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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
GOLF COURSE VISIT
CENTRO NACIONAL DE GOLF
8 AUGUST 2009

Subject: Venue for the Madrid Masters 2009

Present: Juan Fernandez General Manager
Luis Casado Greenkeeper
David Gomez Greenkeeping Federation
Eddie Adams Greenkeeping Consultant, PGA European Tour

Report:

I must apologise first of all for arriving a day earlier than expected and thank Juan, Luis and David for fully accepting my apology.

I inspected the course by myself then met with both Juan and Luis and discussed my observations and recommendations in a conference call with David.

The Madrid area has come through a very hot and dry summer which has had a direct effect on the course condition which at the moment is below the standard expected for a professional golf event.

There are large areas throughout the course which have little or no grass cover and the main areas of play require a huge amount of work.
The greens hold a good cover of grass but were soft underfoot and may be prone to spiking up.

The teeing grounds and fairways have several areas on each hole which have to be repaired and protected from general play to assist recovery and the roughs have suffered badly from the drought and sub standard coverage of the irrigation system.

The bunkers are in need of repair as they have weeds, inconsistent depths of sand and drought affected turf edges which prevents the hazard from being clearly defined.

We discussed at our meeting the need to concentrate on "Through the Middle" and with this in mind we agreed to allocate both staff and resource to the areas which are in play for professional golfers and to prioritise the work schedule so that the key areas of play are presented and maintained in tournament condition.

Both David and I agreed that consistency is essential in the set up of any golf course and he will meet and discuss with his staff a plan of action which will concentrate on the main areas of play.

I have decided to provide a bullet point list below on the areas which I feel need to be addressed as soon as possible, Richard may need to do a follow up visit so to assist the club in identifying what is or is not important and David is also willing to accept additional support from our Agronomy team in the run up to the event if a member of our staff is available.

Greens:

- ☐ Top Dress greens **lightly** Bi Weekly
- ☐ Apply foliar feed as and when required.
- ☐ Apply Iron every ten days (5kgs per ha)
- ☐ Schedule a light verticut/brush weekly and follow with a top dressing (0mm depth taking care on areas of wear and stress)
- ☐ Groom lightly as growth dictates (0mm)
- ☐ Maintain height of cut of 4mm by pedestrian
- ☐ Reduce irrigation and use hand watering as the main way of irrigation if weather allows
- ☐ Carry out any repairs as soon as possible
- ☐ Protect tournament pin positions

Collars and Aprons:

- ☐ Extend your greens programme into these areas
- ☐ Maintain a height of cut 12mm
- ☐ Protect any areas of stress and wear
- ☐ Carry out any localised over seeding or repairs as soon as possible

Tees:

- ☐ Verti Cut at a depth of 1mm
- ☐ Topdress and broadcast seed
- ☐ Apply 9-7-7 controlled release fertiliser or similar at recommended rate
- ☐ Maintain a height of cut of 12mm and mow diagonally with pedestrian mower
- ☐ Re turf or repair any areas as soon as possible and protect from play

Fairways:

- ☐ Punch tine weaker areas of fairways with 6mm solid tines now
- ☐ Hand dress and level any poor areas with sand/soil/seed mix in the areas of play
- ☐ Ensure that all re turfed areas on the fairways are level and well maintained
- ☐ Carry out intensive divot programme
- ☐ Cross mow at 14mm and remove clippings from now and protect landing areas
- ☐ Use a balanced fertiliser application if growth allows

Roughs:

- ❑ Walkways need to be mown from now at 30mm
- ❑ Mow at the following height 30mm/55mm
- ❑ Alternate mowing directions
- ❑ Apply a pre seed fertiliser to all bare areas of rough in play and over seed in two directions at a rate of 40g and lightly top dress with sand/soil mix and hand water as and when required

Bunkers:

- ❑ Edge all bunkers, removing any debris
- ❑ Ensure that all sand depths are consistent and balls do not plug
- ❑ Include practice bunkers in the maintenance programme

Practice Area:

- ❑ Verticut two directions at 0mm depth and top dress lightly and over seed
- ❑ Mow at fairway height
- ❑ Present and maintain the practice area **exactly** as the golf course.

General:

Staffing is key to the build up and to the week of the event and I am sure that Luis and David are aware of the importance of scheduling and communicating both work plans and staffing levels during the week of the event to both the Agronomy Department representative and the tournament director.

From now until the event it is important to maintain a sensible level of irrigation on all areas of play. Ensure that a daily visual check of all greens take place so to identify any disease so if any chemicals need be applied to the turf it is properly controlled and sprayed at the correct rate.

The Federation have very kindly offered the course as a venue for this prestigious event at short notice and although there is some way to go before the course is ready for the tournament, with the experience and knowledge that both David and Luis have I am sure the Federation course will be presented to the standard expected.

The level of work and commitment required for any Club to produce a golf course for a European Tour event is huge and is something that the Tour recognises as a major factor in the success of any tournament. It is therefore hoped that through commitment from club and advice from the European Tour, this work be carried out and the course be presented in the condition expected for the Madrid Masters.

Richard Stillwell and Mikael Eriksson will need to be kept fully informed of progress and I would advise that an update is sent to both of them every week.

The Club has a good level of machinery and recognise the need for sharp and well-maintained machinery for the event week.

If you have any comment or questions concerning my report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally can I thank Centro Nacional De Golf for their hospitality during my visit.

Eddie Adams

Senior Greenkeeping Consultant
PGA European Tour