy playing from. Thickening up of our fairway surfaces will continue to provide improved surfaces to play from.
- Fertilising, watering and summer heat have increased the growth of our warm season grasses.
- Removal of the Parramatta Grass (clumpy & spiky swordgrass) on the 13th fairway has been successful and other fairway areas will now be tackled. Once fairways have been cleared, we will begin to remove Parramatta grass from rough areas close to fairways.
- Summer weed is beginning to flourish on our fairways and has been sprayed for removal this week. Members will notice a slight browning off on the fairways in the next week as it dies and our couch cover will also lose some colour for a week or two before returning to normal colour and growth.
- Members are reminded to be vigilant in carrying and using sand buckets. Fill your divots, +1 other.

PRACTICE FAIRWAY

- The irrigation system on the practice fairway has been completed and is working well.
- This week (Feb 3-7) we began laying all of our couch sprigs onto the practice fairway. They will be kept really wet for two weeks and once established, will be watered as per normal fairways.
- We look forward to watching this development and the processes and timelines involved. The ability of the various species to establish, spread and flourish in our environment will provide great feedback for us in choosing the right variety going forward. The process we

go through in establishing the practice fairway surfaces will be replicated when we begin covering fairways so the nursery should provide lots of great planning information for us.

- The practice fairway will be closed for the next few weeks. A temporary practice area has been roped in front of the red tees on the 7th. Members will be notified when the practice fairway will be available for use again. Thanks for your patience.

BUNKERS

All bunkers have been hand raked over recent weeks to ensure all sand is evenly distributed. While this has fluffed up some of our bunker faces, the sand in all parts of the bunkers should now be settling to provide a consistent and predictable surface. Again, if you notice a bunker area that is thin on sand, please let one of the Course Committee know.

COURSE SIGNAGE

We have a considerable amount of signage around our course directing carts, defining GUR, guiding foot traffic etc. All of this was removed for the Pro-Am to reduce the 'visual pollution'. For a few weeks, we are trialling having much less of this signage around the course. Members co-operation in driving, walking and playing from the right areas would be appreciated.

Black lines near greens will be repainted to indicate no go zones for carts.

Members travelling from the cart shed to the clubhouse are reminded of the club expectation that you follow the path beside the 3rd hole, the 4th tee and past the 1st tee to the clubhouse. And in reverse back to the shed.

Members are asked not to drive across the 2nd/3rd holes or via the 9th & 10th holes. This will reduce the impact on the fairways.

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

With thanks, Course Committee