



**GREEN ACRES**  
GOLF CLUB

## **Members Course Update**

### **March 2011**

As many members will already be aware a new Course Sub-Committee has been established to focus solely on course issues. The responsibilities will be all matters relating to the course however the initial focus will be on the greens and the quality of the grass cover.

### **Major Greens Renovation**

The first major greens renovation in 5 years was undertaken in early September 2010. At that time the greens had formed a crusted top layer which had sealed and was inhibiting both drainage and turf root growth. A major renovation was overdue and was designed to remove soil and thatch from the greens to a depth of up to 150mm. The removal of this soil then allowed us to add approximately 100 tonne of sand with mixed soil amendments into the greens to create new pore spaces which greatly assist the drainage and provides a new growing medium for better root production. This process is designed to provide firmer greens all year round and stop a seal forming on the green surface.

The major renovation experienced problems both during and after as a result of the following:

- Soft greens due to above average rainfall during the winter months
- Poor soil structure as a result of no major renovation in recent years
- A wet period leading up to and during renovation
- The sand applied was not able to dry and was abrasive to the existing leaf during the rub-in process
- Low soil temperatures due to cooler than average weather slowed the recovery
- Immediate golfer traffic exacerbated the problems

We are now coming up to 6 months since the renovations and the greens have improved considerably. There are many members (including those on this committee), that understand we have had weather conditions that have assisted this improvement. However, we are confident that the problems referred to above are being addressed and we are in better shape to cope with the winter months next time around. This is due to:

- An improved soil structure and firmer greens
- Stronger root growth
- Improved Poa Annua management techniques

You will note in the syllabus that we have scheduled our next major renovation for 21 November this year and this will most likely continue on an annual basis for the foreseeable future. We are confident we can avoid a similar outcome to 2010 for the following reasons:

- Experience gained from the 2010 renovation
- Higher soil temperature due to renovation in late Spring
- Use of temporary greens during the week of renovation to reduce traffic
- Improved soil structure as the previous renovation was only 12 months prior

### **Grass Policy & Strategy**

As a result of the poor condition of our greens particularly in September and October 2010 we revisited the Bentgrass strategy that was implemented just on 10 years ago at Green Acres. Whilst the Bent program was supported a change in strategy was adopted by our Course Superintendent and supported by the Committee to alter the Poa annua management program. It had become evident that the existing Poa program was having an impact on the Bentgrass. We are confident that the Bent greens produce a superior putting surface than that of an alternative strategy. We are continuing to fertilise the greens on a weekly basis to improve the root strength and depth of the Bentgrass and ensure that we enter the cooler months in a far stronger position to provide at least a satisfactory playing surface in the event of another wet and cold winter.

Our aim is to provide a high quality Bentgrass putting surface for as many months of the year as possible.

### **Course Works Program**

In line with our announcements in the 2010 Annual Report the course works are progressing as planned except for the alternate tee on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole. Additional course works not yet confirmed but in the early stage of planning includes the resurfacing of both the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> greens. This is scheduled for June/July this year and more information will be provided when it is known.

In closing, the Course Sub-Committee has a primary objective to work with our Course Superintendent to achieve excellence on the golf course. We would like to provide the Green Acres members with a playing facility we can all be proud of. There have no doubt been tremendous course improvements over recent years and we will continue to work on improving the putting surfaces as well as maintaining a high standard in all areas on the course. We are fully aware that the true test of our revised strategy and course maintenance program will be a firm and strong Bentgrass coverage during the winter period.

Mat Poultney  
Course Superintendent

Brian Wasley  
Chair Course Sub-Committee