

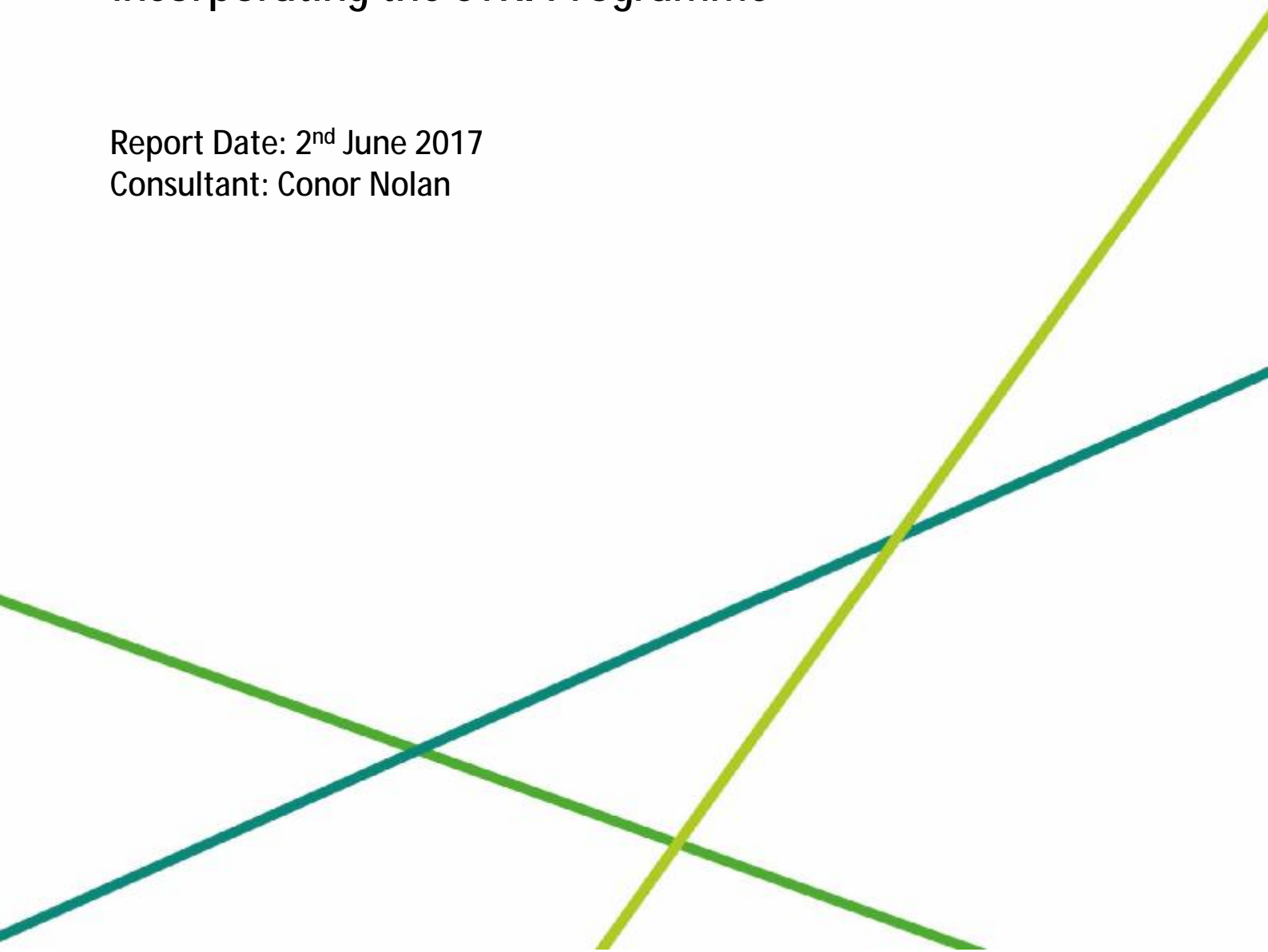


Making great sport happen

MONKSTOWN GOLF CLUB

Advisory Report on the Golf Course incorporating the STRI Programme

Report Date: 2nd June 2017
Consultant: Conor Nolan



Monkstown Golf Club

Date of Visit: 31st May 2017

Visit Objective: To review overall course condition and to provide general advice on maintenance issues throughout the course.

