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GREEN SECTION RFEG TOURNAMENT REPORT

Subject

**OPEN CHALLENGE 2015
TECINA GOLF**

June 2015

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PREPARATION VISIT CHALLENGE DE ESPAÑA 2015.

After the visit realized on June 10th by the RFEG's Green Section Department to Tecina Golf's installations in preparation for the Spain Challenge 2015, we analyzed the different parts of the itinerary and we've reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. GREENS.

The state of the greens is generally good and they've been topdressed recently to eliminate the thatch formed by organic matter. They're firm, free of any diseases and the rolling of the ball is soft and uniform. The latest programmed topdressing couldn't be finished due to a breakdown in the topdresser that has been repaired already. If a breakdown happens again, the topdressing can also be done with the handheld fertilizers, since it's a fundamental task to add firmness, nobility in the rolling and an appropriate draining to the greens that allow to maintain the plant in a healthy state.

Some greens present "Dry spot" due to not getting enough water (Pic 1) in those areas because of the composition of the root area's profile in different zones within the same green (Pics 2 and 3) and/or strong gusts of wind while the watering event is being performed. To correct this, they'll carry out a micro-tinning that increases the water infiltration through the green's surface. In addition to all this, it's necessary to continue with the planned moisturizing treatment.



Picture 1. "Dry Spot" in greens.



Pictures 2 & 3. Different composition in root profile seen in different areas of greens

When sweeping the hand over the green's surface, it can be observed the size of the leaves isn't similar (Pic 4), in addition to the height being excessive. This is a result of the real height not being the same as the fixed cutting height, due to the machinery tilting down the leaf before cutting it, in spite of using the groomer routinely. On account of the thatch encouragement produced by the excessive use of the groomer (cutting vertically increments the plant's density), we recommend the use of implemented brushes that'll raise the leaves before the cutting without producing any secondary effects. These brushes increment notably the quality of the cut, making the rolling better, the firmness and definition of the green and it can be implemented in different types of mowers (Pics 5 and 6).



Picture 4. Different cutting height



Pictures 5 y 6. Front brushes in mowers

In greens #11 and #13 damaged areas without coverage can be appreciated (Pic 7). It is recommended to sod this areas as soon as possible and to not leave it until the end so their state regarding the tournament is imperceptible and they're fully playable.



Picture 7. 13 green damaged area pending to be sodded

In some greens spots that are symptoms of some fungal infection can be appreciated (Pic 8). It's Fusarium and, after being treated, its development has stopped completely..



Picture 8. Fusarium symptoms in recovering .

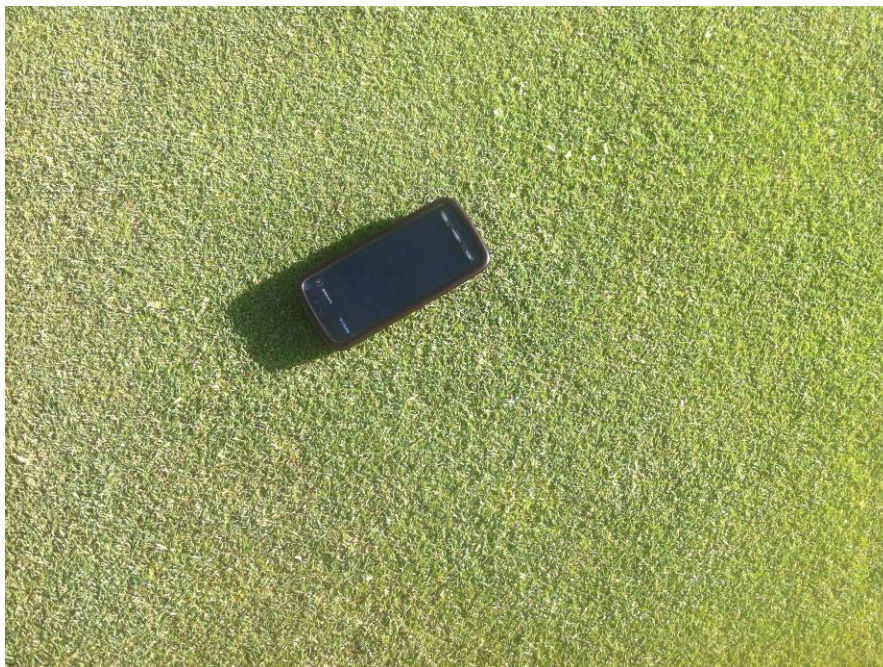
The pollution the greens are suffering (Pic 9) of other species (Bermudagrass, Digitaria sanguinalis, Bluegrass,...) must be eradicated to maintain the necessary surface uniformity so the rolling of the ball is soft and the greens are playable. The use of growth regulators like the Trinexapac-Ethyl can help homogenize the growth speed of the different species and avoid the ball jumping when it goes from one to the other.



