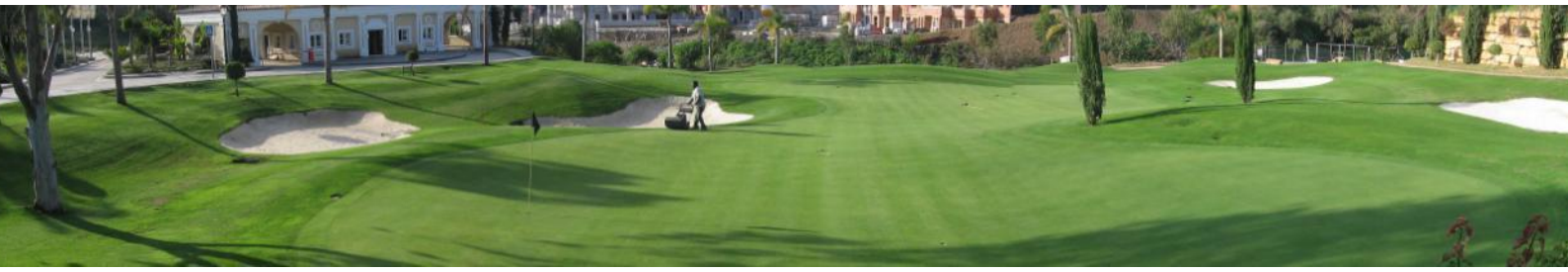
IDM Golf

especialistas en greenkeeping



Centro Nacional de Golf: RFEG

Visit Report: JM Vargas Jr. (Turfgass Consultant)

June, 2011

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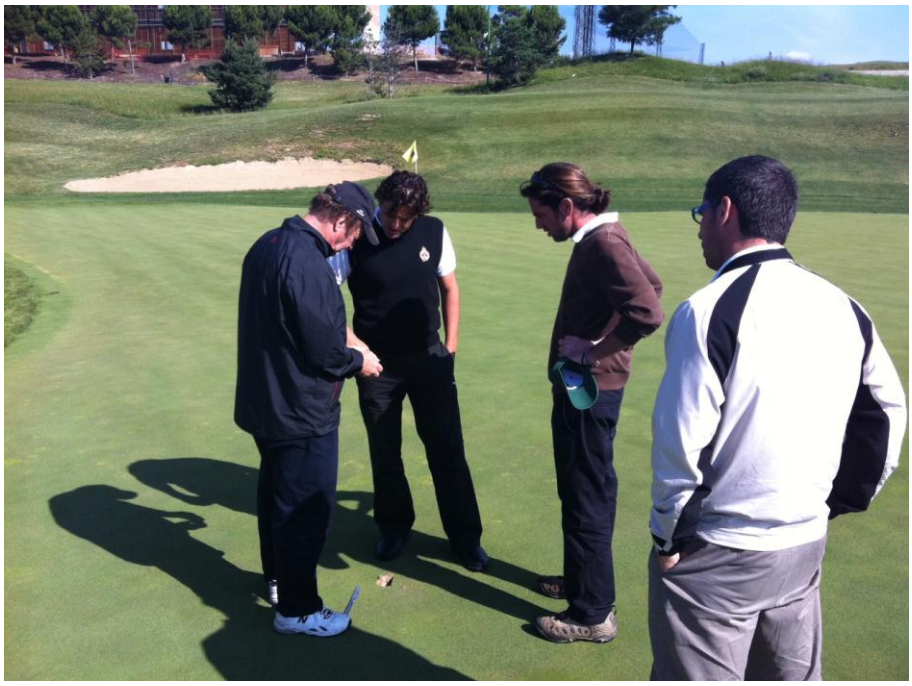
1. INTRO

I thought the Centro Nacional de Golf de la Real Federación Española de Golf course looked in great condition. The greens were firm and dense, the fairways were dense, with a nice smooth cut and the tees were also dense and firm.



2. PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS (PGR'S)

The plant growth regulator paclobutrazol is slowing the encroachment of the Poa annua into the greens, but without hand weeding they will eventually become Poa annua-creeping bentgrass greens. The Paclobutrazol applications should continue to be made from September through March to slow the encroachment of Poa annua as much as possible. One of the problems when greens go through the transition from creeping bentgrass to Poa annua greens is the bumpiness the Poa annua causes when it is producing seeds. The first two greens on each nine have a fair amount of Poa annua in them and the rest have less, but enough that it is causing a problem.

