

EC meeting.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Please find the following report on the issues covered during this Executive Meeting

**State of the course:**

Course seems to be in good shape in general. We just receive very few comments from few members regarding rough mowing height, bunkers and green speed. But even though all comments are important, we addressed these issues in our Green Committee meetings and resolve that nothing new should we do about it out of the program we are implementing.

- Green Speed: Green speed varies every day depending on many factors (rolling, topdressing, brooming...) but runs from 9.5 to 10.5, with an average of 10. We drop the mowing height, light topdress every week, roll 4 times a week (every tournament) and broom frequently. This program helps to keep speed under the specified parameter. Still, this time of the year, I do not recommend pushing further to increase speed since health will be compromised.
- Bunker sand: few comments regarding some compaction. We worked hard to change the parameters to avoid plugged balls, so it is good to a certain extent that the complaint is now the opposite. We have increased the number of days that we rake with the mechanical rake.
- Rough mowing height: a comment on not having a semirough ring around fairway was received. There is not a correct setup in golf. Every course has a different one depending on many factors: playability, type of grasses, economic reasons... We defined the setup with the opinions of Architect, Green Committee, Captains, Board... The reasons why we did not consider a semirough were: to better define fairways, bermuda rough is not high (semirough is more common when using ryegrass, festuca...), need of another equipment.

In the last GC meeting, we also talked about:

- Bunker sand color: Any sand tends to get darker as it receives dust and soil from the sides. But the main factor is the use of water containing solids (recycle water brings organic matter and algae) and the develop of algae also in the bunker surface. We use bleach to prevent algae development. It was also decided to try acid application to degrade organic matter.



- Mowing pattern on fairways: as agreed, we tried diamond pattern for a month to compare with the old long stripes. Grain reduction was achieved but time needed doubled. We normally mow fairways with two mowers in a day and a half. It takes more than three days to do it with the diamond pattern. It was decided to find other options. We are now using the same long stripes, repeating the lines but alternating the directions. This way we want to get rid of the grain but keep the stripes (nice appearance, good fairway/rough definition, easy for players to know where to aim for).

#### **Cups:**

Some comments on the system we used to prevent COVID contamination on flags. Searching other systems, we confirm that there is no perfect solution and strengthen our opinion on the best one for Las Brisas. We took this device out since this Monday.



#### **Rakes and flags:**

Rakes are back in the bunkers. But practice flags will be out for now.

#### **Renovations**

Like every summer, two temporary workers are hired to help with renovation projects and bermuda control in greens and tees. Other works involves irrigation repairs, drainage levelling...

First project was to repair damages on fairways from aeration (particularly in those areas where we had more silt from floods). Some members actually requested to undertake these jobs as soon as possible. When we do this job, a net is installed to protect the staff. A complain from Mr. Azpilicueta was received. He claims that this job needs to be done when players are not around. After discussing this issue in the green committee meeting, I was instructed to keep on with this procedure. I will try to organize jobs avoiding disturbance if possible.



#### **Municipal water pipe break:**

I was asked about the size of the adelfas Hidralia will plant in the area where the big pipe broke. Finally, I was able to claim for a good size so it will not take that long to get the same size of the original. These were planted this week.



#### **Wall of the house at 3<sup>rd</sup> tee:**

Works are going as programed. They are now pilling before constructing a concrete wall.

The 48 tee was covered of soil so we will claim the repair: taking the grass contaminated with soil out and sodding with clean one.



**Trees at 12th:**

These trees were cut. The result is ok, and the rest of the trees still hide the house. I have defined with Terry were to place the new for tipuanas to fill the area. Two of them will be used to hide the adjacent house.

**New tree planting program**

In order to continue with the planting process and spend the 17.000 euros approved we need to define new areas to fill in with trees. Unfortunately, Covid has stopped the schedule. It has been agreed to work with Green Committee, Terry Daniels and Kyle Phillips so we can define needs for this summer (olive trees and palm trees should be planted now) and next august (Tipuanas, Jacarandas...)

**Weeds on tees**

It is the time of the year for goosegrass and crabgrass on bentgrass. These weeds germinate in April and die in October. It is more visible once it becomes mature in July.

Since it is an annual grass, it can be controlled using a preemergence herbicide. Where you spray the herbicide, the weed does not germinate. This approach can be used on collars, but not on tees since this area needs seed application to fill in divots.

On tees then, the only approach will be to use postemergence herbicides. There are few herbicides to control goosegrass and crabgrass on bentgrass, and they are very difficult to manage: less rate than recommended will not be effective, higher rate and bentgrass will be affected. This year we want to try a more aggressive approach so bentgrass discoloration is expected. There will be higher risk of major damage.

The reason for being more aggressive is because this herbicide also controls bermuda encroachment on bentgrass (from rough to collars and tees).