

## Golf Maintenance Update Summer 2011

Dear All,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your patience and support, during the ongoing maintenance work at the Golf Course.

It is important, that as players you continue to follow the roping, signage, divot and ball-mark repair procedures, that we ask you to respect, as this has a great impact on our grass, and eventually will enhance the Courses playability.

Compaction is an issue on our greens and has a direct influence as to why our greens are not fully established. We are doing our utmost this Summer to eliminate this problem by heavily aerifying (1), verticutting (2) and replacing the bare areas that will not recover. The first session was completed in the end of May and hopefully you may be able to recognize the positive influence it has had.

These activities will be repeated once again, commencing on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July whereby we will once again go on temporary greens for seven days, opening on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Thank you for understanding in advance.

These are the benefits of the practices applied:

- 1) **Aerification** Extraction of core of soil, thatch and grass from the turf. "Breathe air into the root zone"
- 2) **Verticutting** Vertical cutting will reduce the thatch layer. Thatch normally develops between the soil surface and the green leaves of the plants and encourages diseases and abnormal playability.
- 3) **Fertilization/Soil Conditioner** Based on quarterly soil test results, Fertilizer programs will be adjusted to balance the level of nutrients in the soil.
- 4) **Topdressing** Replacement/application of sand/soil to level the treated surfaces.

Furthermore:

- Removal of heavy compaction of red sand - mostly on the Greens and replacing with Silica sand or white sand. Silica sand has a bigger particle size with bigger pore space (air space).
- Releasing toxic gases from the soil
- Stimulating root growth
- Stimulating shoots
- Increase infiltration capacity (deep down movement of water)
- Accelerate drying of persistently wet soils
- Improvement of turf grass response to fertilizer/pesticides.

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