

## COVID RESTRICTED WORKS SCHEDULE L'ANCRESSE GREENKEEPING

### TEAM 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

#### **Dear Members**

We have had a productive week and many loan working jobs have been carried out. Whilst there has been no golf on the course I chose to aerate three of our closely mown playing surfaces. Aeration is a slow process that is an essential part of quality turf maintenance. Although golfers find it incredibly frustrating it is a necessary evil that will help promote the highest quality surfaces the membership require. My aim is to give a brief insight in to the two machines utilised this week.

#### **AIR 2 G2 GREENS AERATION**

This week the Air 2 G2 machine aerated all of the putting surfaces at L'Ancrese. With the recent weather the aim is to open up the pore spaces and increase infiltration rates through the putting green rootzone enabling the greens to move surface water through the profile. We have completed 12 greens this week and will have all completed by the end of next week.



#### **Operating the Air 2 G2 1<sup>st</sup> Green**

The Air2 G2 machine is a modern piece of equipment arriving from the USA in recent years and is growing in popularity in most sports turf maintenance programs. It works by sending 3 probes down to twelve inches' depth there are holes punctured in the tines at six inches then again at the tip of the tine at twelve inches. The Air2G2 then injects compressed air from eighteen to twenty-four

inches horizontally throughout the soil profile causing a great amount of fracturing and increasing macro porosity and compaction relief aiding deep rooting healthy turf . The pressure and spacing can be adjusted due to the differing ground conditions that can be encountered but standard spacing are at fifty centimetre intervals.



### Air2G2 Operation

The Air2G2 is a slow operation but causes minimal surface disturbance. It would seem Golf Course Managers are starting to move over to this practice rather than Verti-draining golf greens due to the minimal disruption to play whilst achieving far greater results.

It should be noted that a golfer who has a putt of twenty feet will only putt over up to five holes after this practice, whereas the same putt after Verti-draining the golfers ball will encounter up to fifty aeration holes.

I believe this machine is the future of aeration causing minimal disturbance whilst achieving unrivalled results.

### Vert-Drain Fairways and Approaches Aeration

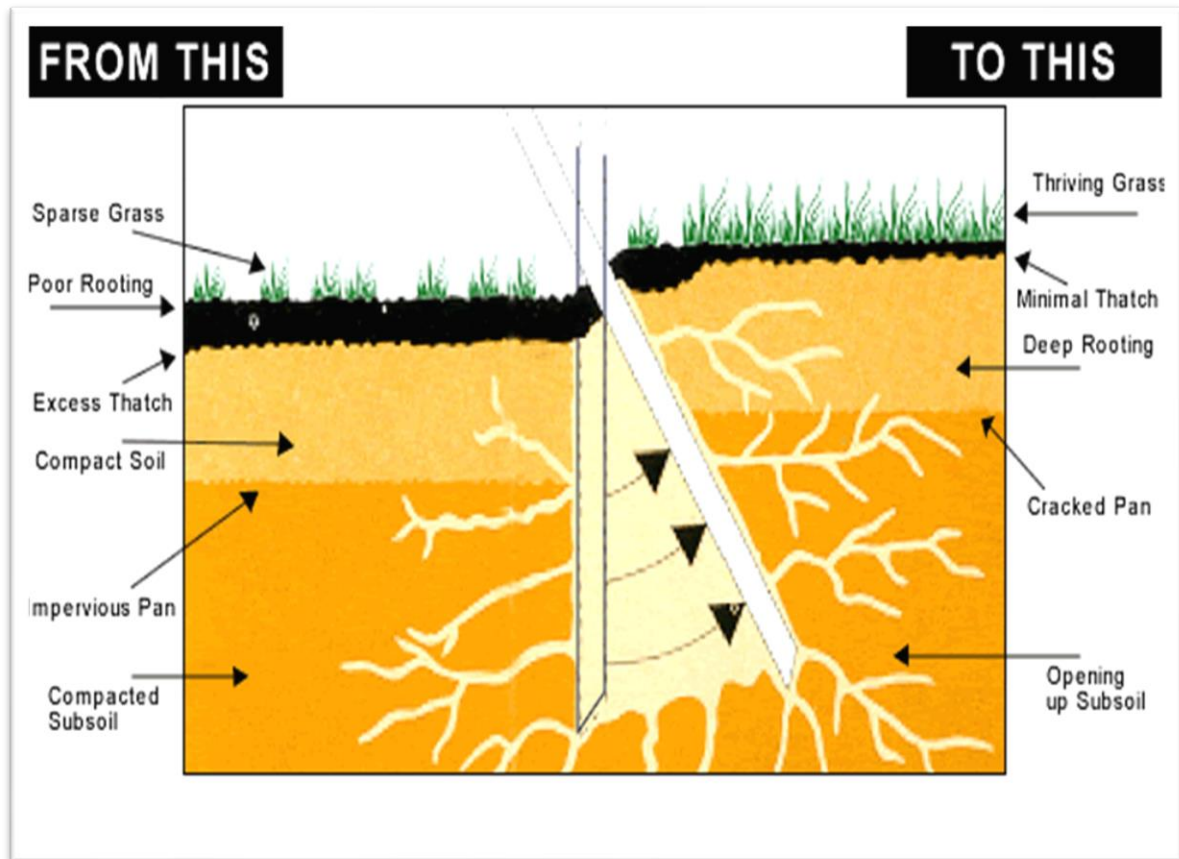
The Green staff have also been aerating the fairways and Approaches with the Verti – Drain machine. This also is a long process we have completed 7 fairways to date and I am confident all 14 fairways will be complete by the end of next week. We have left our wettest fairways until last hoping they will dry up to achieve maximum results.



