



Talking Turf Solutions
18 Air Street
Malelane
1320

19 March 2024

Dear Fanie,

Thank you for your time on the course on Friday. You are going through a challenging time, but let's tackle it systematically & avoid this in the future.

1. Greens recovery:

1. Graden all problem greens as soon as possible (the greens you have seeded without doing the graden will need to be gradened in the spring)
2. Follow with hollow tyning (12mm and broom in sand by hand to ensure holes are properly filled)
3. Overseed greens at the rate of 1kg/100m² (this should be split into 2 directions)

2. Post seeding: Apply immediately behind seeding & water in 15 minutes after spraying

700 – 800 L/ha water

1. 500 g/ha Heritage (to prevent damping off seedling pythium)
2. 1 L/ha Ryder (dark colour pops seed quicker)
3. 10 L/ha TT Star (speed up seed popping & encourage rooting on green)
4. 10 L/ha Qualibra (moisture management)



3. Follow the Talking Turf greens programme

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4. Cultural practice programme

4.1 Greens:

Set hollow tyning dates for autumn & spring – one week closure required to allow you to hollow tyne greens (12 mm & broom in 30 tons of sand/ha into the greens – hollow tyning depth must be below the organic layer). A graden using kiln dried sand would be highly recommended to remove the top inch of organic matter – this may be necessary annually for 3 consecutive years.

4.2 Fairways, tees & semi rough:

Spring or autumn - Tees & fairways to be verticut (usually -4mm) & hollow tyned annually with 16mm hollow tynes & drag the cores in. Blow off the organic. Should you not have the necessary equipment this could be outsourced to Greg Lancaster (082 448 4267) or Bux (082 770 4559). This should be followed with an application of 200 kg/ha granular 5:1:5 from Omnia (this application to be done every spring & autumn). Apply the fert to dry turf & water in immediately for 20min until dissolved (this should be done on a closed day)

CONSTRUCTION SAND TO BE USED AFTER HOLLOW TYNING



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5. Fairways & tees nutrition, pest control & plant growth regulators:

Follow the Talking Turf kikuyu programme (this will be updated according to your latest soil results annually)

IRP: Irrigation replacement plan

Irrigation & pumps are the heart & soul of the golf course & ultimately determine your quality.

Operating golf course irrigation in this day & age without a central control is unheard of.

I would urge you to urgently get the golf course irrigation onto a computerized system – this allow you to manage flows & irrigate according to 75 % of the evapotranspiration.

The irrigation system at Bushwillow should be upgraded as a matter of urgency:

The following replacement plan should be budgeted for:

Sprinklers, Pipes, Satellites – every 20-25 years

Nozzles – every 5-6 years

Maintenance: K200 per annum per 18 holes (years 1 to 5 which cost be as low as K50 per annum) – however I would urge you to have this K150 – K200 in annually and work on drainage/sump pumps etc.

ERP: Equipment replacement plan

A sound leasing plan with agreed buy backs on the percentage of the original cost is a very effective plan. You set aside an annual amount for equipment replacement & there are no surprises

Repairs & Maintenance:

An annual fixed amount for projects each year e.g.:

- Solar solutions
- Cart paths
- Streams
- Dams

The article below is relevant to all golf courses but would be worth reading for your club.

How well would your car function without regular servicing? (the same principle applies to your golf course)

The disease outbreaks in the past few months are a good reminder of how important your cultural practises, nutrition & sound IPM are.



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Cultural practises:

Spike (6mm) & dust every 21 days from Sep to Apr (in your growing season) – this allows oxygen exchange, protect the crown of the plant against disease & creates a firm smooth playing surface.

Hollow-tying twice a year with a 12mm tyne & backfilling with USGA construction sand (not maintenance sand) is really important to keep your greens draining & functioning well. If your greens were not built with USGA sand, then use the closest match you can find. Consol have a mine in the Cape & KZN & Greens Sands in the Gauteng/Mpumalanga region. I have worked closely with Thomas Turf laboratories in the USGA since 1999 & they are brilliant at physical sand testing. Giving you a report on how your green is functioning & which topdressing sand matches your profile.

Eliminate the guess work, take the pain of spring & autumn treatment to produce your ultimate playing surface.

Nutrition:

Plants do not like a roller coaster ride on nutrition.

Greens – test at least 3 greens every 6 months – I like the Talking Turf test I have done with Labserve since 1997.

When I started as a superintendent the fertilizer reps would come & visit me at Leopard Creek & when a gentleman told me “maar op die piesangs” I decided to pursue my passion & study soils to ensure I make sound decisions.

Feel free to send pa@talkingturf.co.za or willem@talkingturf.co.za your latest soil results on greens (test 3 every 6 months), tees & fairways (test 3 annually)

SOUND NUTRITION

**CONSISTENCY IS KEY DON'T PUT YOUR
PLANT ON A ROLLER COASTER RIDE**



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Integrated Pest Management:

Short cuts cost you more in the long run as is so evident at many of our clubs.

When a patent expires on a product the opposition have access to the active ingredient, but not the formulation, which is ultimately what makes the product available to the plant. I have worked closely with Syngenta on their turf range since my internship at Pebble Beach in 1996.

Their commitment to R & D as well as the environment are what made me choose this company. The Syngenta Turf fungicides available from Talking Turf in Southern Africa will not kill your beneficial microbes or insects. We need to protect the good guys – take care of the soil & it will take care of you.

Plan & protect – we draw up detailed pest management programmes for every turf type & region of South Africa to ensure your soil is healthy & that you are not caught off guard. By the time you see the symptoms on the surface you are in the eradication stage of the life cycle – it is very costly & tough to control a disease at this point.

Nematode testing should also be done annually & once again please do not use Nematicur & wipe out all your beneficial nematodes & microbes. You need your microbes to break down your organic matter & aerate your soil. Dr. Mieke Daneel, a world renowned nematologist, who understands turf (one of the few in the world) does testing & recommendations. We are presenting a paper on nematodes in Japan in 2025 and you are welcome to join the study at no cost – mieke@arc.agric.co.za
Let's be proactive to produce your ultimate playing surface.



Thank you for the opportunity to work with your team on ensuring that produce your ultimate playing surface within your budget.

Warm regards,

Sue de Zwart

Education | Technical Support | Stadium Maintenance

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Sports Turf Maintenance | Integrated Pest Management

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