

Kwinana Golf Course **Green Keeping Report**

Summer 07/08

(26/2/08)

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Course Superintendent

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1. Occurrences of Months Gone

Summary of Events

- 80mm since last greens report (Oct 29th)
- Wetta soiled greens
- Liquid fed greens
- Greens cored and sanded
- Granular fed all greens with 15N-0P-22K calcium & magnesium
- Tee signs, trees and paths sprayed around with round up and whipper snipped.
- Bunkers edged, whipper-snipped and tidied and sprayed with round up.
- Paths maintained.
- General maintenance and mowing program continued throughout the summer.
- Biofish applied to fairways.
- Bugs sprayed on greens
- Tuperzan for couch and kikuyu encroachment sprayed on greens.
- Sprinklers unblocked as required
- Greens plugged.
- Prizeometers covers concreted in around lake to measure water level.
- Soil conditioners applied to all greens.
- Club house and car park gardens tidied.
- Scarified tees
- Built tenth tee, turfed and stolonised tenth tee

2. Plans for Month to Come

March

- Liquid feed greens
- Edge bunkers
- Spray greens for bugs
- Wetta soil greens
- Apply soil conditioner to greens
- Apply growth retardant to greens for winter grass
- Spray greens for crab grass
- Start lightly scarifying fairways
- Start wash-down area
- Continue plugging and fixing bad areas on greens
- Sand and fertilise tees that require it
- Build third tee

3. Course Condition

Greens

Greens have had 3 Paclabutrazol applications since the last written report. Paclabutrazol is a herbicide that kills winter grass and puts bent grass to sleep. Used at heavy rates under heavy growing conditions it can suppress winter grass allowing bent grass to invade. This can be dangerous on greens that have high amounts of winter grass as applying the Paclabutrazol at too high a rate could be catastrophic. So I just use it at the lower end of the scale allowing it to suppress the winter grass controlling its seed and allowing the bent grass to grow through.

We have also been spraying Tuperzan on all couch and kikuyu encroachments, this is ongoing and some greens (9,14,18 and Putter) are already past the point of no return. Suppressing the couch and kikuyu is the answer during the summer months.

Renovations started on Feb 4th. We cored, sanded and fertilised with calcium and Epson salts to help reduce our sodium levels, this is what is causing the root issues in the turf. Greens will be mown as soon as possible and no extra sand added. The renovations have been a huge success and we can expect to see lovely healthy greens with a few weeks (end of March).

Fairways

All our fairways are travelling OK, we have some dry areas on the edges of fairways due to blocked sprinklers and root encroachment. We have been unblocking sprinklers regularly but the root encroachment is common and always an issue. In some areas this can be fixed by removing Pine trees, they are an introduced species and do not have the deep tap roots that our native trees have and so we see them removing a lot of moisture from their surrounding area. In other areas we just have to do the best we can through the hotter summer months.

We have wetta soiled fairways and applied large amounts of biofish to them with good results. We will start lightly grooming the fairways to keep them in peak condition, this will involve scarifying at a light level which pulls out grass in the top surface reducing the thatch and leaving the fairways spotless and very playable.

Tees

We gently scarified the tees in November but I wasn't aggressive enough so in February we scarified tees again at a heavier setting. All the tees need rejuvenating and this will take time, they will improve in years to come.

The tenth tee has been compacted and levelled and the turf has been laid on February 7th. The edge of the tee has been stolonised with stolons from the tee renovations. On February 15th the tee came into play which was sooner

then expected, the banks and grass hollow will continue to develop as the stolons knit in and grow. I have never stolonised Kikuyu before but have had excellent results with couch in the past. I thought it would be a good time to try this to educate the staff as the side of the tees is out of play and we will see what the results come up like. As a rule kikuyu doesn't stolonize that well but we shall see

Green Surrounds

All greens surrounds will be fertilised in the coming months with an effort to improve and thicken the grass around traffic areas in preparation for winter.

Irrigation System

Our system is running well for what we have with no major problems except for the usual i.e. no automatic pumps, poor wire system and we need a fertigation system. There is a main line break on number 5 which we need a back hoe to dig out, it is 200mm pipe, hole is in steel tee where it meets the PVC pipe. It needs to be a huge hole and its all clay

Wash Down Bay

We need to put our wash down bay in.

Budget

Budget proposal for the course is attached along with budget summary and staff pay proposal.

4. Machines and Mechanic

Machines

Our Kubota 2560 has done 3600 hours and is 6 years old and on its last legs. Our Jacobsen tee topper is 9 years old and costing us \$1000's. If these two machines could be replaced it would save between 8K to 10K next year in repairs. They are getting old and I am asking them to do too much work. If there are any funds available for machinery updates these two machines are high priority. All other machines are running well, the only other issue we have is that of transport. We don't have any runabout gear to use when whipper snipping or changing holes etc. A \$8 000 workman would be ideal. It is hard to send staff to round up bunker faces with all his equipment in the loader bucket bouncing around and getting broken or spilling. Not to mention the impact of the loader on the course. There are a million useful things we could do with a workman. We are also still looking for a 200ltr sprayer for the greens.

Eric Dennis
Kwinana Golf Course Superintendent

5. Staff

I apologise for not having a written report ready for the past few months, summer is notorious for being an extremely busy season for green keeping and requires all hands on deck both during the day and evening time with watering and maintenance tasks.

We are now fully staffed and all of the staff are working extremely well together. We have a good team and the knowledge staff have of the course is continually improving.

Hayden started as a 1st year apprentice on December 10th and left on January 16th to go Royal Freo to continue his apprenticeship as it was closer to home.

Jimmy left the staff in December 5th 07 but has rejoined the team in February 11th 08 after some time working in the concreting industry. While he was gone we acquired Kayne as a third year apprentice who started on 3rd January, so at this time we currently have a third and fourth year apprentice. Jimmy completes his apprenticeship in September this year as he has already completed his year of work on the job which is a requirement of an apprenticeship. Kayne will continue with the fourth year of his apprenticeship next year which will be one year on the job training with no TAFE.

Staff:

Sick days from 29th October 07 to 26th February 08

Staff	Sick Days	Holidays	Other
Eric	-	-	-
Peter	-	-	-
Tim	2	5	-
Jimmy	3	-	-
Adam	7	-	-
Kayne	1.5	-	5P

Key Other:

T = TAFE

P = Personal

