



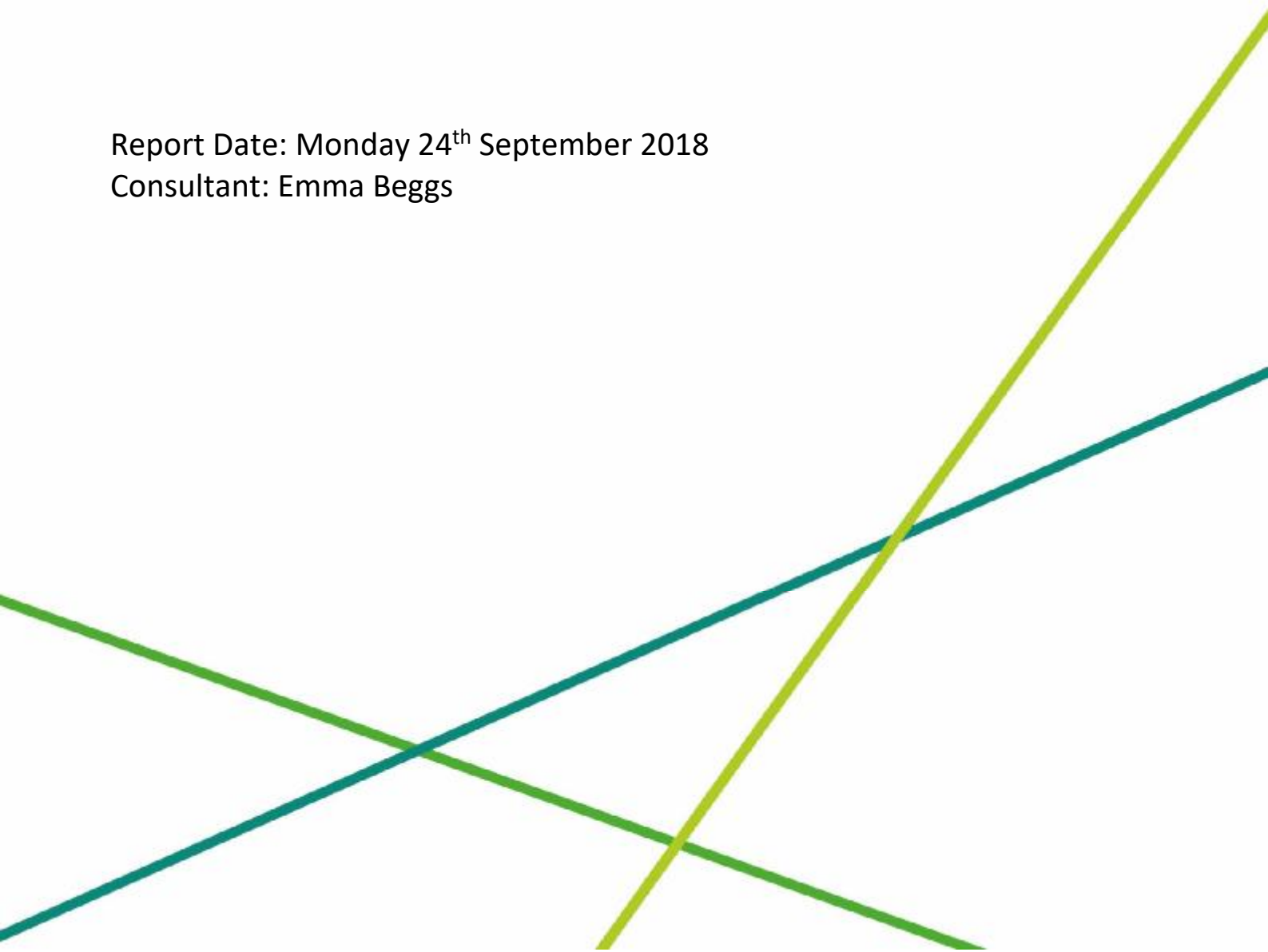
Making great sport happen



PADESWOOD & BUCKLEY GOLF CLUB

Advisory Report on the Golf Course

Report Date: Monday 24th September 2018
Consultant: Emma Beggs



Padeswood & Buckley Golf Club

Date of Visit:	Monday 24 th September 2018
Visit Objective:	To assess course condition and provide recommendations to support further improvements in year round condition.
Present:	Mr Stuart Fogerty – Chairman of Green Mr Stuart Mason – Head Greenkeeper Emma Beggs – Senior Turfgrass Agronomist, STRI Ltd
Weather:	Broken cloud and cool with a temperature of 17 °C.

