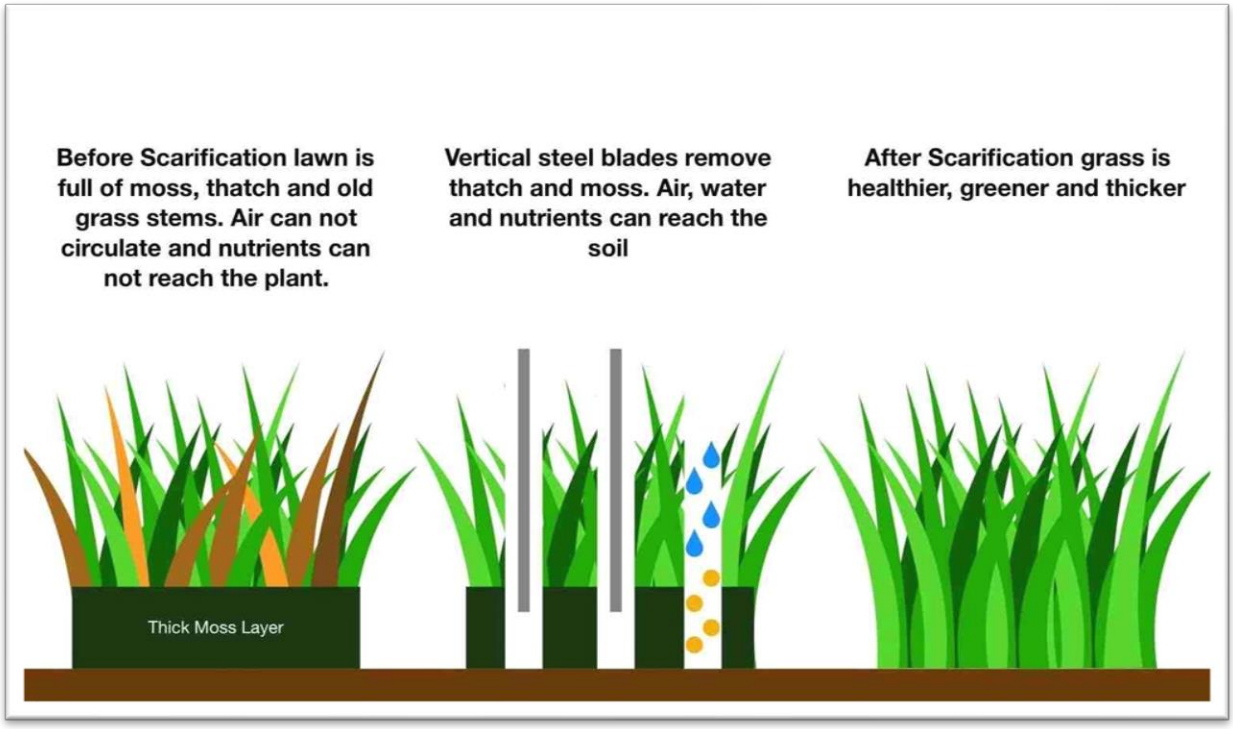
Dear Members

Firstly congratulations to Guernsey Golf Union men's team for winning the Challenge Trophy over the weekend. I was fortunate enough to get out and watch on both days. The standard of golf from both sides was a pleasure to see, whilst all the matches were close the Guernsey team moved up a gear on the Sunday singles comfortably winning 12.5 – 7.5

As we draw to the end of the golfing season it is time to give a little back to the course that has stood up to the vast amount of play experienced this year. We will shortly commence our greens renovations during our maintenance week.

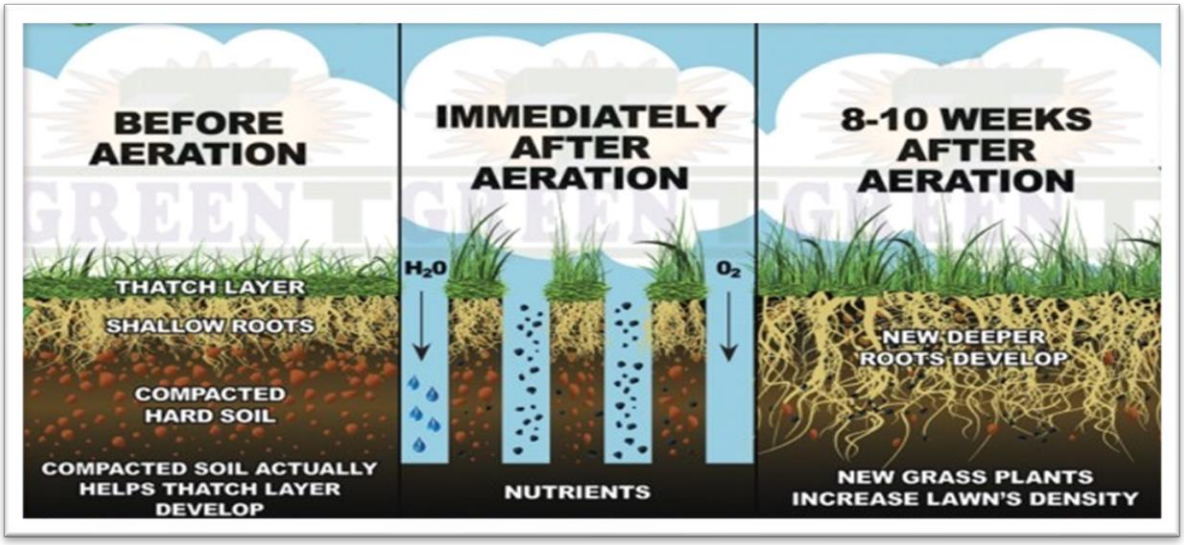
My aim is to scarify our putting surfaces in two directions to a depth of 10mm below the surface. Scarification removes unwanted lateral growth and dead plant material and opens up the surface for topdressing sand to mesh in to. Slicing the grass surface helps encourage the grass to grow upright resulting in a truer, faster putting surface.

