



Course Maintenance Update

Our two-day maintenance period could not have gone any better. As mentioned, we employed the services once again of Ken Siems and his Dryject franchise (see figure 1). Dryject has been around in the USA for a number of years now and has an excellent reputation for increasing the firmness of playing surfaces in a short space of time, the concept has only really taken off over here in the past 12 months.



Figure 1. Dryject uses high pressured water to inject the sand into the greens surface.

From an agronomy perspective Dryject has a double benefit of increasing firmness of our greens and diluting excessive organic matter in the top 40mm layer. From a playability standpoint this process is far less intrusive than conventional hollow coring as surfaces recover considerably quicker (see figures 2,3,4).



Figure 2. the 4th green minutes after work being carried out.

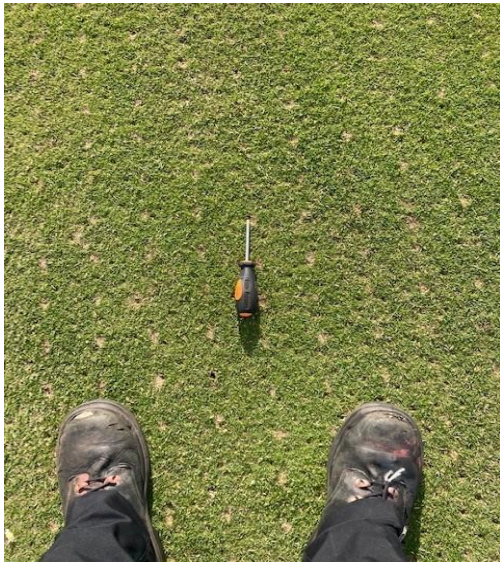


Figure 3. Day 2 and surfaces looking much cleaner.



Figure 4. Our 3rd green as we re-open on Thursday.

Hollow coring is at times a necessary evil on the golf course. It is a tried and tested practice which has stood the test of time and may be required on the greens at some point in future, we can't rule it out. However, the scientific evidence and anecdotal feedback so far has shown us that Dryject most definitely has a place in our maintenance schedule. We are a busy golf course with high expectations, Dryject sand injection helps us meet those expectations by having our greens back rolling as quick as possible with the least amount of disruption possible.

By closing for the allotted two days this gave the greenstaff the opportunity to carry out the work cleanly and efficiently handing the golf course back to our

members and visitors with absolute minimum disruption. *In total over the two days we injected 35 ton of sand and 450KG of fescue seed.*

With soil temperatures still favorable and (hopefully) some showers I would expect to see full recovery over the next 7 days and as a result of the amount of sand and seed applied this year, I am confident of we will see vastly improved putting surfaces over the winter period. **The protection of our surfaces will be paramount during this period.**

Broken Tees

Following a recent competition our medal tee areas were littered with broken tee's (see figure 5) which, had to be handpicked by the greenstaff. Not only is this extremely time consuming but is also detrimental to the standard of presentation we are striving to produce for both members and visitors on a daily basis. The committee are in the process of reviewing all course furniture and while



1832

we appreciate there is currently no broken tee caddy bin on the white markers, we would kindly ask members to place all broken tees in the blue bins until this option is available on the white's. Every minute counts during the setup of North Berwick golf club and if we can save time here this time can be used to further improve other areas of the course.



Figure 5. Our 16th tee was the most unsightly during morning set up.

Darren McLaughlan, Course Manager