Headlines

- Weather conditions have been the main overriding factor this year and it has been an extremely challenging 12 month period in which to develop and retain surfaces for play. Weather conditions were persistently wet from August 2017 with exceptional rainfall in September and April. Early March saw severe storms and an unusually cold weather pattern delaying spring recovery. Rain stopped in early May and was immediately followed by high temperatures and drought conditions persisting until the middle of August. Since then more typically showery conditions have returned.
- Greens were presented in fantastic condition and are amongst the best putting surfaces I have seen this year. For the greenkeeping team to achieve this during a year when weather conditions have been so difficult is doubly impressive.
- There has been significant progress on the machinery front during the last 12 months. Main mowing machinery has been replaced with a new Toro Greensmaster TriFlex, a Toro Sidewinder and Toro Reelmaster 3575 fairway machine. Improvements in quality of cut as well as increased efficiency and reliability of machines has made a significant difference out on the course.
- August Maintenance Week was completed very successfully with hollow coring, sand dressing, deep scarifying and multiple bentgrass overseeding with a Vredo unit. Well timed work enabled swift recovery and excellent surfaces were quickly re-instated.

Key Actions

- With such excellent putting surfaces now being maintained, start a programme to improve turf quality on immediate green surrounds. Next season introduce use of a slow release fertiliser and a wetting agent programme. This should significantly improve turf quality at reasonable additional expense.
- Continue to invest in upgrading and expanding the range of equipment available to enable further improvements out on the course. A priority for the start of spring 2019 should be a turf iron. Different models are currently being demonstrated.
- Tree removal should be an ongoing element of the winter programme. Priority areas for this winter should include the 2nd tee, left of 2nd Green, left and back of 3rd Green, back of 4th Green and 16th Tee.
- Invest in a moisture meter. These may be perceived to be expensive but provide valuable objective data on moisture levels beneath greens – something that cannot be assessed visually.
- Verti-drain fairways once ground conditions permit. Take care till then in respect of potential algae formation through thin turf surfaces especially on sloping ground.
- Install irrigation to new chipping green.
- Look at plans to pipe drain an original push up green September 2019. Plan to tackle the 7th/15th the year after.
- Budget for 140-150 tonnes sand dressing on greens next season. These quantities are required to reduce organic matter levels further.

Photo Observations and Comments



Figure 1: Putting surfaces were superb with excellent playing qualities including significant bentgrass, strong and consistent turf density, uniformity of colour and a high standard of presentation. Greens were consistent around the course including the 3rd shown here.



Figure 2: A close up of turf density shown at the 3rd Green was typical of surfaces seen. There was very low level fusarium patch disease activity already checked with repeated fungicide applications. Monitor carefully over coming weeks, disease pressures are expected to be high.



Figure 3: This was typical of soil conditions seen. There remains more organic matter in the upper 50 mm than ideal – this will hold onto moisture for longer promoting softer surfaces following rain/irrigation.



Figure 4: Fairways not surprisingly have been affected by the 3-4 months of hot, dry weather. This is to be expected in the absence of a fairway irrigation system. Proceed with the planned November Verti-drain. Take care till then as surfaces will be prone to algae which is extremely slippery.

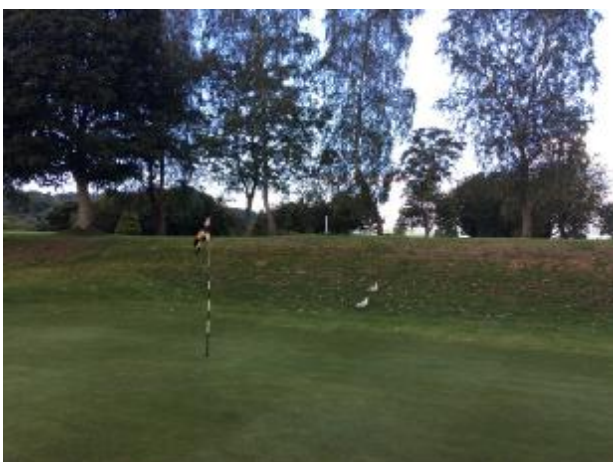


Figure 5: There are pockets of trees that are identified for removal. There remain too many trees on the course near to green and tee complexes. Close mown turf needs sunlight to perform well. Include these trees left of the 2nd.



