



Course Superintendent's Report

February 2016

Water

- Main dam remains approx 85% full
- Quinns Lake is at 100% with Browns River approx 100mm over the inlet
- Rainfall for the month was 42.5mm
- Traveling irrigators are currently running to match Evapotranspiration as infrastructure allows

Greens

- Greens are cut five times per week at 2mm including pennant days
- Greens are rolled twice a week and again on pennant days
- Treated with Ferrous Sulfate 5/2 & 23/2
- Dusted 11/2 & 22/2

Tees

- Tees are cut twice a week at 12mm
- LHS ladies 14th tee raised, holes filled, seeded and fertilised
- 7th and 8th tees fertilised and seeded
- 4th tee seeded and roped off to prevent motorized carts damaging the rear of the tee

Fairways

Fairways are cut twice per week at 20mm

Why we do what we do

Dusting

Dusting is the term given to the light application of a mineral particle applied to the surface of finely cut turf; it is a critical tool in diluting thatch as it accumulates.

Members may know that thatch is the spongy layer of intermingled dead and living shoots, stems and roots of grass that develops between the turf canopy and the soil profile. While some thatch accumulation is desirable too much contributes to poor drainage resulting in moisture trapped in the upper turf canopy, interestingly when thatch is left untreated it can hold around 50% of its weight in water, it can create its own perching resulting in complete anaerobic conditions within the profile, this in turn leads to black algae and moss accumulation, black layer increased fungal and insect activity and root decline. From a playability aspect high thatch results in slower greens more susceptible to pitch marks and foot prints with poor ball roll.

Thatch management at Kingston Beach is paramount; the majority of our greens have never been rebuilt and are still surviving on the pushed up soil they were constructed on many decades ago. This makes our frequent dusting program our most important cultural practice.

We currently apply approx 700g/ per 100m² of Penna sharp sand every 3-4 weeks. This sand is then immediately broomed into the turf canopy resulting in minimal disruption to golfers. The fine dust then integrates in to thatch layer enabling increased infiltration rate, oxygen availability and microbial activity. This is pivotal in reducing the rate of turf senescence.

Adrian Box

Course Superintendent