

IDM Golf

especialistas en greenkeeping



Centro Nacional de Golf: RFEG

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1. GREENS & GRADEN

There was obviously a lot of concern about using the Graden on the greens prior to the Madrid Open. I believe you did it early enough before the Madrid Open for the grooves created by the Graden to fill in. You should have enough time to promote the growth of the turf so as it covers the grooves.



The grooves from the use of the Graden have almost been covered.

The greater concern is going to be the turf that will be growing faster in these grooves once they heal over than in between the grooves. Make sure you plan for this during the tournament either entering in a growth regulator program prior to the tournament, or in your maintenance plan during the tournament (mowing frequency, rolling, etc.).

2. GREENS IN GENERAL

The greens were very healthy with roots down about 5 to 7 cm. This is really great considering the warm summer Madrid just had. All the aerification and Graden you have done to the greens has helped make them this healthy.



The greens are also relatively *Poa annua* free. The paclobutazole program has helped keep the *Poa annua* in check. You should continue on with these programs.

The greens are currently being mowed at a higher height of cut to facilitate the covering over of the grooves. Caution should be taken not to lower the mowing too fast or too much. Allow the Primo and rolling to give you the green speed you desire for the tournament.

3. FAIRWAYS

The fairways have almost completely recovered from the Graden and interseeding with perennial ryegrass. The fairways have many different grass species in them that all grow vertically at different rates making for an uneven fairway.



They should be kept on the paclobutazole plant growth regulating program to even out the growth of the different species. This will make them more even for better playability. The paclobutazole will also help suppress the *Poa annua* in the fairways.

4. SAND BUNKERS

The sand bunkers are really not in very good condition. They do not drain properly and will take a lot of work to install the proper drainage. This will be your greatest challenge getting them in proper playing condition for the tournament.

The type bunkers on the Federation Golf Course are better suited for a private golf club with more workers on the crew. They do not have grass faces which would prevent a lot of washout from both rain and irrigation.

There are also far too many for a public golf course. Some of them should be turned into grass bunkers to cut down on maintenance and to speed up play.

5. ROUGH

Many of the mounds in the rough are brown from lack of sufficient irrigation during the summer. It is difficult to irrigate these mounds properly because they have severe slopes which do not allow the water to penetrate into the soil. Instead it rolls off these mounds down into the low areas.



To adequately water these areas would require over watering other areas including the fairways. The best solution to solve the problem is to seed these mounds with turf type tall fescue. Tall fescue has a deep root system which allows it to use water from deeper in the soil. They also form a denser turf than the perennial ryegrass plants so they will capture more of the irrigation water preventing it from running off the slopes.

6. PRACTICE AREA

The bermudagrass in the practice area has done well since you installed the drainage. However, it is in desperate need of fertilizer. I know you do not want too much growth because it makes it difficult to pick up the range balls. Next summer it should receive a complete fertilizer at a .25 kg per 100 square meters rate.

The area should receive a heavy rate of the plant growth regulator Primo the week before. It would be .50 oz per 1000 sq ft of the US formulation. This high rate of Primo will dramatically slow the vertical growth of the bermudagrass but allow the bermudagrass to receive some fertilizer that it needs to remain healthy.

A second application of Primo should be made 2 weeks after the first and another two weeks later. By that time the undesirable effects of the fertilizer on the vertical growth of the bermudagrass will have worn off.

7. FOLLOW UP

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

8. VISIT DETAILS

Date	September 11, 2009
Attendees	Real Federación Española de Golf ▪ Mr. David Gómez (Director Green Section) ▪ Luis Casado (Head Greenkeeper) IDM Golf ▪ Dr. Joseph Vargas ▪ Félix Melgar (Technical Director) ▪ Daniel Basco (Project Coordinator)

Dr. JM Vargas Jr.:

Signature