When the Poa annua initially invades the greens it appears as small patches of grass. These patches of grass produce a lot of seed in the spring. The seeds rise above the canopy causing an uneven surface and interfering with putting. The massive seed production period lasts about 5 weeks and then subsides with the arrival of warm weather. Sometime in April the plant growth regulators Proxy (ethephon)-Primo (Trinexapac-ethyl) should be substituted for the Paclobutrazol to reduce Poa annua seed head formation.

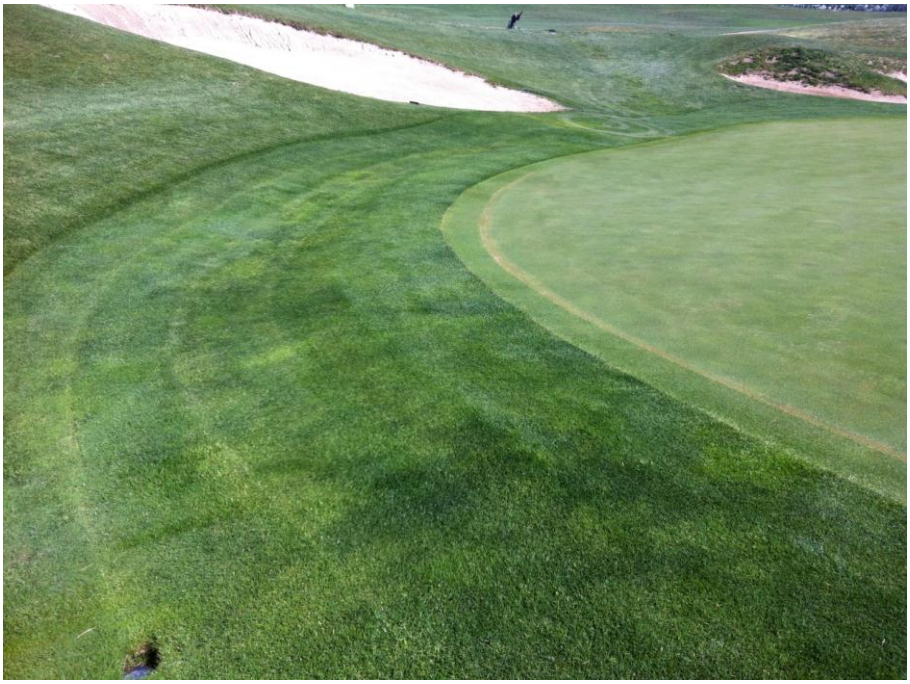
3. POA ANNUA SEED HEAD SUPPRESSION

Proxy-Primo should be applied at the first sign of seeding to minimize the seed head production. The Poa annua will begin seeding first on a south facing slope in the taller grass like in the rough or fairway. These areas should be monitored for seed head production. At the first sign of the Poa annua seeding in the taller grass on a south facing slope Proxy and Primo should be applied to the greens. This should be followed by a second application 3 weeks later. This should get the greens through the massive seed head formation period. Proxy works best at warmer temperatures, so the warmer the spring following application the more seed head reduction you will see. If you make too many applications of Proxy it will yellow the greens and may even result in turf loss.

The Proxy plant growth regulator is what reduces seed head formation and the Primo is added to reduce the yellowing that is associated with applications of Proxy. This application will normally be made sometime in April. Once the effect of the Proxy-Primo has worn off you should make biweekly applications of Primo alone. It slows the growth of the turf allowing for a better cut which will result in truer putting. Primo also increases the cytokinins content of the turfgrass plant. The turfgrass plants produce a lot of oxidative compounds during the warm weather. Oxidative compounds destroy cell membranes cause an early senescence of the leaf. Cytokinins are ant-oxidants that prevent oxidative compounds from breaking down cell membranes.

