

TOURNAMENT AGRONOMY PREPARATION REPORT

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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Tournament: **Open de España Femenino**

Tournament Date: 20-23 September 2012

Visit Date: 03/07/2012

Please refer to this report when planning maintenance in advance of the 2012 edition of the Open de España Femenino.

INTRODUCTION

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking the attention received by all the people who are involved in the golf course preparation for the Open de España Femenino 2012.

The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the condition of the golf course at Tenerife (Spain) and identify any issues which needed to be addressed for the preparation of the course for the tournament in September.

We are really impressed with the golf course condition. There are lots of improvements from last year. Due to the excellent work carried out by the superintendent and the grounds staff.

In our last visit for the preparation of the golf course for the Tenerife Ladies Match Play 2011, we detected a number of solving difficult problems which have been corrected during this year. Those problems were:

- a) Weeds encroachment on greens because of a poor density of desired turfgrass species and weak root system. Green's smoothness wasn't the desired one.



Greens' Soil profile last year. Very poor root system.



Greens' soil profile in 2012. Strong root system.

- b) Fairways with a big weed population, soft and with lack of firmness. Nowadays, there is a totally different scenario where you can find very firm fairways with full turfgrass cover.

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 were in excellent condition with a very good quality of ball roll. Surfaces were relatively firm under foot, with consistent grass cover which looked healthy and strong. The profile of the rootzone looked very healthy with plenty of new material, acceptable levels of thatch and good root growth.

Green speed of 9 to 9.5 feet would be ideal for the week before the event leaving scope to improve once frequency of cut increases and rolling begins. The target speed for the tournament will be 10-10.5 feet. Do not forget that firmness, quality of ball roll and plant health are more important and speed can be worked on over the last few days.



Green view at Golf Las Américas.

From our experience and following USGA recommendations, we would recommend hollow tine aeration at least two months before the event. The main cause is to prevent spiking issues during the tournament. We understand your marketing issues and if it is impossible to make a hollow tine aeration the following program could be a solution. However we cannot guarantee the same results.

- Groomer and topdressing biweekly at a rate of 0.4 m³ per 1000m².
- Hydro-ject biweekly
- Spoon feeding biweekly
- To avoid diseases we recommend following a preventative fungicide planning

At the end of advance week greens will need to be treated with: Spoon feed of Fertiliser + Micros, Wetting agent and Fungicide. Obviously correct timing and application of the products is key and great care and attention should be taken.

14 days prior the event place all hole locations around the immediate perimeter or front of Greens. This will help preserve likely tournament hole locations for the event. At this point repair all high and low hole locations throughout all Greens.

Repair ball marks on greens every week but pay additional attention to this task 14 days prior the event.

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 good condition with a consistent grass cover and free of diseases.

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

Tees

Tee surfaces are level and with consistent grass cover. The stand for players is very good and the new tees, built last year, are in an excellent condition.



Leveled tee box with a good grass cover.

To improve surface levels and to guarantee a nice player stand, we would recommend:

- Verticutting
- Heavy topdressing to improve surface firmness
- Increase mowing frequency and blade sharpness

LET tournament Tees should be reserved a minimum of 21 days prior to the advance week. This allows time for the regeneration of turfgrass in advance of the event and ensures clean surfaces with full grass cover.

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

Fairways & Playable Rough

Fairways are good with a good consistent grass cover and should provide a perfect playing surface.



Turfgrass density on fairways.

The only concern is the presence of some scalped areas due to the lack of an aggressive verticutting and topdressing program. We strongly recommend alternating the direction of cut frequently to minimise lateral growth and scalping. We also recommend circle cutting to reduce thatch levels before topdressing.



Scalping on fairways. *Bermuda* is recovering.

To make up this situation we would recommend:

- Heavy topdressing to improve surface levels and turfgrass density.
- Increase mowing frequency and blade sharpness
- Follow the fertilization program

The playable rough was very good with total grass cover. Due to the huge game pressure, it was agreed with the Tournament Director - Andy Lott- to maintain the actual height of cut in the rough.

We would only recommend:

- Continue with the weed control program.

- Increase mowing frequency and blade sharpness, to improve rough uniformity and reduce mowing debris.

As the rough's height of cut is not very high, we don't recommend a semi-rough band.

Bunkers

Bunkers were in good condition, with no contamination of stones and free of weeds. Sand depth is consistent with no signs of "fried egg".



Clean sand, free of weeds and stones.

Our recommendations are:

- 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.
- Ensure compaction is adequate to prevent a 'fried egg' or plugged ball.
- New sand requires 90 days to compact satisfactorily; therefore the final application of new sand should be made 90 days in advance of the tournament. If new sand is required within this period redistribute existing sand from within the Bunkers.

Water Hazards

The surrounds of all water hazards should be regularly maintained and be ready for painting which will be carried out by the referees the week before the tournament.

Advance Week Course Closure

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

Staff

All greenkeepers are required to work the advance weekend of the tournament. The purpose of this is to implement the final recommendations of the Tournament Director, Chief Rules Official and Agronomist as well as completing a full mowing and maintenance schedule.

In our next visit we will agree together a maintenance schedule for the tournament.

Design

We recommend keep on working in some adjustments of fairway widths to bring it to play some bunkers, like the job you have made in hole #16 with an excellent result.

Finally I would like to thank for your time and hospitality during my visit and wish you every success for the tournament and the future. I would also like to congratulate Eugenio Rezola for the work carried out in Golf Las Americas.

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