March 2025 Newsletter

This newsletter concentrates on a number issues that need to be addressed at this time of year.

WATERING

With the high temperatures and strong winds, we are currently experiencing, it is important to ensure that your greens are watered sufficiently. At this time of year, you should aim to apply approximately 40,000 litres of water per green per week to ensure that your turf grass remains healthy. In an ideal situation each green should be watered twice a week applying 20,000 litres of water each time. Remember that there are really only two things that will stunt or kill grass, lack of water and poisoning.

GROOMING BEFORE A COMPETITION

When preparing a green for a competition, you should try to ensure that your grooming takes place on a Monday or Tuesday. This will allow for the green to "settle down", prior to its use for a competitive match. Regular grooming will improve the performance of your green, especially its speed. Grooming also helps mitigate the effects of different grass species that are almost certain to be present on a green. At times you will need to concentrate on any areas of thicker grass to try and ensure an even mat. After grooming, it is recommended that the green is brushed to remove any dead grass and disturbed soil, which may damage your mower blades when you next cut the green.

DEALING WITH HEAVY USAGE

This time of year, the demand placed on a bowling green can lead to damage being caused to the turf grass. There are a number of things that can be done to mitigate the effects of overuse short of closing a green. The first is to ensure that your rink placements are moved at least once a week, and more often if needed. The second is to restrict grooming of the perimeter of a green from the ditch to the two-metre line, where the heaviest foot traffic is likely to occur. The third is not to cut below 4mm in hot or windy conditions, which can lead to stressed areas. Where bare or stressed areas develop, treat the affected areas with a mixture of 1 litre GroBest and 1 litre Molasses, mixed with 50 litres of water, after applying a light dusting of top dressing to any bare areas.

TREATMENT OF WINTER GRASS

You are reminded that for the most effective treatment of winter grass, treatment should take place at the end of February beginning of March. At the moment the most cost-effective treatment is Lawntyl. The application of Lawntyl should be carefully controlled, as over application can cause damage to the turf grass. In order to obviate potential damage, it is suggested that an initial dose of 160 ml of Lawntyl per green be applied. If necessary, a further similar application can be applied about a week later.