



Course Maintenance Update - Greens

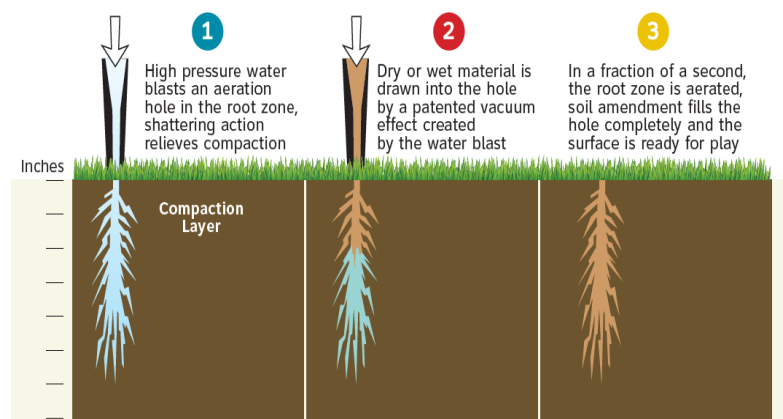
As many of our members will know through newsletters, social media and our newly launched YouTube channel, we have been monitoring the organic matter (OM) content in our greens since my arrival in October. The latest laboratory results have shown that while we are making progress in this area, we are most certainly a work in progress.

As a slight re-cap, while OM (sometimes called thatch) in the rootzone is extremely important to hold moisture and nutrient, unmanaged excessive OM accumulated over a period of many years leads to soft, bumpy greens which are inconsistent and prone to disease. This is a balancing act which can only be accurately assessed with the help of lab analysis. This analysis has shown reduction of OM by both dilution and physical removal is necessary to bring our current readings of 11% down to our desired 5% target.



To speed up the process we have decided to trial a sand injection technique called Dryject. This process has been proven in numerous trials the world over to firm up putting surfaces in a timelier fashion while leaving behind a smoother surface compared to the conventional hollow coring. Loch Lomond and St Andrews Old Course are just two of the most recent courses to have trialed this particular sand injection process.

The trial will be conducted on the 18th green on Wednesday 17th February and if successful we will use this technique on all putting surfaces as part of our ongoing maintenance programme. The 18th green will be open for play immediately after the work and we encourage feedback from members to allow us to assess the viability of the operation across all greens.



Darren McLaughlan Course Manager