



GOLF COURSE REVIEW

Prepared by

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Sports Turf Practitioners (Ire) Ltd

Meeting date – 14th April, 2025

Contributors;

- **Pauline Mooney – General Manager**
- **Paul Ryan – Course Superintendent**
- **Gerry Byrne – STP [Author]**

MEETING SUMMARY / KEY OBSERVATIONS

This month, we reviewed the spring programme of works which was dictated by the recent dry weather. Most of the agreed nutritional inputs is understandably delayed due to the drying conditions and potential for damage to grass from spring fertilisers. Today, weather conditions have turned to a more seasonal wetter pattern and Paul is working on catch up applications of high growth products.

- Greens good, liquid fertilisation planned plus beginning of summer sanding and grooming programmes.
- Greens approaches and banks due granular fertiliser [this week].
- Tees due fertiliser [this week].
- Fairways good, liquid fertiliser applied by new contractor; Paul happy with results.
- Weed spray required and planned.
- Bunkers recently edged, good condition.
- Ditch lines sprayed and tidy.
- Landscape good, better than previous years.
- Husbandry good, hazard stakes to be straightened for summer play.
- Pathway dusting to be carried out over the next week to level and improve presentation.
- Unsightly lake works most impressive with new waterway and wild flower area created.

The Morning concluded with a meeting with Pauline, giving general feedback on observations made during our walk of the course.

Golf Course

Greens

Greens have improved month on month following regular sand top-dressings and vertical mowing to thin out the sward. They remain in very good agronomic condition; however, further sanding's are planned to improve ball roll and green speed.

Subsurface rooting is particularly good with Paul carrying out excellent winter aeration works being both deep and shallow tine. The resulting rooting will serve to ensure the will be able to sustain heavy play for the summer period.

The nutritional and disease protection products used are of gold standard quality and the results are clearly seen. We now move into the summer programme with a high nitrogen product planned to push growth and facilitate vertical mowing to cut out the visible trailing grasses which impact on ball roll.

This is planned in late April – early May when soil temperatures reach 14 degrees; currently, they are only 10 degrees and too early to apply a granular, as leaching will occur. In the mean-time, a quick release liquid mix to be applied to carry us to the period for application.

Core sampling

Arguably the most important test as we review what is happening below the surface from both an oxygen and rooting standpoint. We look for a clean profile with no black layering and rooting in excess of 75mm. Thankfully the rooting is excellent and importantly the rootzone is clean and well oxygenated.



Very healthy rooting but ground temperatures still too low for summer nutritional programmes

Agreed Recommendations;

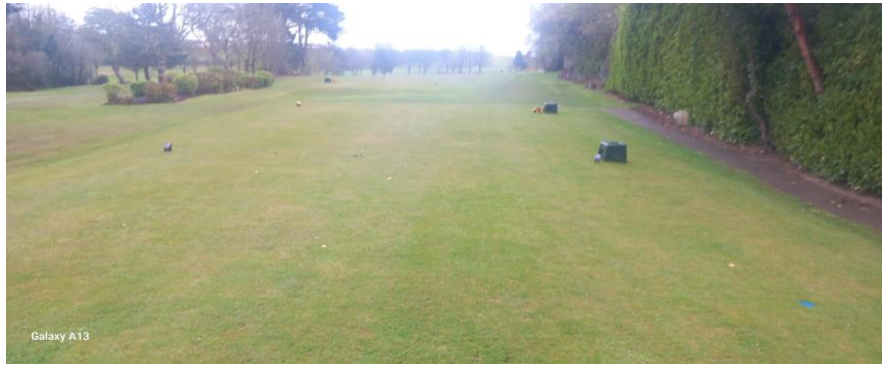
- Continue sand topdressing and apply every two-three-week cycles.
- Vertical mowing to continue in order to remove trailing grasses.
- Nutrition to be applied through liquid forms until soil temperatures reach 14 degrees [early May].
- Granular agreed to be 18.0.18 when conditions improve.
- Wetting agent applications to begin, using Pro Wet Evolve®.
- Trace element package to be applied monthly to include Primo Maxx® plant growth regulator at .3 litre.
- Preventative fungicide a judgement call by Paul but be careful of disease as we transition from spring to summer.
- Mowing daily to remain at a height of 3.00mm and turf iron at least once weekly where possible.

Green Surrounds and Approaches

Are in need of a granular nutritional application to boost spring growth. The planned product for use is 18.3.10 at a rate of 30 grams per square metre and this will give a fantastic lift of both colour and growth.

Tees

Tees are understandably behind in colour as Paul was reluctant to apply fertiliser in such drying conditions. As with approaches, this will be applied over the coming days and a quick uptake and improvement is expected.



Fertiliser planned to tee tops over the next day or so

Fairways

Fairways continue to present to a very high standard with excellent colour and growth. Paul has recently changed the outside contractor to a local company and is very happy with the results so far.

Monthly sprays is agreed with a mixture of high nitrogen 18.0.0 which includes 6% Iron and 1.6% magnesium which will give strong colour. Additionally, a plant growth regulator, Primo Maxx® will be added to the mix [Rates agreed up to 1 ltr per ha] to help reduce the broad leafed grasses which dominate in the poor soil type.



Excellent colour using local contractor with quality spraying equipment

Rough

The rough is presenting very well, dry underfoot and fully playable for the time of year. Weeds are beginning to emerge and spraying is planned using a combination of Priest® and D50® selective herbicide which will also be applied by the outside contractor.

Bunkers

The presentation standard of bunkers at Tara Glen remain most impressive with regular edging and top-up by Paul and his team. He is busy preparing them for the upcoming Captain's Drive-ins to have them presented as well as could be expected.



Sharp edging by Paul this morning

Additional

Ditch lines

Fully treated with a total herbicide which will address any access vegetation for the season.



Treatment carried out to remove access vegetation

Pathways

Dust top-up planned for the coming days to fill pot holes and improve overall presentation.



Pathway dust ready for spreading on paths throughout the golf course

Lake works

The winter project of lake reduction and creation of a new waterway at the 9th is completed to exacting standards by contractor Gary Flood. The works is most impressive with a creation of a wild flower area and rock armour.



Rock armour and young wild flower seedlings emerging from the soil

Landscape

Paul has carried out an enormous amount of landscape work over the winter with all on-course beds cleaned, shrubs pruned and mulched. The new clubhouse is most impressive and the final touches will be a shoulder flower bed at the entrance which is planned for this week.



Landscape works to complete the clubhouse upgrade

SUMMARY

The golf course is transitioning into the summer with all areas in agronomically good condition. Colour is understandably behind as conditions were too dry to apply the necessary materials to boost growth. Thankfully, this has changed over the weekend and a quick turnaround is expected following Paul's plans to apply fertiliser.

Presentation standards are ahead of previous years with all key areas in very good condition which includes headland and ditch herbicide applications.

We are in a very strong position for a great season of golf with objectives for further improvements, particularly with green speeds and general upkeep of the course and grounds.

My next visit is due in June to review the summer conditioning to date and make adjustments to the programme where necessary.

Gerry Byrne
Director
Sports Turf Practitioners

April 14th, 2025

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