Picture 9. Contaminated áreas in greens

Another factor that damages the uniformity and therefore the playability is the seedhead production by the *Poa annua* (Pic 10). The solution is to integrate a planning of growth

regulators with an Etephon base which will stop the seeded production and maintain the *Poa annua*'s development slowed down and thus its expansion. The optimal application covers also the fringe, since it's the biggest producer of seedheads that end up inside the green transported by the wind and the players' shoes..



Picture 10. *Poa annua* seedheads

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the greens are:

1. Micro-tinning the greens.
2. Sodding of the damaged areas in tees #11 and #13.
3. Light topdressings biweekly up to the week before the tournament.
4. Applying the moisturizing agent.
5. Green cutting with brush with a frequency of five times per week with just two weekly cleaning rounds without rake drawers
6. Flag changing three times per week.

2. TEES.

The tees present a good state in general (Pic 11). They have just been topdressed and tinned abundantly and are waiting to be fertilized. A cutting frequency has been detected- The platforms are even and offer an appropriate stance for the player. When

treating the weeds, the density has been lessened but, after the fertilization of the Bermudagrass, it'll accelerate its development without any problems.



Picture 11. Tees tinned and overseeded

All the fixed starting marks must be located to respect the course's official distances (Pic 12).



Picture 12. Tee mark pending to be leveled and painted

Due to the course's immensely elevated rabbit population, it's necessary to carry out a culling, since it's affecting the tees, where they dig nests in the skirts (Pic 13). In the areas with less covering from the platform due to the turning of the mowing machines' wheels,

they're also used for further digging. It's recommended to take measures to reduce the population or the usage of repellents to avoid damages to the itinerary.



Picture 13. Rabbits holes

Some outer areas of the tees are damaged due to an insufficient quantity of water (Pic 14). We recommend a checking of the proper functioning and coverage of the sprinklers (increasing it if necessary), since, in consecutive strongly windy days, it can damage the plant's health and the playability.



Foto 14. Tee without correct irrigation covering

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the tees are:

1. Fertilizing the tees.
2. Locating, leveling and painting the fixed starting marks of tees.
3. Checking the coverage of the sprinklers over the tees' platforms.
4. Tee cutting with a frequency of three times per week.

3. **FRINGES.**

The fringes have total coverage and high density. They're well delimited, although we recommend the state of the roller bearings and the machine's settings to be checked, since one of the cutting units is leaving a mark (Pic 15).



Foto 15. Mowers marks

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the fringes are:

1. Applying the moisturizing agent.
2. Fringe cutting with a frequency of three times per week.

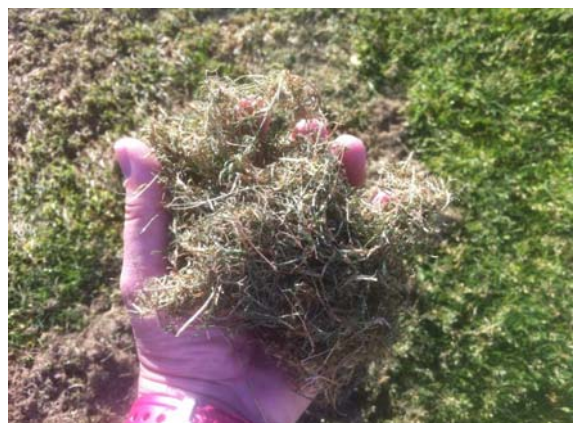
4. FAIRWAYS.

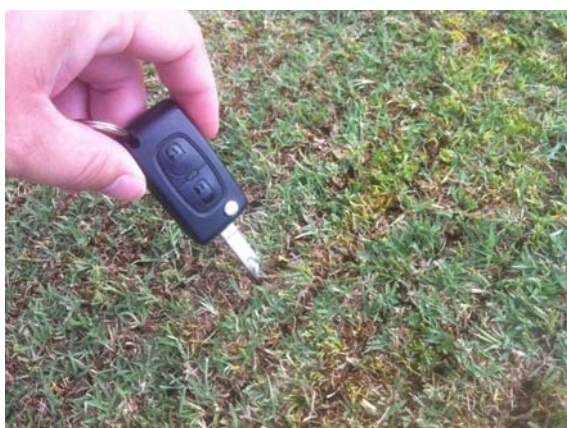
The fairways present total coverage, adequate firmness and they're free of any diseases. Chemical control works over the weeds keep being carried out, which gives it a dull look (Pic 16), since the weeds are starting to disappear.



