

TURA BEACH COUNTRY CLUB
Course and Greens Managers January 2018
Report

10/2/18

Weather

For the month of January we had 38mm of rain which fell over 7 days. The same month last year there was 15mm recorded over 4 days. The annual total to the end of January is 38mm compared with 15mm for the same time last year.

Our warmest day for January was 31.8 degrees and our coldest night was 10.5 degrees. Daytime average high for January was 26.2 degrees and nightly average low was 17.2 degrees.

Water Usage

Effluent usage for December was 4.668 mega-litres

During December we used 1.689 mega-litres of bore water.

Irrigation usage for December was 4.923 mega-litres.

Irrigation System

Three repairs to the system during January; Replace a gibbault on the 2nd fway; replace a solenoid on the 3rd fway; replace a solenoid on the 5th fway

Planned Works in February 2018

Golf Course

Greens will receive an application of fertiliser and growth regulator

Greens will receive an application of insecticide and fungicide

Bunkers will be renovated

Turfing around 1st tee

Plugging on areas around greens

Fertiliser and growth regulator will be sprayed on fways and surrounds

Irrigation repairs around the course

Bowling Greens

Greens will receive an application of fertiliser

Fungicide and insecticide will be applied to the greens

Plugging of areas on both greens with light topdressing

Machinery Analysis

Machinery maintenance and repairs during January;

- Clean and tune carburettor on stihl backpack blower
- Toro 3300 (greens); replace broken right front cylinder stabiliser spring
- Clean, tune carburettor and sharpen chain on stihl ms661 chainsaw
- Clean and sharpen chain on stihl ms171 chainsaw
- Weld seat mounts on Tru Turf greens roller
- T315 scarifier; fit new rear tyre
- Toro Multi pro (sprayer); weld right side rear chassis mount to spray boom, replace remote oil filter lines
- Toro 4000 (rough); change blades and sharpen spare set (twice), replace rear tyres, clean out belt housing, grease machine and clean air filter
- Toro 3300 (greens); adjust hand brake, backlap cylinders, install new starter motor and second hand start coil
- Toro 3500 (rough); change blades (twice)
- Toro workman 2; repair tray lift ram
- Toro 3150 (tees); replace battery
- Fastrac (rough); replace blades and weld cutter housing
- Toro 7000 (fairway); change hydraulic filters and backlap cylinders

Machine report provided by James Venton (course mechanic).

Capital Expenditure

In last months report I mentioned the possible future replacement of the clubs spraying machine and the purchase of the Ventrac tractor with attachments which would replace one of our rough cutter mowers.

For the past couple of weeks we have had to use our old (approx. 14 yr) tees mower to mow greens due to ongoing issues with our greens mower. Toro were here during this past week doing some work on the machine but it is still not right. It looks like they will now replace the computer on the machine which controls all the electrics. This has highlighted the importance of this machine. A greens mower needs to be very reliable, which is what we don't have at present. The Toro representative also made comment to me about the high amount of hours on the greens mower, meaning he was surprised that it hadn't been retired as a greens mower. I believe we should be looking to purchase a new greens mower, as well as the other 2 items of machinery mentioned. I demoed the Jacobsen mower at Tura last August and was very impressed with the machine. It is much quieter than the Toro and produces a superior cut due to more blades on the cylinders and the ability to speed up the cylinder speed producing more clippings. The toro doesn't have this feature. Its more expensive but it's a better machine producing a better quality of cut.

Staff

I have advertised for another qualified greenkeeper to assist the team with the maintenance of the golf course and bowling greens. We currently have 6 full time

staff which consists of Superintendent, 2 qualified greenkeepers, 2 apprentice greenkeepers and a mechanic. James our mechanic, has been spending more and more time on the golf course helping with maintenance instead of machinery maintenance. My ideal staffing requirement for Tura would be 8 staff consisting of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, 3 qualified greenkeepers, 2 apprentice greenkeepers and a mechanic. It would be great to have more staff but I believe this should be the minimum in order to maintain Tura to a certain standard. Having any less makes things tough when staff are away at trade school, annual leave or sick. Hopefully we can achieve the 8 staff by mid year or sometime soon in the future. Volunteers should be there to assist the staff maintain the course and bowling greens. They should not be relied upon to maintain a standard due to low staffing numbers. Extra overtime will be required by all staff over the next month in the lead up to the Pro Am

Golf Course

We are now starting to begin our preparations for the upcoming Pro Am. Bunkers will be a big focus for the staff as we start to renovate them. They will be edged, and flymoed and the sand will be moved around in the bunker, pulling it off the faces and flattening out the base. Rotary hoeing of the greenside bunker bases will also occur. Greens will start to progressively increase in speed over the coming weeks as we double cut and roll on certain days. Rolling has been minimal over the past few weeks due to staff numbers. Fairways, tees and surrounds will have a couple of applications of fertiliser in the lead up to the Pro Am. We will be busy trying to finish off various irrigation repairs around the course and a lot of wiper snipping and general tidying up over the coming weeks.

Not long after the Pro Am we will be pruning the vegetation in front of the 13th tee. The excavator with the mulching attachment will be used and it will not be pruned below 1.2M which is council's regulations.

Another project coming up is the de-silting and cleaning up of the 11th greenside pond. I'm waiting on quotes from contractors. Glen has asked me to chase this project up and as it hasn't been budgeted for in this financial year, further discussions will need to take place to sort that out depending on the quote.

Bowling Greens

Bowling green 2 is coming along well. The speed is gradually improving as it receives more and more rolling due to play. Certain spots are still being plugged out and will require light topdressing on the plug edges to produce a smooth surface.

Bowling green 1 is progressing along well after renovation and laser levelling. It will gradually begin to be cut lower however some areas require more topdressing, especially those areas which were plugged before laser levelling. The aim is to have it in play around the beginning of March.

Both greens are in much better condition coming out of summer this year and going into Autumn. This is the critical period for ERI disease and the changes in the fungicide program appear to be working at this stage.

Aaron Miller

Course and Greens Manager