Present: Mr M Travers – Course Superintendent
Conor Nolan – STRI Ltd

Weather: Overcast. 16-18°C

Headlines

- Some of the putting surfaces were affected by a mild outbreak of fusarium patch disease three weeks prior to the visit. Those affected most were of poorer environmental conditions. Scars still affected smoothness.
- The vigour of the bentgrass was not as strong as expected on the greens. It was possibly so due to the intensive means of integrating sand topdressing and/or the nitrogen status of the sward. Disappointingly no seedlings from autumn overseeding appeared to have survived.
- The aprons and approaches had recovered well following the dry spring. They were the most uniform to date.
- Tees remain firm and well grassed of good vigour.
- The fairways offered good ball support and nice definition, having recovered from drought stress. They added well to good overall course definition.
- Significant number of trees had been felled but they represent a very small proportion of what needs to be done.

Key Actions

- Reduce the nitrogen status of the putting surfaces as much as you can to favour the bentgrass and any seedlings that may have survived since the autumn.
- Hold off application of nitrogen to the putting surfaces for a few weeks.
- Eliminate use of the rotary brush for this year when working in sand to the putting surfaces given its potential damage to seedlings and bentgrass in general.
- Allow the vigour of the aprons to drop. Make a further overseeding during the summer with fescue and dwarf perennial ryegrass when the vigour drops.
- Short term priority for tree removal remains to the 12th and 16th green complexes.
- Keep up the vigour of the tees.
- Allow the vigour of the fairways to drop back somewhat so that balls trundle on better.
- Verticutting of the fairways a couple of times over the summer is encouraged and supported if growth is sufficient.
- Overseeding of the dry and weak section of the 10th should be carried out a couple of times with rye and fescue seed.

Photo Observations and Comments



Figure 1: The 1st green appeared lean but on closer view the annual meadowgrass component was plump and a bit too green. Pace was quite good but it can be better at the same height of cut if we reduce the friction level of the grass.



Figure 2: Mild outbreak of fusarium activity three weeks prior to the visit was most apparent to the most airflow restricted and shaded 12th green. Others affected were the 1st, 12th and 16th, but not quite to the same extent. The lower more open greens were scar free. Scars upset smoothness somewhat.



Figure 3: The 3rd green. Not one disease scar was noted pleasingly. No new fine grasses were obvious either, however.



Figure 4: The most organic of all green profiles was the 12th, which due to higher watering level developed temporary black layer.



Figure 5: Nice approach to the 4th green complex which was typical of all. Crisper lies in the years ahead can be achieved through overseeding and through mowing with a greens grade triplex mower.



Figure 6: Southern side treescape of the 12th green complex affecting the quality of the putting surface.

Photo Observations and Comments (continued)



Figure 7: The benefit of tree work to the 10th tee was very evident. Grass cover, vigour and firmness were very good to all. Grass length was affected by dull mower blades following recent and necessary sand application (40 tonnes).



Figure 8: The 12th tee was the exception to the rule in terms of grass cover due to the neighbouring oak tree on the left side.



Figure 9: Excellent tee profile on the 17th thanks to regular sanding. All were of that quality.



Figure 10: The 17th fairway offering good ball support following fertiliser application to recover it and all others from the prolonged dry spring. The exceptions were the landing area on the 10th and small parts of the 2nd, which were a bit weak.

Recommendations

Greens

- Adjustment of the technique used to work in sand is required unfortunately. While effective it is a possible contributor to why the bentgrass is not spreading or why no seedlings were found. Try eliminating the rotary brush for this year. If that is insufficient we may have to replace the steel drag mat with a more forgiving rubber dragmat (Raycam).
- Hold off on application of nitrogen for a few more weeks to reduce the competitive nature of the annual meadowgrass and favour speed etc. It was agreed to resume with fortnightly foliar applications of 18:0:6, supplying 0.3g/m² of nitrogen per application. Ultimately, frequency and quantity of nitrogen should be based on visual assessment. Intervene if weakness or variable growth is found. Otherwise keep the growth as lean as possible if new seedlings and the existing bentgrass are to spread. The meadowgrass should be paler and less 'sticky' to touch.
- Lower the height of cut to 3.0mm from the current 3.5mm to reduce the effect of disease scars on ball roll quality (smoothness). Once healed and the vigour is less raise the height of cut back to 3.5mm for the summer to favour the better grasses and to make for easier absorption of sand.
- Phosphate and potassium levels are adequate. Add a micronutrient package that includes manganese to help strengthen (lignify) the roots against Take-all Patch mycelia. Apply according to the label twice per year
- Avoid mowing the clean-up cut more than 2-3 times per week with the triplex mower.
- Use aeration as last year i.e. intervene if increased ponding is noticed or if greens become too hard.
- Having examined the organic matter test results the current approach to sanding should remain at 200 tonnes for the year.
- Lightly verticut every now and then only. At the current vigour of the bentgrass it may not be required until late summer. The less its done the more the bentgrass spreads and young seedlings have a chance to establish.
- Watering as accurately as possible is essential to favour the finer grasses and to avoid making the surfaces too soft and because of its effect on black layer. Aim to keep the moisture content between 15 and 25% when watering. If surfaces are still too firm at that level of moisture you will need to solid tine with 8mm diameter tines to alleviate.
- Overseed the greens a couple of times with your dimple seeder sowing fescue/browntop bent at 60-80kg/hectare once there are windows in the summer playing calendar. It will not be as effective as the main plant pot seeding in September but it will have some effect.
- Do the main overseeding in September as normal.

