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## **GREEN SECTION RFEG TOURNAMENT REPORT**

Subject

**CHALLENGE DE MADRID 2015  
EL ENCÍN GOLF**

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### **TOURNAMENT REPORT. CHALLENGE DE MADRID 2015.**

Last 20<sup>th</sup> of March, this department organized a visit to El Encín Golf course in order to evaluate the course maintenance and work plan for the tournament preparation, Challenge de Madrid, which will be held from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.

Then, we proceed to inform about all the detailed information regarding the status of each playing surfaces and we expose our recommendations for the tournament.

### **CURRENT SITUATION OF THE GOLF COURSE**

The course continues in very good conditions for the amateur player, according to the resources available for its maintenance.

Different cultural practices have been done primarily on tees and greens in order to manage the accumulation of organic matter (*Thatch*) and improve firmness and smoothness. The turf starts growing up with the beginning of the spring but climate conditions are not being as good as expected to help plant growth activation. All labours are being developed on time as recommended, but the course is going to recover and progress according to the weather conditions. Next weeks, we expect better conditions that will help to improve course performance, definition and playability for the tournament.



***Picture 1: Current putting greens appearance.***



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The rest of the course areas, fairways, rough and bunkers continue in very good conditions with the current maintenance planning and all the practices that are being performed during these months. Bunkers will be checked to assure adequate sand depth in all areas.



***Picture 2: Fairways and rough have good density and uniformity.***



***Pictures 3- 4: Bunkers presentation.***



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Based on these considerations, these are our observations and recommendation on greens and tees for preparing the tournament:

## 1. GREENS

Greens have been verticut, in two different directions, in order to remove plant material and reduce surface organic matter accumulation. Putting surface keeps showing lightly soften conditions due to this thatch development, but we believe these cultural practices together with light and frequent topdressing will improve firmness and smoothness putting greens.



*Pictures 5- 6: Putting green surface after verticutting.*



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We recommend continuing these frequent and light practices that will be complemented, as temperatures begin to rise, with double mowing and rolling to increase putting green speed, firmness and smoothness.

## 2. TEES

Tee platforms offer good density and uniformity. Last weeks, they have been solid core cultivated to reduced organic matter accumulation and improve surface firmness. This practice has to be complemented with light topdressing to achieve these objectives.



*Pictures 7-8: Tees after solid core cultivation.*



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In conclusion, works are being developed to improve playable conditions but weather conditions' evolution will be essential to achieve objectives and provide better conditions for plant growth, development and definition.

Finally, we would like to thank for the kindness received during the course visit. We remain at your disposal for any questions.

Kind regards,

***Real Federación Española de Golf  
Green Section Committe***

