

GOLF MAINTENANCE MEMBERS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2023



**SECRET
VALLEY**
GOLF RESORT

Dear Member,

I hope this update finds you all well, below you will find a brief description of golf maintenance practices that have been undergoing and works to be carried out in the upcoming weeks ahead.



It has been a cold wet start to the month with some strong winds, we have had approximately 70mm of rainfall on the course since February 1st this equates to 70 litres of rainfall per squarer meter. This has led to some disruption with buggies not being allowed out on the golf course along with some early morning frosts that we have had over the last week, As the golf course is sat down in a valley and is quite heavily tree lined it takes a while for the sun to come up and thaw out especially on the front 9, When we do get a heavy frost like on Thursday 9th February it is essential that we minimise the amount of traffic in order to avoid unnecessary damage to the Bermuda grass, The damage to the Bermuda grass would lead to a slower recovery coming out of winter dormancy and provide a better growing environment for undesirable weeds and turf grasses ultimately leading to a lower quality playing surface.



Mark Cole

The greens have recovered well following the renovation in December on February 13th & 14th we will start with our light aeration program on the greens which will commence once per month, below you will see some pictures of what to expect as the operation is in progress this will be followed by the greens being hand mowed to minimise disruption to play to the putting surface. This work is essential for the health of the greens and offers an aggressive soil aeration for increased gas exchange and water infiltration whilst promoting new root growth and strictly limiting the risk of turf damage.



Above you can see the aeration incision created via the slicing tine. ↑↑↑



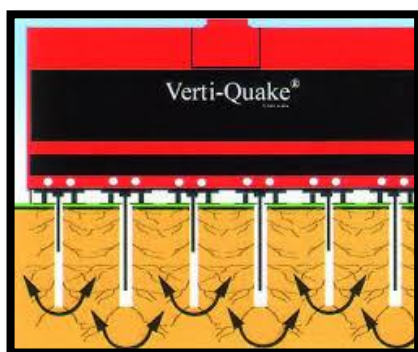
Tree Management Program.

As the years go by and the trees grow taller the canopy becomes more dense with excess foliage thus restricting the turf grass of light, reducing the natural air flow, Tree roots compete with the turf grass for vital nutrients and water, Excessive shade from the trees located to the south or east of essential turf grass areas inhibit the turf grass from its natural photosynthesis and can cause excessive winter damage when the day light hours are much less. It is paramount that we thin out areas on the golf course in order to produce a better growing environment for the turf grass thus increasing playability conditions. Also thinning out the trees will provide a better growing environment for the trees them selves allowing them to mature upright as opposed to over competing with one another and growing laterally, creeping more and more into the maintained turf areas as they seek more direct sunlight. Trees are an integral part of any golf course, but they must be managed in conjunction with the turf grass to provide sustainable, healthy and quality playing conditions all round.

Tree works so far have taken place on the right side of Hole 1 – left side of 16th Tees – right side of Hole 10 – right side of 13th Fairway and the right side of Hole 5th adjacent to the tree works on 13. I would like to push on as much as possible with the larger tree work when weather permits before the main growing season is upon us. These areas are but not limited to Hole 4: left side – Hole 5: right side by tees – 7th carry – 15th carry.

Verti Quake Fairways and Rough

We are now nearing completion of our winter aeration program throughout the Bermuda grass turf. This procedure has been carried out across all fairways and rough throughout the last four weeks. The Vertiquake blades cutting through the soil creates a wave action that shatters any build up of compacted areas and opens the subsoil allowing for better water percolation particular throughout the summer months allowing the water to get down to the turf grass roots, improve the natural surface drainage and increase the drought tolerance of the native soil whilst allowing essential gas exchange and help establishing root development.



Mark Cole

Top Dressing

Next week on the 20th February we will perform a light verti-cut and dusting to the greens, There will only be a small amount of sand applied and will just be watered in via the irrigation system with greens mowing continuing as normal from the Wednesday,

IMPORTANT ANOUNCMENT

From Tuesday 21st of February we will be applying the 1st application of our pre-emergent herbicide on all bermudagrass areas

I expect this procedure to take approximately 9 days – Monday to Friday.

This is crucial and is the foundation of our weed control program to help prevent the germination of undesirable weed seeds that would like to grow on the golf course as we have seen with the poa annua this winter.

This product has been known to cause some discolouration to shoes, particularly for morning players.

It is advisable to wear some old golf shoes if possible during this time and apologies in advance for any inconvenience.

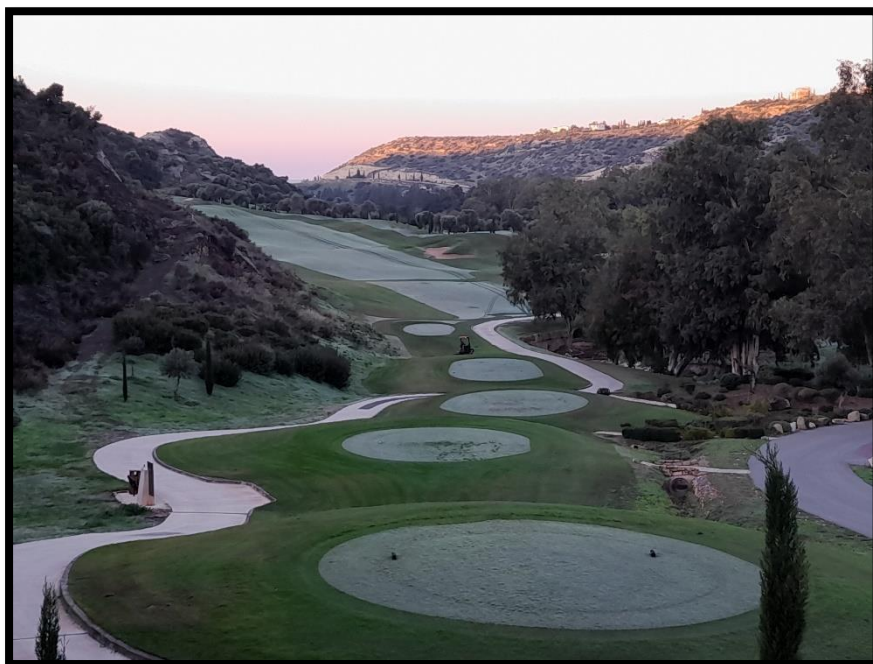
Should you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch or stop me out on the golf course.

Regards

Mark Cole

Golf Course Superintendent

superintendent@secretvalleygolfclub.com



Mark Cole