

## REAL CLUB DE GOLF GUADALMINA

### GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE SOUTH COURSE

The committee along with the course advisor Carlos Lima and the head green keeper Marcos Araujo Menendez have made a detailed examination of the course over the past number of months and have drawn up a programme of works which shall be presented at the next Board meeting.

Our course is regarded as a fine test for all levels of golfers and the report is aimed to make the best use of our existing facilities with some minor alterations to ensure that we shall be in a position to afford the best possible golfing conditions for members and visitors alike.

#### Recent Works undertaken:-

With the valued advice of Carlos and the dedicated work of the ground staff over the past three years we now have greens capable of sustaining the very large amount of golfing traffic we encounter at Guadalmina and which remain in good condition over the entire twelve months of the year.

During the summer of 2014 we introduced a programme on the felling and pruning of trees, this work will continue on an ongoing basis. The urbanisation of Guadalmina is designated as a Green Belt and the felling and pruning of trees or the removal of dead trees is therefore considered a serious matter by the Town Hall. Permission for any works of this nature must be obtained and if granted then a substantial deposit has to be lodged to ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the permission given. In the past three years the club has opened twenty-four files with the Town Hall in respect of various tree operations and lodged 75,000€ in warranties. Most of these files have been now closed and the deposits returned. In addition for every tree felled it is a condition that the cubic volume of that tree is replaced. *The new planting to the right of the 12th Red tee box is an example of this. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr. Antonio Gil Gil for donating the palm trees recently planted at the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes.*

Any work of this nature concerning trees carried out without approval will attract a substantial fine.

The removal of trees is therefore a serious matter and cannot be undertaken lightly .

The work carried out to the 11<sup>th</sup> tee has been very successful. *The area where this tee is sited prohibits any major extension with the 10th green and the buggy path on one side and the out of bounds fence on the other.*

The Red and Black tee box at the 2<sup>nd</sup> has been enlarged considerably.

#### Proposed works:-

i) Both courses at Royal Guadalmina endure a serious amount of golf and as a result there is virtually no rest period to permit any real form of recovery from the constant wear and tear on tees and greens.

Our primary proposal is to concentrate on the tees and put in place a major programme of works to be carried out 'in-house' over the next twelve to eighteen months . The main considerations have been to make full use of what existing facilities we already have and to adapt them to achieve our aims with the least possible disruption to the members and in the soonest time.

(ii) We have plenty of teeing grounds but most are long and relatively narrow and in addition many have a wall, hedge or tree alongside thus restricting the available playing area and in turn placing a constant strain on the same area of the tee. *The 15th tee is a prime example of this.* The proximity of private residences to the course is a big consideration in any proposed works to alter the size and position of tee boxes. A number of our tee boxes have two different levels thus restricting even further the positioning of competition markers. Our primary aim therefore is to ensure that we have level, well grassed and well maintained teeing grounds at all times and yet comply with competition rules of providing a *Measured Course*. In order to achieve this we intend to alter in a few cases the existing measured length of some holes. Any adjustments will, in general be very minor and will make no significant difference to the existing length, playability or overall length of the course.

iii) The ponds at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairways are considered unsightly and costings are currently being made to consider the best action to take to make this area more presentable.

iii) Greenside bunkers will have a better quality sand in place similar to that which has been introduced to the North Course. Drainage works will be undertaken to selected bunkers.

iv) The restricted area within which the mens' 8<sup>th</sup> tee is located greatly inhibits any substantial enlargement having regard to the proximity of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway, the 13<sup>th</sup> green, mature trees and the buggy path. Large areas of the existing tee are unusable and a plan has been suggested for improvement. Costings are being prepared for the works involved.

v) It has been decided not to over-seed the fairways and rough in 2015.

Our fairways have a Hybrid Bermuda grass and in the past we have over-seeded with a Poa Rye grass to give a better appearance. In the winter the Hybrid Bermuda grass is dormant thus brown in appearance. The application of the Poa Rye restricts growth of the Bermuda and the decision taken not to over-seed is to encourage more growth of the Bermuda and result in better quality fairways.

vi) Any alterations to a *Measured Course* irrespective of how minor, requires that the Federation be invited to determine if the Slope Rating has to be amended. This should be undertaken in February/March.

The Federation will also be asked to set a Slope Rating for the Black tees for Men and Ladies.

This will:- (a) provide the opportunity to hold competitions from these tee boxes.

(b) provide a shorter course for competition play for the Mens' and Ladies' Sections.

(c) help in the spread of wear and tear and make more use of existing facilities.

vii) Once the Federation give their decision new score cards will be printed showing all the various alterations and amended Distance Markers will be installed.

viii) It has been decided to re index the 17<sup>th</sup> hole from Stroke Index 2. *This will consequently result in other index changes.* We will introduce different Stroke Indexes at some holes for Red tees from those for the White and Yellow. These will all appear on the new Score Cards.

ix) The reintroduction of a supply of pitch repair forks will be available at the end of February.

x) The practise tee and the chipping green will be closed shortly for extensive renovation works. The Practice ground will remain open during the recovery period with the use of tees restricted to the covered area only.

xi) It has been noticed that some of the fairway discs are slightly out in measurement and this will be corrected.

**PITCH MARKS:-** The provision of good putting surfaces requires expert and dedicated work on behalf of the ground staff. At Guadalmina all of our greens on both courses plus the Par 3 course and the putting and chipping greens totalling forty-seven are cut by hand daily. The staff are doing everything possible to provide us with excellent conditions. They cannot possibly be expected to repair all the pitch marks or damage to the greens every day. We have many members who respect and care for our greens and ensure through simple care and attention that they leave a green as they would like to find it. It is the responsibility of every golfer to ensure that they and their playing partners repair marks on greens and to do so in the proper manner.

The ONLY way to repair is to use a pitch fork not to try and knock damage into shape with a putter.

It should be remembered that the Rules of Golf permit the repair of pitch marks but do not permit the touching of spike marks before putting. Every person knows if they drag their feet and cause a scuff on the green. It is simply good manners to repair such damage and return the green to its proper condition.

The raising of a club lying on the green by pressing ones foot on the blade to raise the grip and avoid bending down once again leaves a mark on the green that cannot be repaired under the Rules of golf by another competitor before putting. This practice is totally unacceptable and most inconsiderate of one's fellow competitors.

The Note under Rule 20-1 states that:- *'The position of a ball to be lifted should be marked with a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball.'* The practice of scratching the surface of the green to mark the position of a ball is not recommended. Once again a case of unwarranted damage to the green surface.

**A PITCH MARK REPAIRED PROPERLY WILL HEAL IN ONE DAY IF NOT IT WILL TAKE THREE WEEKS.**

How to repair pitch marks can be seen on:- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1UWnpv3woU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1UWnpv3woU)

*The committee would ask that members show the ground staff their full understanding, support and co-operation throughout the period of these works.*

**Greens Committee:-**

***Christiaan Reynders (Chairman), Carlos Lima, Marcos Araujo Menendez, Ignacio Cuvillo, Ciaran Burke, David Worth.***

Report Dated:- 28<sup>th</sup>, January, 2015