Green Aprons and Approaches

- Lower the height of cut after the visit to 8-10mm and maintain at that height year round if you can.
- It would be good to overseed the aprons during the summer in addition to the late spring and early autumn treatments. Delay overseeding with the plant pot method however until the vigour of the sward drops back, as it is too competitive at the moment.

Tees

- Keep up the current level of nitrogen to tees to maximise recovery from play.
- Ensure there is 40-50% greenwaste compost within the divot mixture.
- The approach to sanding should remain.

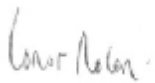
Fairways

- Maintain the current 12.5mm height of cut for the main season.
- Allow the vigour to drop back from its current peak.
- Verticutting lightly twice is supported to refine the texture once there is sufficient growth and drought free conditions over the summer.
- Overseed the droughty area on the 2nd and 10th with 30% dwarf perennial ryegrass, 35% slender creeping red fescue and 35% chewings fescue seed over the summer. Sow a couple of times at 80-100kg/hectare with the Speedseed dimple seeder.

Tree Management

- The necessity for continued tree removal is paramount. While trojan work has been done in-house, removing large trees, it is only the tip of the iceberg. The vulnerability of greens on the upper holes is clear and borne out with the recent disease outbreak. If we wish to reduce our dependence upon fungicides better air movement and sunlight are required through tree removal. There is a good understanding in house of what is required i.e. creation of gaps within the tree lines together with replacement planting of lower value evergreens (excluding pines) with longer living native broadleaved trees.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Nolan".

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ORGANIC MATTER CONTENT



CLIENT: MONKSTOWN GC
 ADDRESS: PARKGARRIFFE,
 MONKSTOWN,
 CO. CORK, REP OF IRELAND

DATE RECEIVED: ~~12/05/17~~

DATE REPORTED: ~~19/05/17~~

RESULTS TO: CN

TEST RESULTS AUTHORISED BY:
 Michael Baines, Laboratory Manager

CONDITION OF SAMPLE UPON ARRIVAL: MOIST

SAMPLE NO	DESCRIPTION	LOSS ON IGNITION (%) [*]
A15882/1	5	0-20 mm 3.20
		20-40 mm 2.45
		40-60 mm 2.32
		60-80 mm 2.05
A15882/2	12	0-20 mm 2.58
		20-40 mm 2.11
		40-60 mm 1.79
		60-80 mm 2.10
A15882/3	16	0-20 mm 3.12
		20-40 mm 2.96
		40-60 mm 2.04
		60-80 mm 2.08

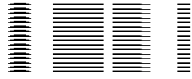
* ASTM F1647-11 Standard Test Methods for Organic Matter Content of Athletic Field Rootzone Mixes (Method A)



THE RESULTS PERTAIN ONLY TO THE SAMPLE(S) SUBMITTED AND TESTED

Testing Certificate 2159 - 01

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SOIL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS



CLIENT:

MONKSTOWN GC

RESULTS TO: **CN**

DATE RECEIVED:

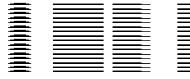
12/05/2017

Lab No.	Source	pH	P ₂ O ₅ (mg/l)	K ₂ O (mg/l)
A15882/1	GREEN 5	6.7	47	108
A15882/2	GREEN 12	6.8	55	87
A15882/3	GREEN 16	6.9	44	147

