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7th August 2019

Dear Jeremy,

Ref: Condition of the greens

As discussed, during my recent visit and inspection of several greens at Rushden Golf Club, I have no hesitation in commending the ongoing work and continued improvement in the quality of the putting surfaces and underlying soil profile.

The root zone material, initially used for the construction of the new greens was deemed unsuitable and still, remains an underlying issue, although, the detrimental effects of compaction, poor drainage, sward development, etc associated with this soil is being mitigated somewhat by the strategy of ongoing aeration, supplementary drainage and use of top-dressing material, essentially, ignoring the indigenous material beneath. Indeed, it was pleasing to note the current accumulated depth of top-dressing and strong corresponding roots. Consequently, there is no hesitation in advising continuation of the current work and to avoid a root break, when undertaking further top dressing, you should also adhere to using your current 70:30 mix.

The presentation of the sward on the greens has improved immensely, particularly the growth habit after the relatively recent acquisition of a mower with grooming reels. In fact, this was one of the main criticisms that could be directed at the grass cover on the greens over recent years and the change in this, aspect, has undoubtedly bought considerable improvement to the quality of the putting surfaces.

The colour of the sward was a little irregular at the time of the visit, although the visible input of granular fertiliser, once activated can be expected to enhance growth and presentation through August. Generally, this is a further area for improvement and should be a focus during 2020 now you have access to a sprayer and the ability, to gain greater control by using liquid as well as granular fertiliser products.

Yours sincerely

Joe Kinder B.Sc (Hons) BASIS FACTS