SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

1. **S A Nationals** : While this took place quite a number of weeks back, it is never too late to thank all of you and your greens assistants for the effort that was put in to provide high quality greens for the Nationals. Most of the participants were generous in their praise of the greens that they encountered during the event. As noted in our Annual Report, we were also most grateful to Oakdale B C and Bellville B C for stepping in at the last moment to fill the gap caused by the forced withdrawal of greens by certain Clubs.

2. **Soil temperatures**: At the time of writing this newsletter, the soil temperatures of the greens with which I am involved are approaching 16 ^{0}C at a depth of 50mm. At this stage the roots are dormant and any leaf growth is dependent on stored carbohydrate. But with good weather forecast and the soil warming up, we should soon be approaching the 18 ^{0}C point at which root growth kicks in and vertical leaf development speeds up. This is followed a few weeks later by horizontal leaf growth.

3. **Renovations:** What the above tells us is that, any time from now onwards, the important task of aerating the turf and removing the accumulated mat could take place. Whatever your planned programme is for your greens, may we again remind you not to be afraid to remove as much of the mat as possible. It can look quite frightening to see a green, after scarification, without a hint of green, but if the soil temperature is at the acceptable level, the green will respond very quickly.

4. **Winter grass**: If you have lingering patches of winter grass, you might be interested to note that if you lightly water the green before scarification, and you follow the custom of scarifying in separate directions, the scarification removes almost all the winter grass.

5. **Levels:** The taking of levels is a critical part of the renovation process. This is probably extra important this year as the heavy rains have led, in a number of instances, to hollows developing on greens. If you need help or guidance regarding the taking of levels, please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

6. **Moisture levels**: As mentioned above, the effect of the very good rains we have had recently, can be shown when taking a core sample. At root depth, on many of our greens, the moisture content is high. Avoid over watering, and continue to monitor the levels.

7. **Fertilising:** Research has shown that, when applying fertiliser via the venturi, it helps to irrigate for 5 minutes prior to application. This opens up the passages to the root system. The application can be followed by 10 minutes of irrigation.

8. **Merado:** It is most unfortunate that, when most needed, the WPBA mini-corer Merado has had to be sent to the distributors in Mossel Bay for major overhaul. We will inform our GKPs via the WhatApp group when the Merado is back in operation.

9. **W P Competitions**: A change to the programme this year involves the Fours being played from 20 November onwards. Many Clubs have chosen this time to renovate. PLEASE LET ME KNOW (thepworth@mweb.co.za) IF YOU WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GREENS AT THIS TIME.