Figure 6: The Club have most sensibly invested in extending the grey shale path network. Some additional areas are to be included in this winter's programme. Ensuring access through periods of wet weather is critical.

Photo Observations and Comments (continued)



Figure 7: The double 7th/15th Green has performed surprisingly well over the past 12 months. This is prone to softness and water retention and would benefit from the installation of pipe drainage at some point in the near future.



Figure 8: The trial of the artificial revetted turf in the 10th Greenside bunker has been positively received and there are plans to do further bunkers this winter, funds permitting. Overseed the area of thinned commercial turf used around this bunker.



Figure 9: Green surrounds have historically received little in the way of maintenance inputs. Turf quality will be improved relatively easily following the introduction of some additional maintenance.



Figure 10: Root development has certainly improved over the past few years as demonstrated by this core taken from the 14th Green. Rooting usually shrinks upwards following a period of heat and regular automatic irrigation!



Figure 11: The 17th Green remains one of the best on the course as seen here. I am pleased that the 2nd Green now provides a far more compatible surface with the rest than was the case a few years ago.



Figure 12: There is a superb new practice Chipping Green being developed. Good progress has been achieved. Make sure automatic irrigation is installed this winter well ahead of next spring.

Recommendations

Greens Maintenance

- Turf density is currently very strong, therefore suspend any additional bentgrass seeding treatments now the weather has started to change and retain any seed in stock for use next year.
- Go ahead with the planned Air2G2 aeration treatment to greens in the next few weeks. Continuing to vary the type and depth of aeration is important to promote root depth and density. Build on the progress achieved in the last few years.
- Disease pressures are expected to be high this autumn on the back of the hot, dry summer. Continue to carefully monitor for signs of disease. Continue with preventative fungicide spraying through the next 10 weeks or so or until colder, less humid weather has set in. Continue with regular applications of iron, seaweed, etc. to maintain plant health.
- A suggested change for next spring is in respect of the fertiliser programme. Following discussion we agreed that the 3:0:3 (N:P:K) will be applied during the first break in the weather. This can happen around the end of February. If it is possible get this early feed on. Then make a repeat application in mid-late March – timing depending on whether an early application was fitted in. Employ the same 3:0:3 product. Four weeks later in mid-late April apply a nitrogen only mini granular formulation. We agreed the Symbio SS/D 8.0.0 + 2.5% Fe + 0.5% Mg product would be worth using next spring. Once the effects of this grow out is evident then revert to a liquid programme. The extra application of a mini granule product will help the speed of spring pick-up and has shown to be more effective than reverting to liquids too early in the spring. A fertiliser programme containing an element of both mini granular and liquid products does tend to give the best results.
- Revolution wetting agent proved it's worth this season and it is strongly recommended that this continues to be used next year. Schedule applications in mid-March and mid-April even if the weather remains wet/showery. Continue with 4 weekly applications after that.
- August Maintenance Week is working extremely well here. Ensure this is adopted in to the 2019 Fixture List. Repeat the same programme of work with hollow coring, deep scarifying, sand dressing and bent overseeding. On this site continue with browntop bentgrasses in preference to creeping bent.

Golf Green Hole Cups

- There has been some concern raised recently about the condition of the holes cut in greens. I can confirm that hole changing is being completed in the correct way and as often as required – indeed increasing frequency would mean that pin positions would be used up too quickly. These are small greens with limited options for pin placement.
- With all the progress in the make-up beneath the greens (increasing sand content/developing root depth/reducing organic matter levels) they are now firmer than they used to be following rain or irrigation. Consequently, greens will be less prone to softness/movement under foot traffic than ever before.
- Can I suggest that golfers are encouraged to avoid standing overly close to the hole cup when retrieving golf balls – too much foot traffic close to the cup will result in the turf surface becoming crowned or indeed out of shape.
- This winter take the opportunity to place pin positions close to green edges and around the perimeter of the green than would be the case in spring/summer. This enables wear and tear to be spread more evenly across the whole of the green and protects main (important) summer pin positions from winter damage. There are no rules governing pin placements on greens.

