

## **TOURNAMENT AGRONOMY PREPARATION REPORT**

### **PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

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**Tournament:**       **Lalla Meryem Cup**

**Tournament Date:**   28-31 March 2013

**Visit Date:**       29/01/2013

Please refer to this report when planning maintenance in advance of **Lalla Meryem Cup**.

## INTRODUCTION

It was my pleasure to visit the Golf de L'Ocean to complete my first course inspection in advance of the Lalla Meryem Cup. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the condition of the golf course at Agadir (Morocco) and identify any issues which needed to be addressed for the preparation of the course for the tournament in March.

We would like to mention the passion and the enthusiasm that the greenkeeper shows to face the preparation of the golf course for the tournament. He is very open-minded with our recommendations and communication seems very fluent with him. That is the main key to get a successful event.

We were really impressed with the fast conversion from cool season grasses (*Lolium perenne*) to warm season grasses (*Paspalum vaginatum*). That is a big step to achieve a more **sustainable golf course** and to cut down water consumption, use of chemicals, men power, etc. However, there are some areas (especially greens surrounds) that need to be clean of cool season species for enjoying uniform playing surfaces during the tournament.



Cool season and warm season grasses have different growth habits and as a result, a non-homogeneous playing surface.

## 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 – 2.8-3.0 mm

Tournament Tees – 8.0 mm

Green Collar – 8.0 mm

Approach – 8.0 mm

Fairways – 8.0 mm

Semi-Rough – 15.0 mm

Playable Rough – 50.0 mm (mowed up to Wednesday of event week only)

\*\*\* See the attached picture at the end of the report.

## SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT SUGGESTIONS

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

### Greens

The putting surfaces were in good condition on the day of the visit. Surfaces were firm under foot, with good grass density and smoothness was fine. We did not find any sign of disease.

Due to the big amount of play during this time of the season, greens are not very fast. It does not make sense to put the greens under stress looking for tournament speed right now. Our recommendations will prepare greens to show a good response and a good condition during the tournament.



*Paspalum* encroachment is a real concern in some greens, especially on the perimeters. We strongly recommend to returf those areas removing 5-10 cm of the root zone sand mix and cleaning all the rhizomes of *Paspalum*. We have suggested that any turfing that is required should be carried out using turf which should be taken from the putting or chipping greens so it is totally compatible with what is on the course. We would recommend that once the turf has taken root sufficiently that some light aeration work be carried out on these areas of new turf to encourage deeper rooting and healthier grass cover, a star tine or 8-10 mm pencil tine would be ideal. Regular topdressing and the gradual reduction in height of cut should result in surfaces improving greatly.



**#10 green** is the only one in a bad condition. After discussing the potential causes of this situation, we arrive to the conclusion that it should be a poor irrigation coverage issue. We would recommend:

- Returf the affected areas (following the recommendations cited in the previous paragraph).
- Use of bio-stimulants.
- Redesign sprinkler distribution on the affected area, looking for a good irrigation uniformity and water distribution.



During the tournament week greens must be firm and without any spiking issue. Green's speed will be monitoring closely on the advance weekend. To achieve these goals we recommend to strictly following the next planning from now until the tournament:

- **#10 green must be turfed immediately.** The main goal is to achieve total grass cover and establish newly turfed areas on all greens.
- Biweekly brushing.
- Biweekly grooming (-1 to -2 mm.)
- Regular light topdressings should be applied every 12 to 14 days going forward and this will help to maintain thatch levels. These light dressings could be carried out in conjunction with light aeration work such as micro spiking and grooming which will help surface aeration.
- Biweekly spoon feeding applying 0.1 lb N/1000 sf. and micros. Irrigation water has high organic matter content and nitric acid is applied to the irrigation system.
- Maintain a well balanced fertilizer programme avoiding flushes in growth and leaning off of the turf.
- Implement wetting agent programme from March.
- Ensure sensible use of irrigation avoiding overwatering.

At all times turf health should be the primary goal in the preparation for this event and daily checks should be carried out, monitoring such things as drought stress, disease outbreaks, over watering or any other issues which may occur.

Everything in this report should be carried out with care and should any factor not be correct or causing damage then the process should be halted or replaced depending on what is best at this time. All greens should be checked daily for stress, disease or any other factors that may affect the surfaces. The sooner things are identified and treated the better the chance of survival and recovery of the turf.