Mr M A Baines, Soil Laboratory Manager

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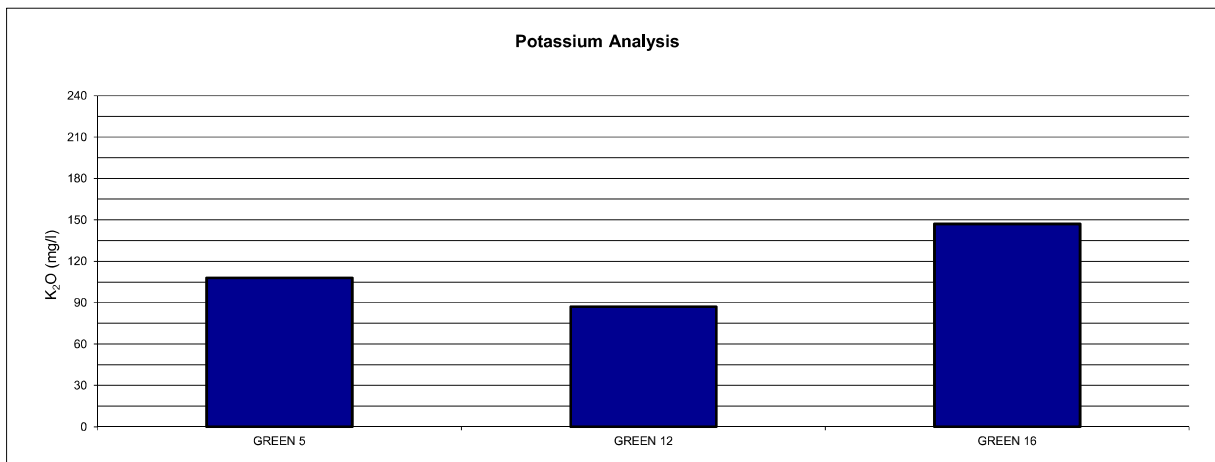
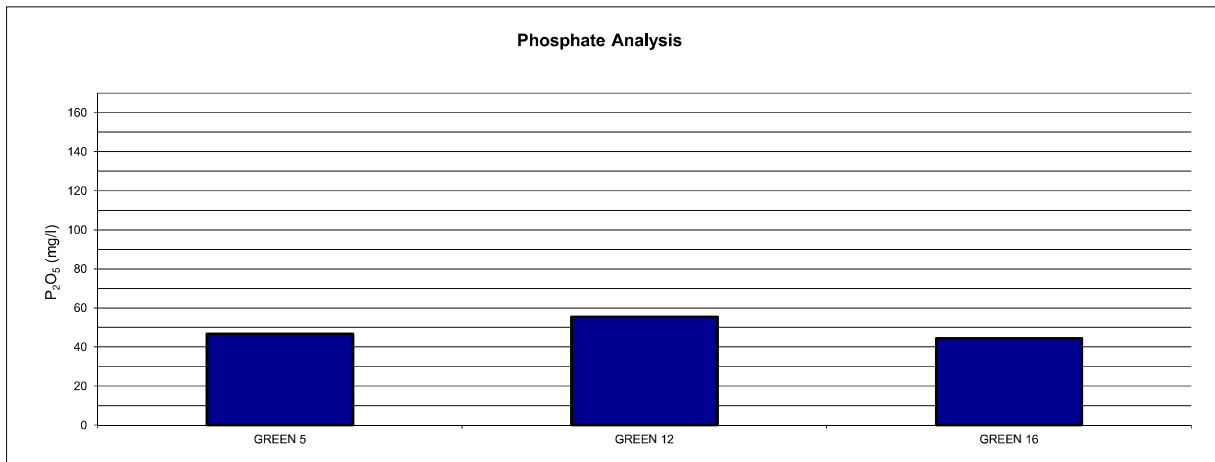
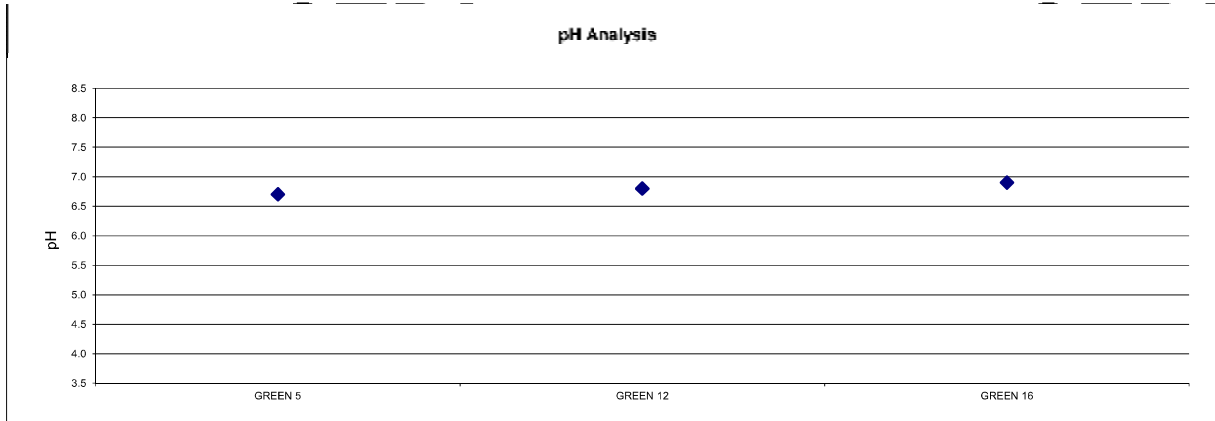
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