

TOURNAMENT AGRONOMY PREPARATION REPORT

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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Tournament: **LET Qualifying School**

Tournament Date: 6-17 December 2012

Visit Date: 18/07/2012

INTRODUCTION

It was my pleasure to visit the Al Maaden Golf Club to complete my first course inspection in advance of the LET Qualifying School. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the condition of the golf course at Marrakech (Morocco) and identify any issues which needed to be addressed for the preparation of the course for the tournament in December.

The golf course overall condition is very good for the practice of amateur golf. However bunkers need a lot of improvements to reach LET tournament specifications.

The greenkeeper is being doing a great job despite of there are some factors that influence the management of the golf course. These factors are:

- Temperatures can reach 47 °C, as we could see and feel in our visit.
- Fairways and green collars were built in the original substrate which is made up of clay and stones.
- Reclaim water is the main source of water. As a result, water quality is very bad with a high salt content and a very high pH of 9.5.

In due course Al Maaden and LET should discuss the important point of course preservation and closure in advance of the event. Generally speaking every day the course is closed in advance of the event allows the turf to recuperate and recover as well as allowing greenkeepers uninterrupted access to the course to complete work in a more productive manner. Generally speaking for an event of this stature and considering the weakness associated with the course I recommend 7 days of course closure.

TOURNAMENT HEIGHT OF CUT

All tournament height of cut (HOC), with the exception of greens must be in place no later than one month in advance of the tournament. The following was agreed:

Greens – 3-3.2mm
Tournament Tees - 10mm
Green Collar - 9mm
Approach - 9mm
Fairways - 12mm
Semi-Rough - 25mm
Playable Rough - 50mm (mowed up to Wednesday of event week only)

See the attached document in the last page.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT SUGGESTIONS

The greenkeeping items we reviewed on the golf course and discussed post course inspection are listed below:

Greens

Greens are in good condition, free of diseases and with dense grass cover. However, we could observe some spiking issues due to the presence of thatch. Thus, green firmness has to be worked to improve the smoothness of putting surfaces.



Green view at Al Maaden Golf Club.



Spiking on greens.

Due to the issues that we describe above is not recommend an aggressive cultural program on greens yet. We suggest continuing with the current management program, consisting of:

- Weekly light grooming and light topdressing.
- Spoon feeding.
- Deep and infrequent irrigation plus hand watering.

During the tournament week greens must be firm, without any spiking issue and speeds between 10.5 and 11.5 feet on the stimp meter are desirable. To achieve these goals, **from September 15th**, we recommend to strictly following the next planning:

- Hollow core aeration (19 mm) as deep as possible and heavy topdressing. For choosing topdressing sand do not forget the rule of thumb: Coarse over fine, never fine over coarse. This rule is very important to prevent layering issues.
- Following aeration, apply slow release fertilization with a 1-2-1 fertilizer ratio and 25 gr/m² doses. Phosphorous will promote root development and as a result improve turfgrass condition.
- From three weeks after aeration:
 - Grooming three times per week.
 - Weekly light topdressing.
 - Biweekly spoon-feeding.
- Increase mowing frequency and blade sharpness. This will improve grass coverage and smoothness.

Practice Greens

All practice greens must be prepared the exact same as greens on the course in the lead up to and during the event to promote consistent conditions throughout the facility.

Green Collars and Approaches

Greens collars and approaches were in a good condition. Generally speaking LET recommend that all Collars and Approaches receive the same frequency of verticutting, topdressing and nutrition as

greens. This helps to promote greater wear tolerance, resiliency and help to promote the bump and run style of shot preferred by our members.



View of a green collar and approach at Al Maaden Golf Club.

Regular brushing or grooming with mowing will help on both approaches and green collars to ensure a tight sward.

Tees

Tees are in a very good condition; they have full grass cover in all areas and are also very level. As tees will be over seeded, we recommend following the same management schedule as in fairways.



View of a tee box at Al Maaden Golf Club.

If time and resources are limited we ask that treatments are focused on LET tournament tees only.

Fairways and Playable Rough

Fairways are in good condition with a very dense grass cover. Our main concern is thatch accumulation due to nitrogen content of reclaim water. The greenkeeper makes verticutting on regular basis and cut with baskets to remove clippings and control thatch development.

It is also highly recommended a Semi-Rough pass introduced around the perimeter of all Fairways and from the centre line of the Fairway to the LET tournament Tee.

Until lower temperatures it is not recommended to perform any aeration or overseeding work in the course.



Verticutting fairways at Al Maaden Golf Club.

To achieve a good consistent grass cover that provides a perfect playing surface, we would recommend **from September 15th**:

- Solid tine aeration.
- Deep verticutting in two directions and raking all debris in.
- Overseeding with *Lolium perenne* in two directions (30 + 30 gr/m²).
- Fertilization with a starter fertilizer (1-2-1). Later on, fertilization with a high nitrogen content fertilizer.
- Heavy topdressing. It is also recommended light topdressings every 15 days until grass is established. It is very important to choose good quality sand free of gravels and stones for avoiding problems with mowing units.

After overseeding it is very important keeping the soil moist for seed germination and establishment. For that reason it is necessary to check continuously the irrigation system and apply multiple short irrigation cycles along the day.

To ensure the success of the overseeding it is very important minimizing traffic during 15 days from overseeding date.

When turf is established improve frequency and quality of cut.

As rough will not be over seeded, we recommend:

- Solid tine aeration and fertilization.
- To prevent any seed contamination, a pendimethalin (preemergence herbicide) pass around fairways must be done just after fairways overseeding.

Bunkers

This area is our main concern. There are a lot of stones mixed with bunkers' sand and some areas where balls bury in the sand (fried egg).

Our biggest preparation related concern will be:

- Evenness and consistency of sand depths.
- Contamination from stone.
- Potential 'fried egg' lies.
- Potential for water holding in the event of heavy rain.

Our recommendations are:

- All stones must be removed and sand must be redistributed to ensure a uniform depth of 100-125mm of compacted sand on the bunker floor and 50mm of compacted sand on bunker faces.
- All Bunkers will be clipped or edged where necessary to produce the lip and definition required for the event.
- Sand should be firm but not compacted and any drainage issues should be addressed and rectified before the event.

Short Game and Driving Range

The greenkeeping programme in this area must be increased and replicate all other surfaces on the golf course. The driving range will be over seeded

Advance Week Course Closure

LET and Al Maaden Golf Club must agree on the appropriate level of course closure in advance of the tournament to help preserve and recover the golf course.

I would like to congratulate the greenkeeper for his professionalism and willingness to myself. I would also like to thank the care received by the Club during my visit and above all the willingness of Adil Benbrika and Nabil Guessous for making this trip possible.

If you have any questions regarding this report please contact me.

LET Presentation & Mowing Graphic

