

August Communique to MGGC Members

On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their patience and understanding during the past few months whilst the first phase of our course refurbishment has been underway.

I am sure that members will agree with me that the irrigation installation carried out by NewGround Water Services was completed with a minimum of inconvenience, with only a few occasions during this period when we did not have our competitions over a full 18-hole layout. A big thank-you to Course Superintendent Dane McBride for his oversight of this project on behalf of the Club, which has no doubt assisted in being ahead of the scheduled finish date.

With this phase due for completion by month's end, Practical Completion will take place in early September, enabling our usual course layout to be in place for the Club's major Open event for the year to take place on the weekend of 17/18 September. Entry forms are now available for the 2022 *Designfit* MGGC Amateur Open, with eligible members encouraged to enter.

With the Club's fertilisation program to commence shortly, members will undoubtedly see a positive result from the new irrigation installation, particularly in those areas of the course where the old sprinkler system failed to maximise coverage. Financially, the Board is also confident of obtaining significant savings in both power and water usage from a far more efficient operation of the new system.

As members will be aware, our next important steps associated with the course upgrade will be the greens' replacement program, which is due to commence mid-September following the Amateur Open.

The Board is indebted to Course Superintendent Dane McBride, Course Director Ray Hince together with our Professional Matthew Sturmer and the Course Committee, who have released a plan to replace five greens this Spring with 007 bent grass. Holes #9 through #13 have been chosen to complement the initial work to the 8th green in late 2021, which once completed, will provide a consistent flow of six new 007 greens for members.

This new grass has been nurtured by our course staff since March this year, once the 007 was identified as the 'best performer' of the four bent grasses trialled within our nursery during 2020. This 007 bent has also been used by LKCC and Cottesloe in those club's greens upgrades in recent years.

The Plan includes preparing temporary couch greens in front of holes 10, 12 and 13 which are suitable as areas in front of these existing greens are flat surfaces. This is not the case on holes #9 and #11, and therefore to ensure 18 holes are available each day whilst the new greens are being prepared, our temporary holes 8A, 8B and 'The Pitcher' may be utilised whilst those two holes are out of play.

It is anticipated that the course staff will replace one green each week over a 5-week period, which leads up to the annual renovation of the total course during the last week of October. A few design modifications are to be made to holes #9, #10 and #13, whilst maintaining a challenge for all golfers, which will enhance the number of useable pin placements and better distribute player traffic.

Some of the new replacement greens will be slightly larger than the existing ones, with all new greens to have a 007 bent collar to stop couch encroachment into the greens. An important

improvement will be made hole #13, as this green has very few viable pin locations and as most members will be aware the right-hand side of this green can virtually be unplayable, particularly during summer months. Part of this improvement will be to soften the slopes and raise the level of the front right corner.

With the hope of favourable Spring weather conditions, the new greens are expected to be gradually open for play from middle-to-late November 2022.

As usual, members will be continually updated with the changes as they occur through our various channels of communication, including the order of play using the temporary holes during this new phase of course works.

The Course Committee and staff will re-seed the nursery once this turf has been removed in time for a repeat of the greens' replacement in years 2023 and 2024.

Again, the Board anticipates that any inconvenience which may occur during this period of course enhancement is kept to a minimum with members appreciating the longer-term benefits of the course upgrades.

In coming days, Course Director Ray Hince will provide further details on the specific changes to those greens referred to in these proposed works through the Club's Course News tab on the website.

Ken Norquay

President