Picture 16. General view in fairways

Currently a verticutting is being carried out to reduce the density extracting organic matter which minimizes the thatch and increases the playability (Pics 17, 18, 19 and 20). Once it's finalized, they'll be applied fertilizer.





Pictures 17, 18, 19 y 20. Verticutting in fairways

The marks the machine leaves during the mowing (Pic 21) are due to the machine being maladjusted, the cutting clip to be precise (it's the relationship between the cutting height, the speed of the reel and the machine's translation speed). It has been established the excessive translation speed is intentional, due to only one street machine being operative (the other one is pending the arrival of spare parts) and it's necessary to increase the speed to maintain the cut in a regular basis and to achieve a minimum of frequency. When the other machine gets fixed, the cutting cling must be adjusted to the manufacturer's specifications, since it's necessary to achieve an optimum cutting quality, which affects the plant's health, the water, fertilizer needs. We also recommend to increase the frequency of fairways cutting to five times per week.



Foto 21. Marcas realizadas por mal ajuste del clip de corte.

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the streets are:

1. Verticutting of the fairways.
2. Fertilizing with granulated fertilizer.
3. Adjusting the cutting clip.
4. Street cutting with a frequency of three times per week.

5. **ROUGH.**

The rough presents a total coverage. A definitive height must be fixed prior to the tournament (50 mm) and to be sure that the plant develops adequately and reaches the demanded height (Pic 22), we recommend the immediate application of Urea in a 200 kg/ha dosage. There needs to be really careful to not burn the plant, make sure the sprinkler system works correctly and provide abundant water after the application. Other necessary measure is to avoid the traffic by ropes through the fertilized areas until the decomposition of the urea is completed.

The most pronounced slopes are notably compacted, so we recommend a tinning to favor the infiltration of water. Dividing the risk time of these areas in several watering events also contributes to avoid the watering overflow.



Picture 22. Inadequate cutting height

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the rough are:

1. Fertilizing with urea in a 200 kg/ha dosage.
2. Tinning the compacted areas.
3. Increasing the cutting frequency.

6. BUNKERS.

The sand's density is adequate in the base and in the slopes of the bunkers, It's been programmed for the next weeks the outlining, cleaning and the contribution of sand to the bunkers' edges (Pics 23 and 24).



Pictures 23 y 24. General view of bunkers

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the bunkers are:

1. Outlining the edges.
2. Reaping of the slopes.
3. Sand contribution and distribution in the edges.

7. PRACTICE AREA.

In the practice area, the putting green presents a worse state than the rest of the course's greens (it should present similar characteristics for training). The pata de gallina pollution covers the whole green and some areas present a lack of coverage (Pics 25 and 26). We recommend a total renovation of this area to present it at the same level as the rest of the course.



Pictures 25 y 26. Putting Green in practice area

In the practice field there's been an obstruction problem with some of the sprinklers (it doesn't affect the tournament since it's at the end of the area) that has managed to stop the watering of those areas (Pic 27). It's recommended to check the irrigation system periodically to avoid this problem.



Picture 27. General view of practice field.

The practice area's bunker (Pic 28) is going to be outlined and cleaned like the rest of the course.



Foto 28. Practice field's bunkers

In preparation for the tournament, the pending tasks in the practice area are:

1. Sodding the putting green's most damaged areas.
2. Checking the irrigation system in the practice field.
3. Outling the practice bunker's edges.
4. Contribution and distribution of sand to the practice bunker's edges.

8. MANICURE.

In a course with the characteristics of Tecina Golf, the manicure is really important, specially the maintenance of the areas that are part of the game (Pic 29). The pruning of trees and bushes that interfere with the game is going to be revised.

The palm trees that are closer to the playing area are also being cleaned (Pics 30 and 31).



Foto 29. Bushed playable areas with pruning needs .