### **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 are a concern in preparation for the event and as a result time and resources will need to be deployed to this area. Density of ryegrass is low and causes a patchy appearance and uneven turfgrass cover in these areas. The best option is removing ryegrass chemically and encouraging *Paspalum* growth.



There is not a lot of information to evaluate the phytotoxicity of rye removal herbicides to seashore paspalum. One study conducted at Rancho Santa Fe (USA) shows a good result with no phytotoxicity using the active ingredient Foramsulfuron (trade name: Revolver).

We would recommend:

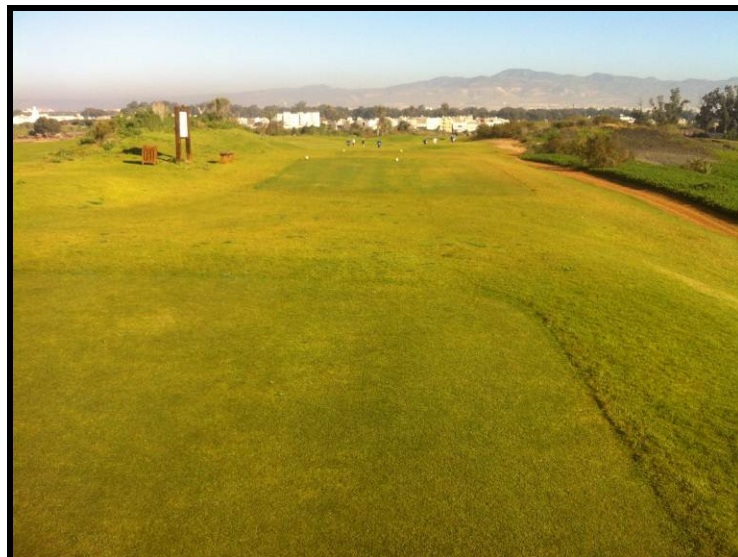
- **IF POSSIBLE:** Selective herbicide treatment with Foramsulfuron (Revolver @ **0.9 l/Ha**) + nitrogen fertilizer + turf marker paint. Using nozzles that deliver coarse spray droplets to reduce spray drift. It must be carried out with great care. Golf course should be close the day of the treatment to prevent contamination of the greens.
- Slicing and heavy topdressing.
- Fertilization with 18-46-0 @ 50 Kg/Ha.
- Increase mowing frequency and lower the height of cut avoiding any scalping issue on *Paspalum*.
- Monitoring blade sharpness and set up.

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**

Excluding #5 tee, surfaces were firm, level, free of diseases and with good grass coverage.



We would recommend the following program:

- Increase mowing frequency and monitoring blade sharpness and set up.
- Slicing and heavy topdressing.
- Fertilization with 18-46-0 @ 50 Kg/Ha.

It would be appreciated if the tournament tees be saved for 2 weeks before the event so that they are divot and blemish free for the tournament.

|           |        |   | <b>Tee</b>    | <b>White Line</b> | <b>Additional</b> | <b>White Line</b>   |                                                | <b>TV Tower</b> |
|-----------|--------|---|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Dunes  | 1 | <b>White</b>  | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>2</b>  | Dunes  | 2 | <b>Blue</b>   | 2yds from back    |                   |                     | Permanent Toilet 2nd Green 3 rd Tee            |                 |
| <b>3</b>  | Dunes  | 3 | <b>Yellow</b> | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>4</b>  | Dunes  | 4 | <b>White</b>  | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>5</b>  | Dunes  | 5 | <b>Yellow</b> | 3yds from back    |                   |                     | 2 X Ball Spotter                               |                 |
| <b>6</b>  | Dunes  | 6 | <b>Yellow</b> | 3yds from back    |                   |                     | 2 X Portaloo between 6th Tee and 7th Green     |                 |
| <b>7</b>  | Dunes  | 7 | <b>White</b>  | 5yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>8</b>  | Dunes  | 8 | <b>White</b>  | 6yds from back    |                   |                     | Request Protaloo between 8th Green and 9th tee | Behind green    |
| <b>9</b>  | Dunes  | 9 | <b>Yellow</b> | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
|           |        |   |               |                   |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>10</b> | Garden | 1 | <b>Back</b>   | 6yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>11</b> | Garden | 2 | <b>Yellow</b> | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |
| <b>12</b> | Garden | 3 | <b>Back</b>   | 4yds from back    |                   |                     | 2 X Portaloo between 12 tee and 17 tee         |                 |
| <b>13</b> | Garden | 4 | <b>Yellow</b> | 2yds from Back    |                   |                     | 1 X Portaloo between 13th tee and 15th Green   | Behind green    |
| <b>14</b> | Garden | 5 | <b>Blue</b>   | 2yds from back    | <b>Red</b>        | Sebastien to decide |                                                |                 |
| <b>15</b> | Garden | 6 | <b>Yellow</b> | 6yds from back    | <b>Red</b>        | 2yds from back      | 1 X Portaloo between 13th tee and 15th Green   | Behind green    |
| <b>16</b> | Garden | 7 | <b>Back</b>   | 2yds from back    | <b>Yellow</b>     | 3yds from back      | Permanent toilet                               |                 |
| <b>17</b> | Garden | 8 | <b>White</b>  | 3yds from back    |                   |                     | 2 X Portaloo between 12 tee and 17 tee         | Behind green    |
| <b>18</b> | Garden | 9 | <b>White</b>  | 2yds from back    |                   |                     |                                                |                 |

