



COURSES REPORT REAL CLUB DE GOLF GUADALMINA

REPORT ABOUT THE COURSES

This report pretends to inform about the current state of the courses, the works carried out and the necessary works for the future. This report also would like to explain the reasons why we made certain decisions and the program until next summer / autumn

Regarding the aspect of the courses, we must make a difference between **appearance and playability** they are two separate items but they are also interconnected.

In order to **improve the appearance** it would have been required to **over seed** with winter grasses last autumn but as we will explain, this practice offers **advantages and inconveniences**

ADVANTAGES

Better appearance of the courses , uniformity , see pictures El Higueral and Almenara no over seeded courses.

In case of a rainy autumn and winter, over seeding improves the drainage, winter grass while is growing retains more water , regarding playability improves the stance of the ball, specially if the course has clay topsoil.

The over seeded grass is more tolerant to heavy traffic

There is natural divot repair on fairways.

INCONVENIENCES

As we are in a SEMIDESERTIC area, we consider the only alternative grass is the HYBRID BERMUDA GRASS, this type of grass is very tolerant to draught , and poor water quality like recycled water, but on the other hand under 18° C the Bermuda Grass suffers **winter dormancy, and loses the green color (turn pale)**.

Only with warmer temperatures the Bermuda grass grows again. if we **continuously** over seed with rye grass or poa trivialis the Bermuda grass will find very difficult to develop correctly, and the transition from winter to summer became very complicated, it is for this reason following the recommendations of the **USGA**, after **SIX YEAR OVER SEEDING** Guadalmina courses we decided to give the Bermuda grass a rest.

INCOVENIENCES . (Cont)

Increase of the **maintenance cost** ,as fertilization, fungicides, fuel, machinery spare parts specially mowing units

Rye grass is more sensible to fungus diseases than Bermuda and over seeding increases the cost of maintenance

We will loose the opportunity to do any preventive weed killing treatment against annual grasses like POA , and if we wanted to have a clean Bermuda grass fairway during the summer, chemical treatments to kill the reaming ry grass in spring is the only alternative again more expensive.

In case of insufficient rain, after over seeding it will be required to irrigate intensively during the germination, this will affect the playability of the courses, specially in a very draught winter like the one we had.



Regarding the playability and after several inspections of the courses we find that the playability of the courses is very similar to what you can find **in the summer** , apart from those areas where we have not enough density of grass or kikuyu grass is predominant, we have also noticed that the divot recuperation is slower, due to the winter dormancy of the Bermuda Grass.

INMEDIATE FUTURE

Our intention is to work for the medium and long term , and following the indications of the USGA we have decided NOT TO OVER SEED.

We are prepared to start “CLEANING” the fairways as from this **coming March**, by using **selective grass killing** treatment . This products need higher temperatures to be effective, in the first part of the program we will control the rye grass and poa, specially on the South course and the areas of the North Course where Bermuda grass is more predominant.

In a second phase with higher temperatures we will fight against perennial grasses like Kikuyu , the treatment will be more aggressive in the rough, but it is also our intention to treat the aprons.

In the areas where Kikuyu is the predominant grass we will require a more intensive treatment and probably even turfing, as we do not like to see bare spots

I would like to point out that this is a TWO YEARS program and during this period of time the “appearance “ of the courses will not be in the best possible conditions.

In addition to this program we will start another program with several different aspects

Improvement of the irrigation system We have observed that several areas of the Courses require the re installation of sprinkle heads, we have already purchase the required units.

Trimming and pruning of several trees which project shadow over large areas and as we know Bermuda requires a lot of sunshine, we have started with some trees but we must continue. The rest of the year.

Fertilization “ a la carte” of this areas, and any other areas where is needed to increase the growth and promote the density , in some cases may be necessary to turf several areas. For playing purposes.

To continue with weed killing treatment, in case that we don not over seed next autumn

Regarding the greens and tees it is our intention to continue with last year program, controlling and reducing the poa by the use of chemical treatments and cultural works.

This applies for all courses , and we also consider interesting to start a top dressing program for fairways and aprons.

We are also involved in am improvement program of the **practice area, we have already started with the practice bunker and chipping area**

Regarding the **NORTH** course improvements are **conditioned** to the existing limitations of grass and irrigation system.

We are focusing on some specific greens and tees and in some cases, as the improvement are related to the trimming and pruning of some trees, we will concentrate on holes 2 ,7, 9 13 and 18 specially on the greens

The pitch and putt course presents the same conditions as the North course and we are working in the aprons and greens

And we are prepared to address any other improvements or problems that might occur during the year.

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