



Spanish Royal Federation
C/ Arroyo del Monte, 5
28035 Madrid
T +34 91 376 91 30 F +34 91 556 32 90

GREEN SECTION RFEG INFORME MENSUAL

Subject

EL SALER GOLF COURSE

Venue for the Spanish Open

Presentes: D. Francisco Contreras, Director Parador El Saler
D. Mario Ballester Aliaga , Greenkeeper
D. Javier Jorge, Técnico Green Section

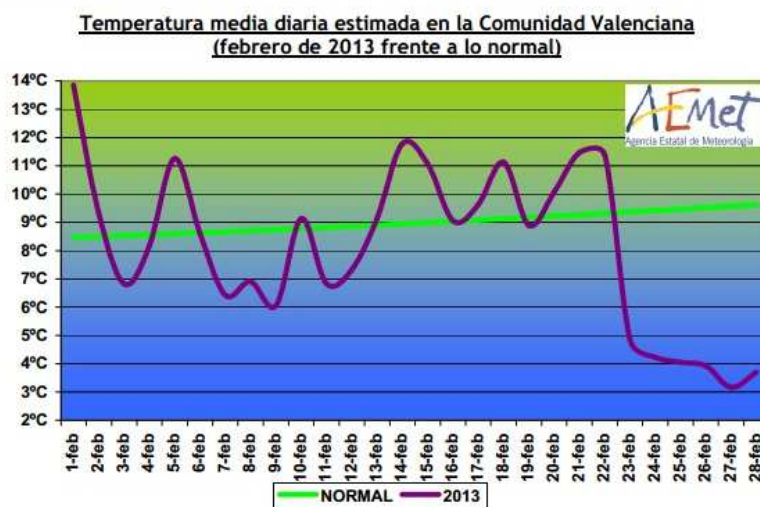
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Venue for the Spanish Open

❖ REPORT

The purpose of this visit is to report the current conditions of the golf course and to update the maintenance schedule for the coming weeks.

The temperatures recorded in the last week of February have been lower than usual which will slightly delay the re-growth of existing warm-season grasses.



Even so, we still think that by the tournament date warm season grasses will be active to provide greener rough and more uniform greens.

The following are our findings and recommendations regarding the maintenance of the course.

❖ GREENS

The greens are healthy and firm and the tournament will take place in a month and a half. Signs of anthracnose found at the last visit have disappeared after fertilization and greens are totally recovered.

Due to low temperatures in recent days, little plant growth is shown on greens and therefore no thatch is developed.

The greens have been solid tined with 10 mm solid tine and topdressed following the schedule proposed on March's report.



Due to low plant activity, first *etephon* application planned for the last week of February was taken out of the schedule. First application will be made on the second week of March instead.

Finally, the patches of warm weed grass found on greens were reseeded with bentgrass L-93 and germination is already visible. This will ensure good coverage during the tournament in case temperatures remain low.

Procedures to be carried out over March:

- Application of surfactant. **Week of 4th March.**
- Application of Seed head suppressant + fertilizer. Rate: 3l/ha etephon+ 25 l / ha of 25-0-0. **Week of 11th March**
- Preventive application insecticide imidacloprid at a rate of 1.5 l / ha. **Week of 18th March**
- Solid tine + verticutting + topdressing. **Week of 25th March.**
- Application PGR + fertilizer. Rate: 3l/ha etephon + 250 cc/ha of trinexapacethyl + 25 l / ha of 25-0-0. **Week of 25th March.**

❖ **GREEN SURROUNDS**

Green surrounds were solid tined, reseeded and topdressed the last week of February. On our visit, germination was not visible yet. The procedure was as follows:

1. Solid tined
2. Seeded
3. Topdressing

Prior to this procedure, green surrounds were sprayed with a selective herbicide against broadleaf weed. The effect of the application is already noticeable as shown in the picture.



These areas will be reseeded to avoid a bare spot as weed disappears.

Swales and run off areas are being cut out as it was requested in the previous visit.

Procedures to be carried out over March:

- Fertilization 10-20-10 at a rate of 20 g/m². **Week of 11th March.**

❖ **COLLARS**

In general, collars have good grass coverage but this is still insufficient in some areas. Because of that, we have decided to increase fertilization in all collars to encourage grass coverage. This extra fertilization has taken place during the week of 4th March.

It is very important to use only micro granular fertilizer for these areas that are very close to the green, otherwise the greens could be spotted with the fertilizer that might accidentally get in the green.

❖ **TEES**

Tees are in very good condition. The overseeding carried out in February has created perfect grass coverage. On the other hand, selective herbicide against broadleaf weed should be applied on platforms and surrounds over the second week of March.

Tees will be solid tined by the third week of March. Overseeding and heavy topdressing will be carried out after aerification.

In regards to pruning, both hole 3 bushes and hole 11 branches have been removed. Branch on tee 1 is going to be pruned as soon as possible since it would be necessary to rent a platform to reach it.

Procedures to be carried out over March:

- Cutting branch on tee 1.
- Selective herbicide. Dicamba + 2,4-D + MCPA to a rate of 1.5 l / ha. **Week of 11th March.**

- Fertilization 10-20-10 to a rate of 20 g/m². Solid tine + topdressing + overseeding. **Week of 18th March.**

❖ FAIRWAYS

Fairways were solid tined and fertilized following the established planning. Solid tine was used instead of hollowcoring. The effect of the fertilizer and the work performed is currently evident since the fairways are in very good shape showing a healthy dark green colour.



Fairways are being mowed to 15 mm. Height of cut should be lowered gradually until reaching heights between 10/11 mm. The height should be lowered gradually going to 13 mm as a first step in the last week of March and then to 10/11 mm the week before the tournament.

Finally, fairways will be fertilized three weeks before the tournament. This fertilization will avoid fairways from extensively suffering the excess of mowing and drop of height of cut.

Procedures to be carried out over March:

- Fertilization ENTEC 10/20/10 to a rate of 20 g/m². **Week of 25th March.**
- Lower height of cut to 13 mm.

❖ **ROUGH**

Due to the heavy rains and windy days over the last weeks, herbicide treatment against broadleaf has been delayed. We are planning to do it as soon as the weather improves in the coming week.

Regarding height cutting, we are going to keep it at a height of 60 mm. and 25 mm. for semirough.

Rough will be cut the week before the tournament. In the case of not having a homogeneous colour on the rough by that time, a foliar fertilization with ammonium sulphate and iron will be applied.

Procedures to be carried out over March.

- Herbicide treatment against broadleaf. **Week of 11th March.**

❖ **BUNKERS**

Bunkers are the most problematic area to maintain so far because of the slope of the bunker faces.

Heavy rains have washed down the faces of the bunkers recently. For this reason all of them had to be repaired and therefore the sand is currently loose again.



As long as there is no heavy rain again, faces should be maintained with minimal disruption.

Sand pathways are already being covered in turf or some other form of vegetation as shown on the picture.



Finally we would like to thank El Saler Golf course team for their time and hospitality during our visit.

Green Section Department

Royal Spanish Golf Federation