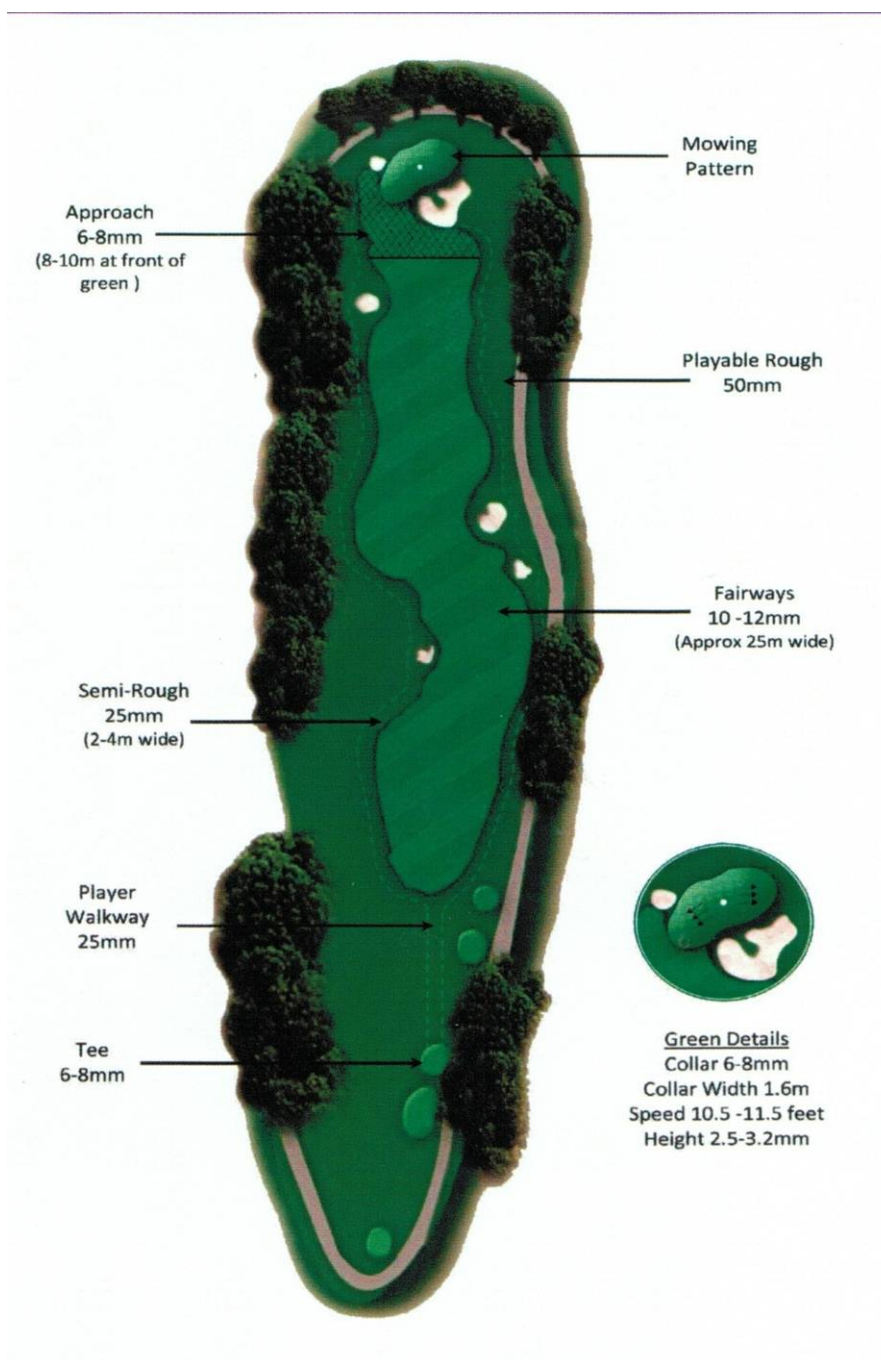


Pictures 30 y 31. Palmtrees pruning

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE RECOMMENDED TASKS TO BE DONE DURING THE TOURNAMENT

During the celebration of the tournament, two technicians of the RFEG's Green Section will travel to Tecina Golf's installations to collaborate in the course's maintenance works.

MORNING	EVENING
GREEN MOWING	GREEN MOWING
GREENS ROLLING	FAIRWAY MOWING
HOLE CHANGING	TEE MOWING
BUNKERS RAKING	ANTEGREENS MOWING
DEW REMOVAL IN FAIRWAYS	DIVOTING TEES AND FAIRWAYS



Finally, we would like to thank for the kindness received during the course visit.

We remain at your disposal for any questions.

**Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Green Section Committee**