4. GREENS IN GENERAL

The greens were in excellent condition and they were dense with great color. The only problem was the seeding of the Poa annua interfering with putting. The roots on the greens were 7.5 cm in length which is great for this time of year. While it is never easy to maintain greens in hot weather having a good root system at this time of year really helps.

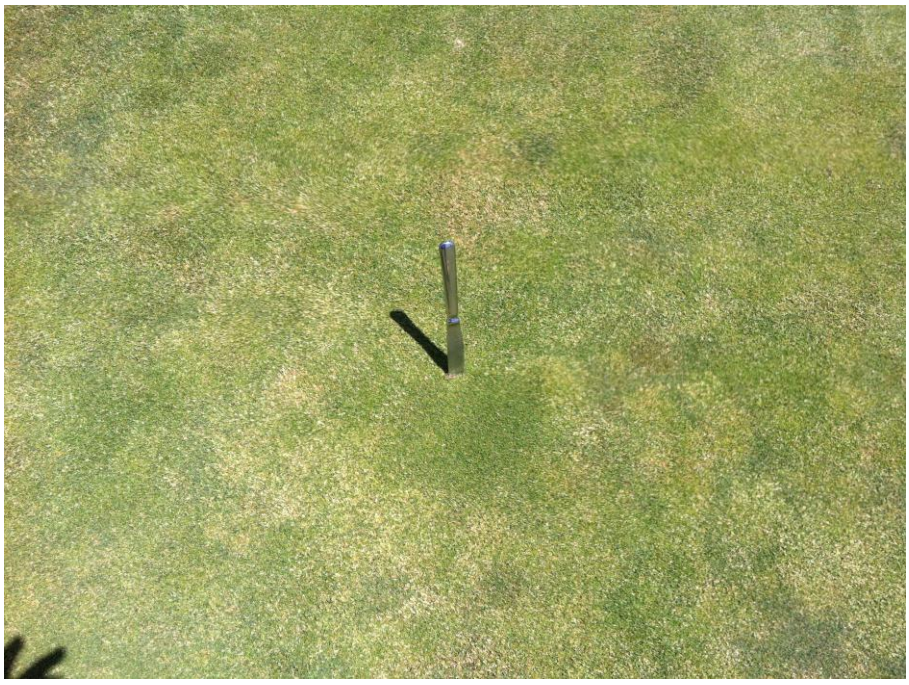


The aerifying four times a year has really contributed to a healthy root system. It has also kept the organic matter under control. The aerifying 4 times a year should be continued. There is no layer in the greens either so the frequent sand top dressing program is also working well. The brushes that were fitted to the collection buckets on the greens mowers is a great invention, it has removed the grain and made the turf more upright. The lack of grain and the more upright turf is contributing to truer putting. As well as the brushes have worked, they should not be used in the warm weather to avoid stressing the greens. The grass will not grow very

vigorously in the warm weather so grain should not be a problem. The brushes can be used again when the night time temperatures drop back 17 C or lower.

