

BROOME MANOR GOLF COMPLEX JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

OVERVIEW AND WEATHER PATTERNS

June and July has seen a mixture of high temperatures with clear blue skies, to overcast days above average rainfall and temperatures struggling in the mid teens. By this time of year we generally think we are over the hump of high levels of turf stress, but must be mindful the odd day here and there.

The course has responded well, to these conditions. The rain came at just the right time with some areas, particularly fairways, showing early signs of turf stress. The golf course is again green and grass is actively growing in all areas. Playing surfaces are good with the firm and relatively quick following repairs to one of the triple mowers. Bunkers have had a makeover, although work to the 9 hole bunkers continues.

Greens

Putting surfaces remain firm and healthy. We have small localised areas of turf loss, on some greens, from poor sprinkler coverage. The main focus over the coming weeks is to over seed, dress and feed the areas of turf loss and maintain nutrient levels to combat against Anthracnose disease. The following link gives more detailed information.

https://www.greencast.co.uk/anthracnose?gclid=Cj0KCQjwgJv4BRCrARIsAB17JI65I_3HtCKzSAjv1ypJKww0K20chjWDxXZ2GQuok50FUKvgKqBz1IQaAqfxEALw_wcB

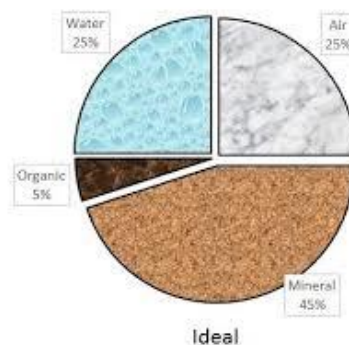


Patches of turf loss – rear of 11th green

Green speed

Adjusting green speed is more than a matter of decreasing the mowing height of cut. Any cutting puts the grass under stress with excess energy needed to repair the leaf. The more of the leaf is cut, especially close to the growing point, the more vulnerable the plant becomes. Cutting at lower heights will temporarily increase the speed, but long term will result in weak turf, thinning of the sward and increase the potential for turf diseases to attack. We cut our greens at 4mm and would not want to cut them any lower. The key points to increasing green speed is to manage the environment in which the grass grows. The diagram below shows the ideal balanced environment for grass growth.

Our greens maintenance programme ensure, as close as possible, the balance shown. Regular aeration introduces oxygen into the root zone and helps with the movement of water through the profile. During periods of drought stress, we add water to the profile through irrigation and soil surfactants. Sand dressings control the organic material levels and regular feeding introduce nutrients and bio stimulants boost soil micro organisms needed for strong grass growth.



The area within the red box is the key to green speed. Speed is affected by,

Not producing lush growth through overfeeding.

Keeping spongy, fibrous material and coarse grass to a minimum through verticutting and grooming.

Keeping irrigation water sufficient for keeping the turf healthy maintaining moisture levels above 20%.

Aeration to develop deep rooting and help moisture pull water through the profile.

Little and often sand dressings to smooth the surface and dry the surface.



Tees

Tees are in great condition following the application of a controlled release fertiliser giving good colour and great grass coverage. The tees are in need of a good divot and seed from our Artisan volunteer help.

Collars / Approaches

We have been working on improving the quality of coverage and presentation of our approaches.

We have increased cutting 2 twice a week cut a 10mm with the 11 bladed Greens mower instead of the 8 bladed tees mower.

The approaches are now following the same feeding and aeration programme as the greens.

Irrigation sprinklers have been adjusted to cover the front approaches.



Improved presentation of the approach on 11th

Fairways

Fairways continue to show good recovery following the reinstatement work starting. This Sunday the contractor is coming in to spray the fairways, semi rough, approaches and surrounds with a mixture of selective herbicide, to control the ingress of White Clover, and an iron based foliar feed to strengthen the turf.

Bunkers

There is still no further information, from the Greenkeepers Association, on bunker rakes on the course.

Irrigation

The investment of the irrigation system has seen continual improvement in the amount of water and consistency of coverage. The picture on the left shows the 20th green in 2019 with large areas under stress.

The picture on the right shows the same green following installation of double valve new pipework and sprinklers.



10th Green 2019



10th Green 2020 although back to front

We now have double valves on all the greens on holes 4 to 11 inclusive. The focus now moves to replacing the odd faulty sprinkler.