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

### **Fairways and Playable Rough**

Fairways were firm under foot, free of diseases and with a good lie of ball. However there are some areas that show lack of grass coverage due to malfunctioning of the irrigation system.



Water quality is the main problem of the irrigation system. Golf de L'Ocean uses reclaimed water with lot of organic matter in suspension. This organic matter clogs filters of the sprinklers and as a result produces:

- ✓ Loss of time and manpower cleaning sprinklers and repairing breaks.
- ✓ Possible breaks during the tournament creating flooded areas.



In order to avoid these problems in the future, we recommend the installation of a filtration system.

We would recommend the following program:

- Lowering the height of cut and increase mowing frequency to reduce broadleaf weed population.
- Monitoring blade sharpness and set up.
- Fertilization with 18-46-0 @ 50 Kg/Ha.
- Slicing, verticutting and heavy topdressing. Focusing on areas with lack of grass coverage.

**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.**

### **Bunkers**

Bunkers use the same native sand which occurs throughout the site. Whilst this is not USGA specification particle size distribution it is adequate when prepared properly. It is not possible to specify depths of this sand as there are likely meters of this beneath the surface, and no true floor to the bunkers.

From playability point of view it is important the bunker is adequately compacted. I recommend that the bunker faces are brushed on back raked to have a firm smooth surface rather than a traditional raked finish which cultivates the sand and can promote plugging.

There are some edging to work on. Sébastien told me that he is planning to edge the bunkers three times before the tournament date.

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.
- 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.

### **Machinery**

- All the mower units must be sharpened.
- Sébastien will ask for additional machinery from other golf courses of the area of Agadir to be prepared for any problem that may occur during the tournament.

### **Tournament Schedule**

| Task                      | Shift |                  |    |                  |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------|----|------------------|
|                           | AM    | Number Employees | PM | Number Employees |
| Dew Removal – Fairways    | ✓     | 2                | X  | 0                |
| Course Set Up             | ✓     | 2                | X  | 0                |
| Greens Mowing             | ✓     | 4                | ✓  | 4                |
| Collar & Approach Mowing  | ✓     | 1-2              | X  | 0                |
| Greens Rolling            | ✓     | 1-2              | ✓  | 1-2              |
| Tournament Tee Mowing     | ✓     | 1-2              | X  | 0                |
| Tee Mowing                | X     | 0                | ✓  | 1-2              |
| Practice Tee Mowing       | X     | 0                | ✓  | 1                |
| Fairway Mowing            | X     | 0                | ✓  | 3-4              |
| Semi-rough Mowing         | X     | 0                | ✓  | 1                |
| Playable Rough Mowing     | X     | 0                | ✓  | 2                |
| Bunker Raking             | ✓     | 5-10             | X  | 0                |
| Divot Repair After Mowing | X     | 0                | ✓  | 4-6              |
| Blowing                   | ✓     | 2-3              | ✓  | 2-3              |
| Miscellaneous tasks       | ✓     | 1-2              | ✓  | 1-2              |
| Total                     |       | 19-29            |    | 20-27            |

### **Advance Week Course Closure**

LET and Golf de L'Océan must agree on the appropriate level of course closure in advance of the tournament to help preserve and recover the golf course.

**We will really appreciate weekly updates on progress of turfing on greens, reinstatement of grass on fairways, transition of *Paspalum* around green surrounds and bunker compaction.**

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.



# LET Presentation & Mowing Graphic

