

FROM THE COURSE FOR THE GOLFERS

From the Superintendent

Dear Members

Greens Update

Greens health recovery continues, progress on greens that were patchy but still did have scattered grass cover are seeing bare areas close up progressively, larger bare areas that did not have much or any scattered grass cover (such as areas on 11th/12th greens) are recovering much slower. Early recovery on the 3rd hole has seen this green returned back into play a few weeks ago. The plan remains to reinstate other greens as the recovery allows for enough of a suitable putting surface to sustain daily play.

Recently (9 February) the greens were mini aerated to open the surface for further re-seeding (which occurred February 16). On this occasion all greens with the exception of the chipping green, 3rd, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th greens were seeded. We now have received a delivery of topdressing sand and topdressing will commence this coming week from February 21st. All greens playing surfaces will receive topdressing regardless of the cover of grass the greens have, weaker areas will obviously require more and numerous topdressings as the new seed germinates and begins to grow. Further to the previous strategy of aerating and reseeded greens, the club has very generously been offered some greens grass from Cammeray Golf Club who have seen 3 of their greens closed due to an acquisition of a parcel of their land by the Transport Department. The greens are currently being maintained and hopefully next week (beginning February 28) will see us strip some of the large bare areas of our greens (holes 11 and 12 to begin with) in preparation for us to transplant some of the grass available from Cammeray Golf Club for an instant repair. Even once replacement of turf has occurred these areas of the greens will remain out of play for a couple of weeks as the turf roots start to take to support the grass.

Should any members have time to assist us laying turf if you could please get in contact with the club this week to express your availability, either in person to myself or by email at info@marrickvillegolf.com.au. We are hoping to have the details and timeline for work finalised in the coming days, but it is hoped turf preparation will occur Monday 28 February and laying of turf to occur Wednesday 2 March. Information will be shared with those who offer to assist with the work.

Major Autumn greens coring is scheduled to occur on Monday 14 March and this will further help recovery of any areas that still are not back to full health at this time. If anyone is available to help cleaning up the removed cores following coring this would also be extremely helpful to staff to have the course cleaned up before the Tuesday competition the following day.

Tees returned

Following returfing of some the tees on the course, this turf has now established healthy root systems that can support the traffic of regular mowing and foot traffic. These areas will be fertilised and topdressed this week to level out any uneven bumps. Tee areas that have been returned will then be reopened for play from this coming weekend, when tee markers are placed in these areas. Please remember that if staff have tee markers not set in these areas, it is to manage the wear as the grass continues to strengthen under the stress of regular play. Also remember that like at all other times, all divots taken are expected to be filled by sand from the sand buckets that all golfers should be carrying during their round.

Staffing

The club has last week employed a part time staff member Grant Thompson, who will be working 3 days a week with the maintenance staff. In the past few weeks we have had some casual labour a couple of days a week from Ewan Finley who some may already know from working in the pro shop and Milan Swiraj. Please make these new staff feel welcome if you see them out on the course.

Through some very helpful volunteers and casual staff recently, it has seen us not fall further behind on course maintenance, although there is still much to be done. The club is continuing to search for full time experienced staff to replace Jeff Herington and Chris Nikolaou who have left the club in the last 6 months. The entire industry is struggling in this regards, to the point where a company is now outsourcing qualified staff from Sweden in their Winter to boost numbers in Australia's Summer, clearly with border restrictions not enabling this in 2021/2022.

Kind Regards, Nathan Lindsay