**Verti-Draining 9<sup>th</sup> Fairways**

The Verti-Drain is a tractor mounted aeration machine introduced to the U.K in 1982 from Holland. The Verti-Drain's primary use is to relieve soil compaction that occurs from golfing traffic and greenkeeping practices. It also creates channels through undesirable layering within the soil profile. Benefits also include greater drainage in poor soils and deep rooting turf.

Much like core aeration Verti-Draining creates very high surface disturbance so communication with golfers and management is key. This is difficult as the soil conditions have to be in no more than a moist state making informing of the membership in plenty of time near on impossible. The Verti-Drain works in a way that as it enters the rootzone it will also have a heaving motion as it reaches its desired depth, this in a moist soil will open up pour spaces within the profile. Solid tines may up lift and fracture the soil mass during extraction with substantial increases in soil macro porosity and the benefits are most pronounced when executed in dry soils; conversely, if soil moisture is high no improvements in soil macro porosity may occur.



**Benefits of Verti-Drain tines with heave action on dry to moist soils**

Verti-Drain machines can usually reach depths of up to 300 millimetres and tine diameters range from thirteen to twenty-five millimetres. Centres will vary depending on machine but are usually between 50 millimetres and 200 millimetres making sure a square even pattern is always achieved and always aerate in the same direction to achieve maximum results.

## Course Surface Water

Currently the team are setting the pumps every day and ensuring all outlets are kept clear of debris and are running free. I am happy to report that our efforts are paying off and the standing water around the course is decreasing by the day.

Whilst the Greenkeepers have been going round the course moving pumps they have been tasked with trimming yardage tee markers and straightening, fairway plate markers and straightening the 150 yardage posts.



**Pumping Work All Week Paying Off**



**Straightened Posts and Tee Yardage Markers Fairway Plates trimmed Also**

## Greens Hand Mowed

This week the greens received 2 hand mows on Monday and Friday. Hand mowing creates far superior surfaces to that of using ride on equipment but comes at a cost not only taking longer but using half the staff to complete. One staff member step counted for his Monday hand mow of the greens this is to give an idea on how far the green keepers walk when hand mowing most averaging in a day around 15-20K +



**Hand mowing 18<sup>TH</sup> Green**

## Tees and Approaches



### **Tees and Approaches Mown**

This week the team have mowed the Tees and Approaches for the first time in around six weeks. Works are due to commence on these surfaces in the coming weeks to treat the moss and scarify. I believe the turf quality on the approaches should be of a far superior quality and works to address this will continue over the coming years.

We also sanded and painted all O.B. posts lining the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Holes and currently the Green staff are out Tee divotting now the material has arrived.

### **O.B. Posts Painted Tees being Divotted**



## Putting Green Tidy Up

Green staff edged and tidied the putting green border. When resources are available I would suggest the sleepers be replaced, half round edging on the other side of the path and fresh stone dust brought in. I believe first impressions count and we will continue to tidy around the 1<sup>st</sup> tee – 18<sup>th</sup> Green area. Many path edges need replacing and hopefully overtime when resources are available a first class finish can be achieved.



**Putting Green Border Over Grown with Weeds**



**Putting Green Border Edged and Weeded**

## Bunkers

I am pleased to report that all the bunkers are complete. All have been hand weeded on the faces and within the sand. Brushed and blown. Next week we will fly mow edges, trim with shears instead of a strimmer that is currently used, doing this will not erode the bunker edge how an aggressive strimmer does. We aim to have in most part the bunkers playable for Saturday although one or two have water currently in. We will be shaping and raking also. Once funds become available extra bunker sand is required in certain hazards.



**Bunkers Weeded Blown & Brushed**

## Greens Fertilization

An application of fertilizer was made to the greens on Friday. This is due to poor quality of turf that appeared quite stressed and damaged from the Leather Jackets underneath feeding off the plants root system, the turf also seems to be suffering from chlorosis in areas.

During February the turf is still really dormant and fertilization carried out is generally just with Elements that harden the plant to aid it through the tough winter months. An application of 4-0-14+2MgO+8Fe was applied this is a type of fertilizer that is designed to harden and not promote a flush of growth. This will also check any moss that has accumulated over the winter. I am hoping we get the rain over this weekend that was forecast to wash the fertilizer in to the soil.



**Fertilizer Application 16<sup>th</sup> Green**

## Yardage Plates Replacement

The current yardage plates have seen better days and are in need of replacement, hopefully in the coming years this can be looked at.



## Tee Yardage Stones Replacement

Next week we will be concentrating on the greens and general set up of the course. To achieve a course in as good condition as possible when golf recommences.

Lastly I would like to thank Golf Course Management Board and Sub Committee's for giving the Greenkeepers a chance next week with reduced restrictions to undertake essential works that will ensure the course is ready for play when the time is right.

I understand everyone involved would have been under increased pressure from their respected memberships to open, whilst seeing other clubs opening on the Island makes that decision somewhat tougher.

I hope this has given you all a brief description on works that were carried out last week. If you would like any more info please get in contact.

Kind Regards

Ollie