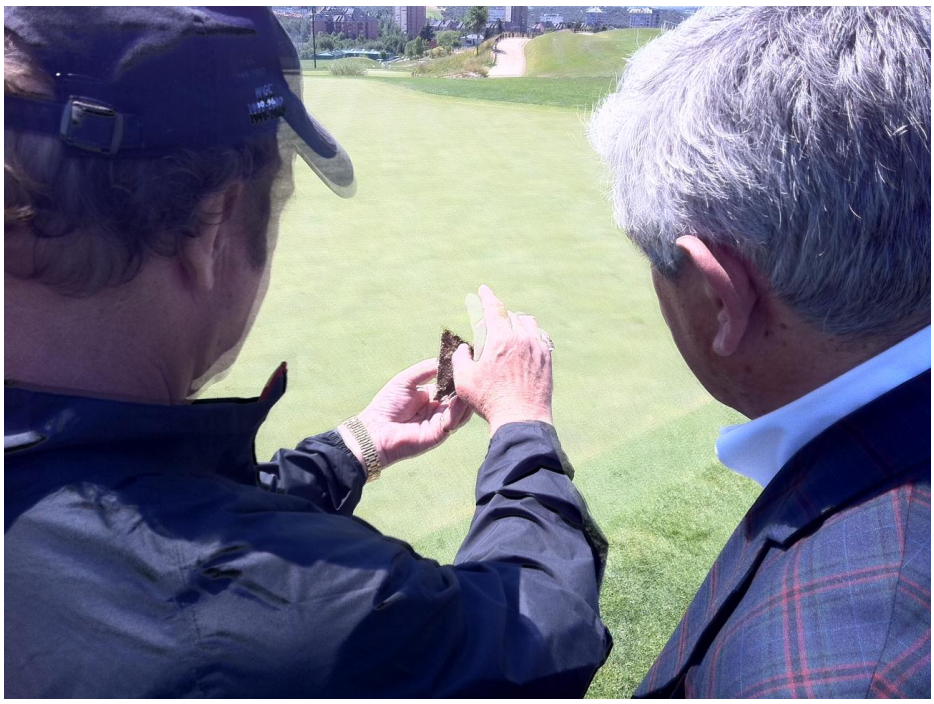
5. MOSS IN THE GREENS

The moss continues to be a problem in the greens. It is now in more greens than before. It should be treated with 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 leaf 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 needs to be killed prior to the verticuting 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.



6. FAIRWAYS

The fairways are nice and dense with a smooth cut that provides for a nice lie. The Paclobutrazol is working well keeping all the various species at the same height. The root and the fairway turf is 10 cm deep which is great for this time of year. Again, the aerification of the fairways has help produce healthy fairways and should be continued.



7. ROUGH CONVERSION TO BERMUDAGRASS

It is apparent the Centro Nacional de Golf de la Real Federación Española de Golf is going to have to begin purchasing irrigation water. This will be very expensive and if it is like other countries the cost will increase every year. Cool season grasses like the tall fescue and perennial ryegrass in the rough at the National federation de Golfe require a lot more irrigation to maintain them in the warm weather than warm season grasses like bermudagrass. The irrigation water they are going to sell to the golf course is going to be recycled water which will be high in salt and sodium. Warm season grasses like bermudagrass tolerate salt and sodium a lot better than the cool season greases. There are now available what are referred to as upright bermudagrasses. These are ideal for the roughs because they do not allow the ball to fall down into the turf like older bermudagrasses. One of these upright bermudagrasses is called T-10 bermudagrass. It has excellent lateral growth for quick recovery from divots, but upright growth is much slower reducing the mowing to about half compared to traditional bermudagrasses. You can find out more about it and other upright bermudagrasses on the internet. I would suggest you obtain some as soon as possible and establish it in a small area of the rough so you can see how it works in your climate before you convert all the rough to it.

7.1. Conversion Process

The cool season grass should be killed with roundup before the bermudagrass is seeded or sprigged into the existing rough. It is very difficult to kill all the tall fescue or perennial ryegrass with Roundup even with repeated applications. So I am sure some of it will remain with the introduction of the bermudagrass. The perennial ryegrass will eventually die from the reduced amount of water that will be applied to the bermudagrass. The tall fescue will probably survive with less water

although it will not be very healthy. The bermudagrass may eventually out compete it over time. However, if it is a problem the tall fescue can be removed with one of the sulfonylurea herbicides like primisulfuron or rimsulfuron.

8. SAND BUNKERS

There are too many bunkers at the Centro Nacional de Golf de la Real Federación Española de Golf for a public golf course. The object of a public golf course is to move play through as fast as possible. Bunkers only slow play down. The majority of golfers that play at pay for play golf courses have high handicaps and are not very skilled at getting out of sand bunkers. This only delays play and frustrates not only the golfer that has trouble getting out of the bunkers but other golfers who have to wait to hit their next shot resulting in 5 plus hour rounds of golf. In this everything in a hurry world we live in this leads to many golfers giving up the game. The other problem is with the limited crew at the Centro Nacional de Golf de la Real Federación Española de Golf it is impossible to properly maintain the sand bunkers. There is just no way the sand bunkers can be raked every day as they should be. Also following a heavy rain it takes many days before the washed out sand bunkers can be repaired. At least one half of the sand bunkers should be converted into grass bunkers which will speed up the rounds of golf and allow the maintenance crew to maintain the remaining sand bunkers properly.

9. FOLLOW UP

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

10. VISIT DETAILS

Date	June, 2011
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