

Course Report – Autumn 2015

Introduction:

After a very successful summer season in course presentation and maintenance we now turn our attention to our autumn programme.

Soil Structure:

There are two main factors to consider when endeavoring to produce fine turf surfaces.

Soil: This is the actual medium the grass grows in and on our course it goes from 90% sand in the greens root zone to a sandy/soil mix on fairways which over time with our regular sand top dressing will have a profile of 60/40 sand/soil.

Structure: This is the arrangement of soil separates into aggregates. How the aggregates are arranged gives us the different characteristics of the ground conditions. For example, in compacted ground with poor grass cover the aggregates are very close together, preventing movement of roots and nutrients through the soil profile. The inverse of that is when grass is growing well, the soil profile has an open structure with adequate spaces between the aggregates to allow roots and microorganisms to inhabit this zone and allow excess moisture to pass through.

It will be observed at the moment we are carrying out many tasks across the course to maintain and improve soil structure.

Tees , Aprons and Pathways:



- We are hollow tineing all these areas with ½” tines at 2 ½”centres.
- Overseeding with a rye/fescues/Bent mix @ 50g²m².
- The top dressing at circa one tonne per tee and a similar amount on the aprons. All brushed in to restore playing surfaces.

Fairways:



This autumn we are using, once again, the shockwave aeration equipment on our fairways. As its name suggests, when the 12” knives enter the ground, a movement like a wave is created which opens up the soil profile relieving compaction and improving soil structure and also to maintain the connection of the playing surface to the sub surface drainage which we have installed on our aprons and fairways.

Greens:



Our greens were hollow cored in July this year and it turned out to be very successful. Disruption was kept to a minimum and recovery was very quick.

- The tines used were $\frac{3}{8}$ ” at 2” centers
- Overseeding after using a pure Bent mix (*Agrostis Capillaris*) @ 50 gm’s m²
- Top dressing @ 1.5 tonnes per green
- All brushed in to restore putting surfaces

Overseeding Greens:

In keeping with our programme to produce fescue/Bent greens that have higher wear levels and reduced inputs we over seeded the greens in September using a specialist machine, inserting a 80/20 Bent fescue seed mix into the greens surface. The fescue seed we are using is *festuca rubralitoralis*.

Winter Programme:

The new chipping green and practice area are developing nicely and improving as we continue to work on the area.

We are currently developing a winter programme for the course which will include tree and shrub planting, tee and bunker renovation and other important areas that require our attention.

Eddie Walsh
Course Superintendent