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Spanish Open 2013

CAMPO DE GOLF PARADOR EL SALER

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SPANISH OPEN 2013 REPORT

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

The condition of the course is in general good, although the temperatures during the last months have not been very favorable to promote the regrowth of warm-season grasses.

This affects pretty much the rough and greens. Rough is uneven and there are green areas that still remain dormant. Due to this situation, it has been decided to modify the maintenance planning schedule taking growth regulator application out of the planning and including instead light foliar fertilization.

The following are our recommendations for every single area of the golf course.

❖ GREENS

Although temperatures have risen and Poa and bentgrass are growing, greens still maintain very firm. Topdressing was performed weekly during the last month and this is the main reason why they remain firm. The last topdressing will be performed by next week, double verticutting prior to topdressing will be carried out. In our opinion; firmness will not be an issue for the tournament.

Brushing/grooming has been frequent in recent weeks, and verticutting was performed on a weekly basis.

By next week, brushing / grooming will be necessary as it has been during recent weeks. Greens speed will be checked daily. The goal is to reach values around 10 feet by next weekend. The frequency of mowing will adjust to the speed values recorded, mowing more frequently to increase speed.

Cutting height will remain at 3 mm, although microcut blades will be prepared just in case it is necessary to take it down to 2.8 mm.

The only problem we found in the greens is the lack of uniformity due to the different species found in them. Bermuda grass present in some places makes the surface a little inconsistent.



Date: April 3rd

To achieve higher density in these areas we recommend the following actions:

- 2 foliar applications, April 4th and again on the April 9th (A third application might be needed)

- NO plant growth regulator application.

In regard to fungal diseases, fusarium appeared on green 10 and green 13 last month, as soon as appreciated treatment was performed and controlled to perfection.

Preventive fungicide application has to be performed the week before the tournament.

Therefore, the work to be done on greens will be:

- Double verticutting + topdressing
- Daily brushing and grooming
- Foliar application of fertilizer + fungicide 20 l/ha of 25-0-0 + propiconazole to 3 l / ha

❖ **COLLARS**

Collars have perfect coverage with the exception of two of them. The left side of the back of green 14 and the back area of green 11, that are not completely covered (overseeding lines are still visible). On April 4th granular fertilizer was applied on these collars to promote growth.



❖ **TEES**

Tees are in good shape. Height of cut on tees is currently 11 mm and Split pattern is already set up. The week before the tournament a light topdressing is going to be applied to gain firmness and level.

We are considering reducing height of cut to 10 mm the week before the tournament. It depends on tee evolution during this coming week

The work to be performed on tees is:

- Topdressing.
- Divoting.

FAIRWAYS

Fairways are in very good conditions. On April 4th we started mowing at 11mm and during the coming week we will begin with the split pattern.

The streets were fertilized three weeks before the tournament following the established planning and they currently show a nice dark green colour and excellent health.



Fairways will be mowed twice per day during the whole week. By the end of the week we will decide to reduce height to 10 mm.

Next week divoting of all fairways is going to be carried out to get a perfectly smooth surface for the tournament.

ROUGH

Regarding the rough, we could say that it is the most deficient area of the course at the moment. The temperature of the last months has not helped very much. Although it has been fertilized twice during the last two months warm season grasses are not actively growing. Last fertilization was carried out on the last week of March.

Currently we can find very different areas on El Saler rough.

- Areas with high density of cold season turfgrass (Poa annua Ryegrass) **Picture 1.**
- Areas with high density of warm-season turfgrass (grass, kikuyu) **Picture 2**



The mower was set to 60 mm, nevertheless the rough is so uneven that in some places it does not even touch warm grass. The little growth that it has showed is only lateral instead of vertical

During next week Amonium sulfate + iron will be applied on the rough to promote growth and green as much as possible.

BUNKERS

Damaged areas on bunkers have been either reseeded or returfed. Nevertheless, the heavy rains of the last months have made it impossible to maintain the faces without disruption as required. The cleaning of weeds has also forced us to work on faces therefore the sand compaction of the slopes is minimal. During the week before the tournament we will try to touch faces as little as possible.



Finally, we are grateful for the welcome that we received during the visits to Campo de Golf El Saler.

Yours sincerely.

Green Section Department
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