

TOURNAMENT AGRONOMY PREPARATION REPORT

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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Tournament: **LET Qualifying School**

Tournament Date: 6-9 and 13-17 December 2012

Visit Date: 26/09/2012

Please refer to this report when planning maintenance in advance of the **2012 edition of the LET Qualifying School**.

INTRODUCTION

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

The golf course has improved because days have shortened, temperatures have dropped drastically and some cultural work has begun. Another factor for the improvement of the golf course has been precipitation during the last month.

Due to the high temperatures and commercial interest, it has been impossible to start earlier the cultural practices schedule in the course.

Although climatic conditions are very benevolent at this time of the year in Morocco, there is too much work to do and it is necessary to start as soon as possible. Otherwise it will be very difficult to achieve the quality standards required by the LET.

The most positive aspect of our visit is the willingness of the greenkeeper. If he has **enough resources**, he will do a great job, otherwise it is going to be impossible to achieve the aim.

TOURNAMENT HEIGHT OF CUT

At the moment, there is almost no definition between the different playing areas. So, the first step is improve the frequency of cut and proper maintenance all the machinery.

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 – 3.2-3.5mm
Tournament Tees - 10mm
Green Collar - 9mm
Approach - 9mm
Fairways - 12mm
Semi-Rough - 25mm
Playable Rough - 50mm (mowed up to Wednesday of event week only)

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 soft, slow, and with a poor smoothness. The reasons are: organic matter accumulation, algae, diseases and warm season grasses encroachment.

Greens have not been hollow cored yet and that is the key to improve infiltration, gasses exchange from the rootzone profile and root development. As a result, greens will be firmer and healthier.



To improve infiltration, root growth and canopy density 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 dose. Phosphorous promotes root development and as a result turfgrass condition will improve.
- Every 10 days spoon feeding with a 3-1-3 fertilizer ratio.
- **During October**
 - Biweekly brushing.
 - Weekly light topdressing.
 - Preventative fungicide application with Clorthalonil + Azoxystrobin.
- **During November**
 - Grooming twice a week.
 - Weekly light topdressing.
 - Preventative fungicide application with Clorthalonil + Propiconazole.

- Applications of Iron Sulphate + Mancozeb will help manage moss and algae.
- Increase mowing frequency and blade sharpness. This will improve grass coverage.

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 very poor condition. Thus, it is necessary an intensive cultural program to improve their 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.

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

Tees

Only 9 tees have been hollow cored, verticutting and overseeded. The same operations have to be performed in the all the tees.



We would recommend for this area of the golf course:

- Hollow core aeration.
- Deep verticutting in two directions.
- Overseeding with *Lolium perenne* at a dose of 50 gr/m².
- Heavy topdressing.
- Fertilization with a starter fertilizer (1-2-1).

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.

10-15 days after germination it is recommended to increase the frequency of cut to promote tillering.

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

Fairways

The recommendations given in the previous report have only been performed in 9 fairways.



We would recommend the following program:

- Light fertilization on October 15th to not promote bermudagrass development and growing.
- Fertilization with 20-10-20 on November 1st to promote ryegrass tillering and to avoid a flush of growth during the tournament.
- Mowing every other day and daily mowing from November 15th.

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

To achieve a homogeneous rough we recommend overseeding bared areas with *Lolium perenne* and two weeks before the event make a glyphosate application on those areas. In this way the rough will show the same color and consistency all over the tournament week.

Bunkers

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. A light rototilling will help to mix the sand.
- 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. **(dead line to input new sand is one month before the event begins)**

Short Game and Driving Range

The short game area is not maintained to the same standard as surfaces on the golf course. The greenkeeping programme in this area must be increased and replicate all other surfaces on the golf course.

Manicure

We recommend treating with glyphosate the kikuyugrass of the outrough. Later on, rototilling to improve definition between different areas.

Advance Week Course Closure

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

Tournament Schedule

MORNING	AFTERNOON
Mowing greens	Mowing greens
Raking bunkers	Mowing fairways
Remove dew from fairways and tees	Mowing tees
Mowing collars and approaches	Mowing semirough
Rolling greens (if necessary)	Repair Divots
Check machinery	Repair ball marks
Cut cups	Hand water (if its needed)

I hope the information in this report is of benefit and if there are any issues which you would like to discuss further or questions which you would like to ask please do not hesitate to contact me.