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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
GOLF COURSE VISIT
CENTRO NACIONAL DE GOLF
23 JULY 2009

Subject: Venue for the Madrid Masters 2009

Present:	Juan Fernandez	General Manager
	Luis Casado	Greenkeeper
	Jose Rodrigo	Assistant Greenkeeper
	David Gomez	Greenkeeping Federation
	Richard Stillwell	Chief Greenkeeping Consultant, PGA European Tour

Report:

Further to my visit on 23rd July when a full course inspection was made, I am now forwarding my report and recommendations.

I was pleased to note that at the time of my visit the Club had only just agreed to host the Madrid Masters, but work had already started to prepare the course.

To this end greens have been groomed extensively and top-dressed lightly. There had been some scalping but I think it is a case where the results will far outweigh the pain. The work needed to be done as the greens were becoming slightly soft and nappy. This will now start to reverse with this ongoing programme.

It was agreed that the Graden would be passed over the greens once or twice depending on damage at 20mm depth followed by a full top-dressing to ensure the lines are completely filled up. Further grooming will then take place obviously followed by top-dressings each time.

The fertiliser programme put forward was good and it was agreed to use quick release fertilisers. I would only ask that enough seaweed and iron are in stock to colour the greens prior to the tournament. I would suggest getting enough in to do 36 greens in case we need to do it twice.

At present there are no collars to the greens and I have recommended bringing in the greens which are very large by 1 Simplex mowers width and cutting at 9mm. This will produce a collar of the same quality as the greens.

We will then cut out a surround of 1 mowers width at fairway height. As there is a lot of laying grass in these areas I feel they should either be brushed against the grain or verticut. Mikael Eriksson will finally decide with you the set up around each green.

Tees should be aerated and verticut followed by overseeding and top-dressing. Again this work should be carried out as soon as the temperatures start to fall. Also please check with Mikael if he intends to go forward on some tees, thereby making it necessary to prepare 2 teeing areas on some holes.

Fairways have improved a great deal since the time I last visited and to the most part have good grass cover. However, it will be necessary to solid tine all fairways to open them up followed by overseeding and top-dressing at the end of August. Again fertiliser should be quick release.

I would also advise the fairways should be reverse cut prior to the tournament to ensure there is no laying grass.

Rough at the present time is cut very low and I understand that the Club wish to keep it this way as there were problems after the last tournament. To this end it was agreed that the roughs would be kept low until approximately 3-4 weeks prior to the tournament when they would be over seeded and fertilised and cut at approximately 60-70mm. We will be looking to obtain the close cut dense sward of grass which can be easily cut down after the tournament.

The rough at the Nacional mostly consists of dune type mounds and I am unsure how this will all come out. I suspect that if we are not careful we may end up with very patchy rough that we will need to look at closer to the time.

Bunkers at the time of my visit were in very poor condition, there had been a good deal of rain and a lot of wash out. It was suggested that the bunkers should have the drainage dug out, re-ramped and replaced with new sand. I feel this is unnecessary for our requirements as when I looked at the bunkers myself it was evident that due to excessive rain the sand has washed from the faces into the bases.

I would propose that the sand be dug out of the bases and thrown back up the faces. This would prevent having to buy new sand, by reducing the depth of the sand in the bases I would propose the drains would work efficiently and it will be beneficial in the time available. As we are all aware it is better to use older sand even if it doesn't look perfect, rather than using new sand that is uncontrollable.

All bunkers will need to be edged, de-weeded, de-stoned and regularly maintained.

As the putting green is in 2 sections and in a very small area behind the driving range I feel it would be too small to create collar, semi-rough, secondary rough etc. Around the greens. Therefore unless Mikael disagrees I would suggest that we cut around the greens as semi-rough.

The range tee needs a little more maintenance and I suggest it be over seeded, top-dressed and fertilised. The Club felt that they would like to prepare both levels of the tee rather than just the area we need. Obviously this is not a problem for us.

As there is a great deal of work to do and time is short David and I felt that another visit should be made when some of this work is done and the overseeding is complete. Therefore I would look to make a visit again early in September.

If I can be of any further assistance in the mean time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Richard Stillwell
Chief Greenkeeping Consultant