Scarification removes thatch which is a buildup of organic matter and is comprised of dead grass, leaves, shoots, roots and stolon's.



(Benefits of Scarification)

The putting surfaces will then be core cultivated using a 12mm diameter hollow core. The benefits of core aeration are huge especially with the higher organic matter content we have in the greens at L'Ancresse. Thousands of cores are physically removed from the putting surfaces having a great impact on the amount of thatch that has accumulated, by pulling a core it removes part of the thatch layer. Other benefits include gaseous exchange where carbon dioxide and other poisonous gasses are released and oxygen levels replenished. Compaction relief thus improving drainage and soil water uptake.



(*Benefits of Core Aeration)*

We will then overseed using Fescue grass seed cultivars. Fescue is the ideal grass for links golf. Fescue has a very fine leaf and is the ideal grass for links putting surfaces. We have many weed grasses that also make up our greens at L'Ancresse these are generally coarse leaved and are not suitable for putting greens. Our aim over the coming years is to try and make an impact on reducing these coarse grasses and create an environment where the finer fescues will flourish. Fescue has many benefits other than its superior playing characteristics with it being drought tolerant reducing our water inputs. Fescue also needs far less nutrient support than that of the other weed grasses within our greens thus reducing fertilizer inputs. Finally Fescue is an incredibly disease tolerant turf grass and will further reduce our need for fungicides. Obviously this does not happen overnight and we must keep seeding our greens. Over the coming years with the correct management we should start to see a swing in the balance where the Fescue grasses start to out compete the weed grasses and start to dominate the overall sward.

Top dressing sand application will be made to the greens using 40 tons of material. This will fill the core holes and give the fescue seed the ideal bed to germinate. Topdressing also furthermore dilutes the organic matter content regains surface smoothness aids in soil exchange for an improved rootzone that helps in producing firmer, truer playing surfaces.

I expect the greens after completion to take three weeks to fully recover. I understand this has a great impact on the surface quality but these essential works are a necessary evil for the overall health of the putting surfaces going forward.

If you are playing next week please be mindful of the Greenkeepers working on certain greens. The guys have a lot to get through. If you find yourself on a hole where work is being carried out please pick up and move to the next hole.

Finally we have had some rain and the course in particular the fairways are slowly starting to recover. This will take time. After maintenance week we will be applying seaweed, amino and fulvic acids, carbohydrates and sugars. Applying these will stimulate the grass plants metabolic activities that will aid recovery from the drought stressed grass plant. We will also be applying a small amount of ammonium sulphate Nitrogen fertiliser which will encourage top growth aiding recovery further.

Leather Jackets

Over the next few weeks we will start to see the emergence of developed Crane fly (Daddy Long Legs). These insects are coming to the end of their life cycle where they have been under the turf all year feeding and will soon emerge as Crane fly. Once they emerge they will mate, the female will lay up to 400 eggs back in to the turf they then die and the cycle starts again.

I am pleased to stay that like the U.K the States of Guernsey have issued us with an emergency approval license to treat these pests for this year.

Treating these pests timing really is essential. Once we see the main hatch of Crane fly flying around we must wait 5 weeks from then to know the eggs they have laid are hatched and are now juvenile leather jackets starting to feed on the turf. This is when we must treat to gain maximum control. If I

could ask any members from now that start to spot any Crane fly around usually in hall ways etc to let us know as getting the main hatch period is paramount to our control success.

(Crane Fly (Daddy Longlegs)

As from maintenance week the greenkeepers will begin taking some well earned holidays. We will at times have lower staff numbers but we will do our best to keep the course in as best shape as we possibly can.

I will update everyone next month on the progress of maintenance week and our planned works through the winter months. I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer months golf and are looking forward to next season.

Kind Regards

Ollie