

The President
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SELF-EVALUATION OF GREENS: REPORT BACK TO CLUBS

The WPBA Greens Care Committee wishes to thank all those Clubs who participated in the recent self-evaluation of their greens. 85% of the Clubs were able to submit their evaluations by the November deadline.

As mentioned previously, the main objective of the exercise was to encourage Clubs to carry out regular evaluations which would allow them to identify problem areas. A secondary objective, which we hope has been partly achieved, is to close the gap between the ratings given by BSA or WPBA and those of the Clubs themselves.

The main findings arising from the submissions were the following;

1. Levels; a significant number of Clubs had not used the Cubitt Programme in establishing their levels (Cubitt uses a 2m grid and a programme that calculates the BSA score ex 30). These Clubs will be requested to update their levels profiles over the next few months using the Cubitt programme to allow uniformity in establishing final scores and gradings.
2. Run-off: As implemented by BSA and WPBA inspectors, ANY run-off along a side will earn the maximum penalty of 2.5 points for that particular margin (side).
3. Pests/diseases/weeds: While leniency is applied where there is evidence of the GKP taking remedial measures, one still has to penalise oneself if there is a problem. In other words, if there is fungus on the green which has been treated, one cannot award your green a 4; similarly, if there are signs of ants, but the green has been treated, one still has to acknowledge the presence of ants by deducting a mark or two.
4. Compaction: It was noted that a few Clubs chose to ignore this section. Severe compaction can have a huge influence on turf growth, hence our recommendation that GKPs continue to test compaction levels.
5. Half-points; Most of us feel that the range of 10 points per item (ie Grass cover, mat thickness etc) is big enough. We would therefore discourage half points being awarded.

The allocating of points to a particular item is challenging, both for members of the Greens Care Committee and our GKPs. Much of this is subjective. That is why we prepared the Guidance Pamphlet to help Clubs to carry out the evaluation. But this goes only half way to solving the problem. We would welcome feedback from Clubs indicating where they had difficulty in allocating points. This will help us streamline the exercise.

Where we feel Clubs had problems in carrying out the evaluation, we will be contacting these Clubs directly.

Should any Clubs appreciate a follow-up visit over the next few months, please contact me on 0732671751 or at thepworth@mweb.co.za

Thank you for your efforts in raising the standards of our greens.

Terry Hepworth
Convener
WPBA Greens Care Committee