AUGUST NEWSLETTER

W.P. Greens Standing Committee

COMMUNICATION

It has emerged during the recent series of Greens Inspections that a number of Greenkeepers have not been receiving our monthly newsletters. Apart from sharing information regarding good greenkeeping practices in these newsletters, we also used this forum to indicate to Clubs how to prepare for the inspections. Among other things, it asked for a levels profile according to the Cubitt programme, as well as suggesting that GKPs carry out their own evaluation of their greens prior to the visit. It was apparent that this information did not filter through to some of the GKPs. In future, these monthly newsletters will be sent directly to the GKP.

NEMATODES

In the past we have recommended that Clubs send soil samples to Nemlab to determine the presence of nematodes in their greens. These microscopic animals attack the roots, drawing off the nutrition from the plant. In this way they stunt the development of the plant, resulting in yellow, stressed areas. If these areas do not respond to the usual treatment of fungicides, fertilisers and rest, you've probably got nematodes.

Nematodes (eel worms) can be treated with Furfural (Cropguard) if the concentration is within limits. However, one of our Clubs has recently had their soil tested with the results showing an exceptionally high presence of nematodes. It is doubtful whether Furfural will be effective with such a high concentration. They may have to consider taking even more drastic action. Prevention is better than cure, so we seriously recommend that you have your greens tested. Contact Sheila Storey at Nemlab (sheila@nemlab.co.za)

LEVELS

At the end of the annual renovation period when it is necessary to apply the computer readings to improve the levels, a few Clubs have, in the past, made use of the laser-levelling process. Having observed the process previously, I realised how labour-efficient and accurate the exercise is. Our President, Graeme Kemp, has negotiated with Servest to carry out this exercise for the very reasonable cost of R3 200 per green. He will be using their services at Edgemead B C on 29 August and you are welcome to go and see how it is done. Should your Club be interested, please contact Murray Veitch of Servest on 0732140537.

WPBA EQUIPMENT

Recently, the storage of the equipment was moved to Pollsmoor B C. A number of Clubs in the Northern Suburbs expressed their concern that the equipment had been moved even further away.

With the renovation season approaching, we are expecting particularly the Merado Corer to be in high demand. Eugene Howard, of the Greens Committee, intends arranging for the Merado to be available to Northern Suburbs Clubs for a period of two or more weeks, depending on demand. He will be contacting Clubs soon to make the details available.