



GREEN ACRES
GOLF CLUB

Major Greens Renovation Information

Background

This winter has been the wettest we have experienced in some nine years and unfortunately we've been unable to produce a green surface as firm as we would like during these difficult wet months. With the constant high level of play we have at Green Acres, we have seen a top layer form on our greens which has crusted and sealed. This crusting inhibits the greens from draining as well or as quickly as required during times of high rainfall and produces an environment which stunts turf root production.

Whilst our verti-draining and dusting programme helps to alleviate these problems and is good for ongoing maintenance, it is a short term remedy as we cannot get a sufficient amount of fresh sand into the profile quickly, or create a new growing medium for the turf.

The coring renovation will allow us to add approximately 100 tonne of sand into the greens and create new pore spaces which will greatly assist the drainage flow plus provide a new growing medium to allow for better root production. It has been more than five years since the greens have had a major coring.

This major renovation combined with the regular verti-draining and dusting programme will ensure that the greens are firmer all year round and stop a seal forming on the green surface. This heavy coring procedure will be reviewed annually during the winter months and carried out in the Spring period if required.

Procedure

All greens surfaces will be cored using hollow 5/8 tines. Cores will be harvested and removed from the greens surface. This procedure will remove approximately 4-5% of the soil and thatch from the greens surface to a maximum depth of 150ml.

The next step is to apply soil amendments (fertiliser), and organic matter to top-dressing. Sand will then be evenly spread over the putting surface and aprons and allowed to dry before being broomed into the core holes. The greens will then be thoroughly watered.

After a period of one or two days, the sand will have settled into the core holes. The greens will then usually require a light sand dusting and brooming to ensure the core holes are completely filled. Additional follow up dusting and brooming will occur if required in the days following.

The recovery time for cored greens is usually four weeks, dependant on weather conditions.

Ideally, the greens would recover more rapidly if they were closed for a week as this would give staff easy and uninhibited access to follow up dusting and brooming, helping to ensure the program is completed promptly and reduce wear on the putting surface following such a major disruption. This would require 18 temporary greens for the week of the renovation which could be an option if we find play on the greens is having too much of an impact and is slowing the greens surface recovery.

Mat Poultney
Course Superintendent
5 August 2010