Greens Pipe Drainage

- Pipe drainage installation has been discussed in the past as a cheaper solution to reconstructing greens.
- Consider having a contractor pipe drain a green in autumn 2019 or explore options around doing work in-house. I attach a leaflet covering this in more detail. Note that with the absence of available blinding grits it will be necessary to proceed with a two layer construction with rootzone sitting on a smaller gravel aggregate.
- Install pipe drainage at 2m centres.
- This work should be done when conditions are suitable in the autumn and finished as early as is feasible.
- If the ground is worked when conditions are wet than this will have a significant impact on the soil structure and will ultimately lead to deterioration in the quality of the putting surface. There may also be significant damage caused to the haul routes during the works if the ground is too soft.
- There must be sufficient time allowed for the turf to re-establish along drain lines prior to bringing the greens back into use late next spring. Keep the green out of play over the winter.
- Ensure you avoid an overly sandy/droughty rootzone as backfill. Employ a 60/40 type material such as the Bathgate's Re-Root discussed previously. This will provide some compatibility with the rest of the green however note that particularly in the early years after installation drain lines will have a tendency to dry out and lose turf colour/density on the drain lines due to the freer draining profile. Sufficient hand watering of new drain lines becomes key in dry spells.

Green Surrounds

- Introduce the use of a slow release fertiliser on all green surrounds from next spring.
- Introduce the use of a wetting agent on surrounds. Due to the expense of Revolution consider employing the Fifty90 used successfully on tees instead.
- If some additional aeration can also be completed this would be beneficial.
- Monitor improvements before considering additional overseeding work (bent/fescue) and dressing inputs as these are more expensive options.

Fairways

- Following the drought fairways are holding moisture at the surface after rain. This means it is likely that algae or 'squidge' could develop through wetter/weaker sloping areas. Algae in turf is extremely slippery so take care to monitor this autumn. Aeration or methods as for moss control are the best ways to tackle it should it appear.
- Ensure all fairways are Verti-drained in early November. This is a really critical treatment in terms of improving fairway drainage and keeping the course playable and in good condition for as much as possible through the winter.

Machinery

- Invest in an accurate moisture meter to enable soil moisture content to be monitored. During dry spells it is important that sufficient water is available but accurate data information allows overwatering to be avoided. As we look to reduce organic matter levels being able to make informed decisions about the need to water/hand water/not water is important. Over watering results in greater organic matter production – something we are trying to avoid. Consider the Delta T ML3 portable kit as used by the STRI agronomist which retail for around £1,000 <https://www.delta-t.co.uk/product/ml3-kit/>.
- It is recommended that the Club invest in a turf iron not only to enable green speeds to be further improved but to allow turf health to be improved whilst maintaining playing quality. For example a cut can be dropped on a quiet day of the week, ironing instead to maintain pace yet the plant has a rest from

the physical damage of mowing. Alternatively the height of cut can be relaxed slightly again with no impact on pace. Surfaces can also be settled after necessary aeration work. The aim should be to iron twice a week or so between April and September when ground conditions are suitable. Do not be tempted to iron routinely more than two-three times a week.

Tree Removal

- Tree removal should be an ongoing element of the winter programme. Where work has been completed results are significant in terms of improved turf quality. Tree shade is a significant problem where close mown turf is being maintained. Priority areas for this winter should include the 2nd tee, left of 2nd Green, left and back of 3rd Green, back of 4th Green and 16th Tee.

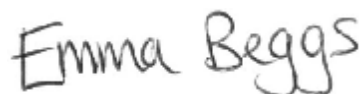
Chipping Green

- The development of a new practice chipping green is excellent – a great facility for members as well as a source of turf for emergency repairs (e.g. left back section of 13th Green) for the main greens. Commercial turf never copes well with close mowing and play.
- Install automatic irrigation to this new green area as a part of the winter projects – then if it turns dry next spring/summer the progress being achieved with seed and sand inputs, etc. will not be wasted.

Tees

- Try to fit in an autumn tees renovation programme to include solid tining and sand dressing as well as overseeding with a good quality perennial ryegrass/fescue seed mix. Tees have coped pretty well with the dry summer but support recovery before winter.
- Next year continue with the Fifty90 wetting agent but if possible budget for two applications to build on the progress achieved this year.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emma Beggs' in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

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