

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

FOLLOW UP ON SELF EVALUATION EXERCISE

Levels

In response to Green Keepers regarding the application of the Cubitt Programme in the taking of levels, we can offer the following:

- If you do not have the programme itself, please ask any one of the Greens Care Committee to forward it to you.
- The procedure is systematically outlined on pages 61 to 70 in the BSA Level 1 Greenkeeping Booklet. Most of you should be in possession of one, but if you are not, they can be obtained from Lynette at WPBA for R50.
- If, for any reason, you need some assistance with levels, any one of the Greens Care Committee is more than willing to visit your Club and assist you.

Run off

The standard procedure to determine runoff is to place your Stimpfometer at a distance of 30 cm from and parallel to the ditch. Run a jack down the slope and observe its path. Repeat this over the length of the green. Should it run into the ditch at any stage, this would incur the maximum penalty of 2.5 points. Many of us use a spirit level, the longer the better, placed at right angles to and touching the ditch board. This will quickly indicate where we need to top dress the margin or raise the ditch boards.

Compaction

We need to remind ourselves of the following. The growth of the turfgrass plant requires light, water, air and fertilisers. The fertiliser, on which we spend so much, contributes only 5%. When we have low compaction, the water can infiltrate easily and pull much-needed oxygen down to the root area. Compaction build-up is what makes it so necessary to aggressively aerate our greens at least once a year and preferably more often. So take a metal probe, preferably around 6 mm in diameter, and check how easily it penetrates the growing area to 40 – 50 mm in depth.

Grass Cover

Not all of us can afford to carry out full renovations on each of our greens each year. But we do need to apply some form of scarification to remove the dead grass. Recent visits to a few Clubs have shown that while the overall grass cover is good, there is evidence of extensive small pockets of dead grass (mat) in between the healthier grass. This will not necessarily affect the running of the bowl right now but the effect will be seen later in the year when grass growth slows down. Now is normally not a time when the Green Keeper can do something about this. But with bowling competitions being suspended for a while, and limited traffic on our greens, we would suggest that the dead grass be removed by grooming or light scarification.

Finally, we invite Green Keepers to contact us with any suggestions or queries regarding the evaluation of greens.

Prevailing Weather Conditions

The extreme heat and high winds of the past few weeks have scorched many of our greens. In previous correspondence we have warned Green Keepers about mowing below 4mm. Until the temperatures drop, we would strongly advise that you elect to mow even higher (4.5/5 mm). You will still be able to provide fast running greens by grooming regularly. As all of us know, the action of grooming is the main contributor to speeding up a green.