

FROM THE COURSE FOR THE GOLFERS

From the Superintendent

Dear Members

I write to you today to inform you of the condition of the greens and provide absolute facts to the membership and dispel any and all rumours that are floating around currently.

The greens are suffering from fungal disease coming on the back of the extreme hot weather that we had in late October when the club did not have adequate water pressure due to running on town water supply. The reason for the insufficient water pressure came as a result of delays to the Inner West councils restoration works to the Dibble Avenue Waterhole which the club uses as its main water supply. The project completion which was due in late June was not completed until mid September putting the project 10 weeks behind. On completion of this project, the council engineers and civil contractors were meant to notify the golf club that works were completed and assist the club with checking for issues with the pumping pipeline, as this was removed for access of vehicles and modified during the works, as had been agreed prior to the commencement of works. This did not happen and after many attempts to raise the council for authorisation to commence testing of the pipework we finally had success in late September, at which time the contractors had long moved on and were working on another job, and by this time temperatures were rising.

Once we tested the pipe we discovered that there was a leak located between the pond and the pumping station, of which nothing was obvious to the eye. We had to check and rule out that the leak existed underneath the road on Riverside Crescent. Through numerous attempts and strategies to find the leak we found that the hot weather had arrived sooner than the resolution of our issue and at which time irrigating the golf greens with insufficient pressure was taking many man hours of the staff and by the time we could water all of the greens they were starting to dry out again. We have now found and repaired the leak and installed a brand new pump so hopefully water issues are behind us. On the back of high turf stress in the hot weather, it weakens the turf grass which then can allow fungal pathogens to infect grass that would otherwise be able to withstand the disease pressure.

I have had disease samples taken from three of the most badly affected greens and the results have shown presence of Leptosphaerulina and Curvuleria leaf blight diseases.

To treat these diseases we will be treating with a fungicide spray this Friday along with a fertiliser/ bio stimulant to improve the turf defense systems against further infection. We will then continue with our annual fertiliser and pesticide program, that will see further fungicide applications at weekly intervals as previously scheduled, through until the end of the growing season. In the coming weeks I hope to also mini aerate and topdress the greens to aid the recovery from the current disease damage. Please note that the aeration will not be removing cores, so greens will not be out of play for play during this process.

On a further note, with club elections upon us I do not appreciate some of our members using my name to leverage club politics either for or against candidates running for positions on the board. I have heard from a number of reliable sources that my name has come up in playing politics to sway favour for the elections. For some who think that defaming my good name by spreading rumours in the lead up to club elections is not only insulting but downright disrespectful. My stance as a staff member is and always will remain, loyal to the elected board of the club and to serve the entire membership of Marrickville Golf, Sporting and Community Club, not selected factions of the membership.

Thank you, Kind Regards

Nathan Lindsay

Golf Course Superintendent Marrickville Golf, Sporting & Community Club