SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

Running lines
It can often be misleading to refer to the performance of a specific **green.** A green comprises a number of rinks played in two different directions. And these rinks behave differently – as I am sure your members have told you regularly– for a number of reasons. It is our challenge as Greenkeepers to attempt to rectify these inconsistencies.

While many bowlers will take a very slow, or even a bumpy rink in their stride, the biggest frustration tends to involve a rink where the bowl "hangs" or "wanders off". There can be a number of reasons for this, a few of which we offer below.

Most of us have Heinz greens, in other words those that have a variety of grasses. At certain times of the season one strain will grow more vigorously. This longer and coarser grass will negate the bias causing the bowl to run straight for a while. The GKP needs to groom these areas aggressively, not just part of the normal routine but tackling these patches from all directions.

Another cause of these problematic running lines is a difference in levels, involving high and low points. Stretch a piece of string at right angles to the rink, anchored at both ends. Look at the shadow that the string casts. The deviations will highlight the low and high spots. The high points can be scarified down. Alternatively, lightly water the area, take cores out of the high spots, and then water again and roll.
The nap of the green, very prominent on Bayview greens, typically results in a narrow hand and a swinger. This can be neutralised to an extent by changing the direction of your cut regularly. A monthly box cut, parallel to the banks, can also help.

Levels
Previous newsletters have stressed the importance of this exercise. Experience has shown that the levels can change significantly during one season, particularly in high rainfall areas.
BSA has underlined the role that levels play by recommending that a score of only 5/30 be allocated to those Clubs who do not provide regular level profiles using the Corbett system.

Self-evaluation of greens
We continue to urge Clubs to carry out regular self-evaluations of their greens using the BSA Evaluation Form and the Guidelines for Evaluation which were sent to all Clubs. Regular evaluation by GKPs, their staff and interested members of the Club, can not only identify some of the "weak areas" but also measure the progress that is being made in other areas.
If you are not in possession of the guideline's pamphlet, please contact Trevor Wheeler at gbaybcmc@gmail.com

Overwatering
The grass roots at some of our Clubs have suffered from over-watering. This can be prevented by testing regularly with a simple moisture meter, obtainable from most nurseries. One needs to push the probe down to root level to determine whether irrigation is necessary

Brushing
Some of us are fortunate enough to be in possession of a brush. We use this piece of equipment to pick up the cuttings that have escaped the bin after grooming or mowing. But if you do not have a brush, use an ordinary garden rotary mower to “hoover” up the dead grass. A huge amount of grass normally avoids being trapped in the bin. Just look at your green after heavy rain. Inevitably, there is a band of dead grass heaped up near one of the banks.

Renovation
As a result of a number of enquiries from GKPs, we will be providing a fairly detailed document of the procedures that should/could take place during the annual renovation of ones’ greens. We hope to send this to GKPs soon.

We would also remind Clubs that the later they schedule their annual renovation, the better. With high soil temperatures in November resulting in good growth, the “out of play” time for a green can be as little as three weeks.