



# GREENS REPORT

January 2019



**Prepared By:**

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*Course Superintendent*

- In the 40-day period since Dec 13<sup>th</sup> we have had 203mm of rain and 25 days above 30 degrees Celsius. Heat stress begins in cool season grasses such as poa and bent putting greens when soil and air temps exceed 30 degrees Celsius.
- Height of cut on the greens has been raised to 4mm (21/1) to assist with summer stress.
- Greens are really battling with the weather conditions we have been experiencing in recent weeks. Particularly in areas of high traffic (walk on/walk off) and edges of greens where water sits in the sub surface profile.
- Greens have been needle tined twice with an 8mm solid tine, followed by a roll (7/1 & 21/1). This allows the soil profile to breathe and oxygen to enter.
- Granular gypsum application done on greens (4/1 & 16/1) to assist with sodium displacement in the soil profile. This will be done every 2 weeks up to greens renovations.
- Hand watering and monitoring of the greens is now common practice with the extreme heat being experienced. Our focus is to minimise the turf decline during the high stress periods. We ask for patience and understanding from golfers as this is necessary to get the greens through the afternoon heat.
- New logo flags introduced for medal and trophy events.
- Green speed **will not** be a focus or high priority until the stress of summer is over.

*New logo flag and corella damage...*



Some greens begun to show some signs of **wet wilt** after the week of storm (14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec) activity and the onset of high temps immediately after. It was essentially the perfect conditions for older greens with short root systems and heavy soil profiles (eg. our older poa annua greens) to begin decline. The 7<sup>th</sup> is a weak green with a shallow root system, inadequate and poor surface drainage and below average soil profile. It is also an area of the course that receives little to no air movement, creating a stagnant micro climate. All these are factors in the sudden drop off in the condition of this green.

Too much water in the summer months is generally more destructive than drought conditions. Water in the thatch or on the surface will absorb heat from the sun. The 7<sup>th</sup> being the worst. As a response we introduced a temporary green to allow us to carry out several management practices to assist with the immediate recovery of the green. We lifted the height of cut and are mowing the green with a walk mower at 5mm.

I have had it looked at by an independent consultant and there is no evidence of disease or pest damage. The decline is purely due to the recent climatic conditions, the below average agronomic conditions within the green and the high volume of player foot traffic during the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Further to this, centre of the green is a low point that holds water, and this was where a pin was located on a day we had well in excess of 200 players.

We have implemented some procedures to assist with recovery, such as additional fertiliser and calcium applications. The green has been solid tined and some bent grass seed put out. Regular light fertilising and amendment applications will be ongoing. The green will remain out of play until further notice.

- Tees are being mowed three times a week with
- A growth regulator was applied to all tees and tee surrounds to assist with the large amount of growth of the grass

## FAIRWAYS

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- An intermediate cut of rough around fairways has been implemented and now being mowed three times a week.
- Fairways are being mowed three times a week. A soluble fertiliser and growth regulator application was done on all fairways. (15/1)

*Fairway on 14<sup>th</sup> hole and apron on 17th...*



- The bunkers had significant washouts after the December storms. We spent approximately 120 total hours pumping them, pushing faces back up and repairing. This was done not once, but twice in the space of two weeks. In fact, there were 3 days spent on them only for a storm to roll through the next day and send us back to square one.
- Bunkers are being edged as time permits to keep up to the current growth

### *Bunkers Washouts 17<sup>th</sup> December...*



## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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- There was some vandalism over the holiday period. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> greens were damaged (29/12) using the flag stick. Bunker rakes were taken from bunkers also. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> green also received some the following week (6/1)
- Hazard lines being painted every 2 weeks. Weeds inside hazards have been sprayed with glyphosate.
- Corella damage has occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> green, along with the 10<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> greens
- Several large limbs have fallen in recent weeks. One that fell on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole did damage to the timber bridge.
- Irrigation leak on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole. Has been dug up and inspected. Is a minor leak at a tee join. Irrigation contractor to assess and recommend repair work.
- Leaking sprinkler on 4<sup>th</sup> fairway repaired