

IDM Golf

especialistas en greenkeeping



Centro Nacional de Golf: RFEG

**Visit Report: JM Vargas Jr.
(Turfgass Consultant)**

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CONTENTS

Contents	2
1. Greens	3
2. Paclobutazole Program	4
3. Moss in the greens.....	5
4. Poa trivialis in the greens	6
5. Poa trivialis in the collars.....	7
6. Fairways	8
7. Number 18 collar	9
8. Sand bunkers.....	10
9. Driving range	11
10. Follow up	12
11. Visit details	13

1. GREENS

I thought Centro Nacional de Golf de la Real Federación Española de Golf looked in great condition. The greens had good color and density. They were also firm as good greens should be to receive a shot properly. The roots are down about 10cm in the greens which is great.



The grader has helped remove a lot of organic matter. Your topdressing program with sand has diluted the remaining thatch. Remember dilution is the solution. Apply the sand frequently enough so layers of organic matter and sand do not develop. You should also continue to interseed A-4 creeping bentgrass into the greens in conjunction with aerification and the use of the grader.

2. PACLOBUTAZOLE PROGRAM

The paclobutazole program has eliminated the large older patches of *Poa annua* in most of the greens. The one exception is number 2 green which still has a lot of *Poa annua* in it. The paclobutazole from some reason has not been as effective on this green although it has reduced to *Poa annua* somewhat. There are new small patches of the colonizing *Poa annua* coming into the green probably in old ball marks. These small colonizing *Poa annua* plant can be controlled very easily with paclobutazole. You really have done a good job of keeping the greens free of *Poa annua* especially considering they are 6 years old and that they receive 45, 000 rounds of play every year. You should continue on with your paclobutazole program on the greens that you have been using with great success.



3. MOSS IN THE GREENS

The moss problem has gotten worse since I visited last September, but you have killed most of it with the Mogeton. It will continue to be a problem, but the sooner you eradicate it when it first appears the less of a problem it will be. Remember each leave from the moss plant is capable of forming a new moss colony. It can be spread by rain or irrigation water. The green should especially be checked for moss and the moss killed prior the verticutting or aerify as both these cultural practices will spread the moss. They should be scouted once a month and any new moss that appears should be eradicated before it has a chance to spread.



4. POA TRIVIALIS IN THE GREENS

Greens 6, 8, 13, and 18 all have some *Poa trivialis* in them which should be plugged out. This is a very aggressive grass which produces stolons that spread very quickly. The grass has invaded the greens from the collars which have a lot of *Poa trivialis* in them. The *Poa trivialis* will begin to thin out during the warm weather from a disease called bacterial wilt caused by a bacterium called *Xanthomonas campestris*. There is no chemical control for this disease with since it is caused by a bacterium. The small patches of *Poa trivialis* in the greens should be plugged out before they spread.

5. POA TRIVIALIS IN THE COLLARS

The collars are badly infested with *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* they need to be replaced. The course cannot be closed so the collars can be sprayed with roundup to kill the *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* because of financial reasons. Spraying the greens with roundup while the course is open there is a risk of having it tracked on to the greens. The only option is to striped and resodded the collars same day. The collars can then be treated with paclobutazole to suppress the *Poa annua* and the *Poa trivialis*. Certainty is a new herbicide which will remove *Poa trivialis* from creeping turfs.. You should make one pass on a collar you are going to replace with your sprayer to see how safe the product will be under your environmental conditions, because Perennial ryegrass is not as tolerant of Certainty as creeping bentgrass is. If it turns out to be safe, you can treat the collars to prevent the *P. trivialis* from invading them again.



6. FAIRWAYS

The fairways were very uniform and had great color and density. The paclobutazole program is helping to eliminate the *Poa annua* in the fairways. Number 3 fairway which was once 100% *Poa annua* is now 50% perennial ryegrass. Maybe more importantly it is keeping all the different species in the fairways at a uniform height of cut. This provides a nice lie for the golfer to hit a shot off the fairway. Before using paclobutazole the patches of perennial ryegrass in the fairways which grows very quickly were taller than the other grass making for bad lies in the fairways if the ball happened to land in front of one of these patches. The sand top dressing has helped firm up the fairways and help reduce the thatch. The sand topdressing program should be continued on the fairways.



7. NUMBER 18 COLLAR

The new perennial ryegrass sod around number 18 green is not doing well. It needs to be foliar feed fertilizer to help it become healthy. The sod was grown on a clay soil which was placed on top of a sand base. This is confining the roots to the clay layer which is why it is not doing well. The perennial ryegrass sod needs to be aerified many times to remove the clay and then top dressed with sand.



8. SAND BUNKERS

There is a lot of controversy about the drainage in the bunkers. Some of the bunkers are not draining well because the sand has become mixed with the underlying soil. Others are not draining well because the water is perched above the pea gravel in the drain lines. Most of the bunker need to have the contaminated sand removed, the drain lines cleaned and new sand added. The pea gravel should be eliminated and the sand added directly on top of the drain lines.



9. DRIVING RANGE

You have done an excellent job of adding drainage to the driving range. This should prevent the water from collecting in the low areas of the driving range and consequently killing the bermudagrass during the cool weather. Rather than resodding damaged areas with bermudagrass, which will be expensive and time consuming, why not sprig the bare areas to bermudagrass. First till the area to loosen up the soil then lightly roll it so the golf balls can be collected and then apply the bermudagrass sprigs with a sprigging machine.



10. FOLLOW UP

I recommend a follow up visit to be performed in summer, in order to review the course after the the stress period of the summer.

11. VISIT DETAILS

Date	September 9, 2008
Attendees	Real Federación Española de Golf ▪ Mr. David Gómez (Head Greenkeeper) IDM Golf ▪ Dr. Joseph Vargas ▪ Félix Melgar (Technical Director) ▪ Daniel Basco (Project Coordinator)

Dr. JM Vargas Jr.:

Signature
