



Course & Greens Update – March 2024

Dear members,

Thanks to all who provided positive feedback on the course and greens update sent out in January. We hope you all got some value from the information.

Over the past 2 months we have had 2 consultants inspect and provide their assessment and advice on the current condition of the greens and the management program we have in place. The first consultants were from Living Turf who specialise in all aspects of turf management and golf course design, and the second consultant was an agronomist from Golf NSW (ex-course superintendent for the Australian Golf Club). We have received a detailed report from Golf NSW today and will develop an action plan from this report in the coming weeks. Living Turf have provided a detailed chemical plan to assist with improving the health of our greens and we are working towards full implementation of this program. A detailed summary of the inspections and recommendations will be provided at a later date.

The greens

As expected, the greens did not flourish through January and February, and the intermittent activation of the sprinklers during the hottest parts of the days to replenish the surface water appears to have provided some respite to the greens burning off. The greens have been quite damp for the past 2 months, primarily due to lack of Bent grass root depth and our automated pump system having very little functional control and no remote operation capability. Steve has been working to return the pop-up sprays to the greens so the bayonets do not require leaving in place. As the temperature starts to cool down, the watering will start to be wound back.

Autumn greens renovations are scheduled for this month. Spraying for oxalis (the weed predominately taking over the 5th green) has progressed over the last week and a second application this week will see this killed off before the renovations commence next week. The disease that has taken over the 2nd and 4th (Nematodes) is an ongoing matter. We have changed products recently and are looking to see an improvement in this condition going forward. Nematodes are a soil worm that feast on the roots of the turf and have been one of the major reasons for the second and 4th greens extended damage. Further to the greens conditioning and renovation program, the 2nd green will be taken out of play for a few weeks to allow for excavation of the front and back of the greens. The remaining turf from the practice green will be used to fill in these damaged areas. A temporary 2nd green will be established with revised meterage being signposted on the tee. It is expected the green will be out of play for approx. 3 weeks. In addition to this, the practice green will be scalped back to recover all the kikuyu and will be oversewn with bent seed to get the practice green up and running again as soon as possible.

The full renovation schedule is as follows:

Week of 11th March

- Greens renovation prep – application of chemicals and fertilisers to boost greens health and scarifying to dethatch the turf.
- Preparation of the 2nd hole temporary green to take second green out of play from 27th March for 3 weeks.

Week of 18th March

- Greens renovations –
 - Coring on Tuesday 19th. This includes the application of pasture boost and gypsum to assist in soil health.
 - Top dressing on Wednesday 20th
 - Oversewing of the bare patches
- Start practice fairway green construction.

Week of 25th March



- Application of greens renovations amendments (fertiliser) Tuesday 26th
- 2nd hole repair plan
 - Transition to temporary green. Tuesday 26th
 - Dig out the front and back sections to 500mm and replace with USGA sand Wednesday 27th.
 - Cut remaining turf from existing practice green and relay in the newly prepared sections of the green.
 - Scalp back the practice green including all the Kikuyu, lay approx. 100mm of USGA sand and seed.
- Finalise construction of practice fairway green and seed

The practice green

As stated above, the intent is to restore what's remaining of the current practice putting green to a playable condition at minimal cost, whilst moving forward with the recently communicated proposal to construct a putting and chipping green on the practice fairway. We expect construction of the practice fairway green to begin during the week of 18th March.

Greens nursery

The new greens nursery proposed for construction in the orchard adjacent to the ladies 16th tee is on hold for now. A five-year greens and course renovation plan is being scoped out and we will keep you updated with this plan as it progresses.

We continue to investigate options for a fountain to aerate the dam water on the 7th to improve water quality. It is likely we will need to incorporate this into the pump station upgrade scheduled for later this year. The pump station upgrade will also provide improved remote-operation capability.

Don't forget, if you have some spare time and are considering becoming a volunteer, please give Chad or Nathan a call to discuss how you may be able to contribute to our great club.

If you have any questions or would like to put forward any suggestions, please don't hesitate to send them through to Chad.Vesper@singletongolfclub.com.au.

Yours in golf

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