



GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE NEWS

Course Superintendent Steve Burchett and his team are constantly working hard to maintain our golf course. We are extremely lucky at Portarlington to have such dedicated grounds staff. Despite the lack of rain, the course is in terrific condition but it takes continual attention.

Water

- With only 2mm of rain in February and none so far in March and with our storages sitting at approximately quarter full we could do with some rain to refresh our turf surfaces.

Greens Renovations

- During the recent course closure the greens received a solid tyne with gypsum applied over the top, followed by a topdressing of sand. An additional fertilise should see the greens respond favourably. This time of year, after a particularly dry season typically sees the greens looking a bit tired in areas where 'poa' grass struggles with the constant use of recycled water.

Grass Control

- The battle to stop the encroachment of kikuyu and couch into the greens is constantly being fought. Spraying to control the kikuyu in the roughs as well as spot spraying the green surrounds is currently high priority. Couch is being monitored to endeavour to keep it under control. Unfortunately, spraying options are so far not proving too successful.
- This couch encroachment problem is not uncommon and like us, a high percentage of clubs are facing control issues. A small number of clubs have established fescue grass in the green surrounds which provides the ability to spray out encroaching couch grass that will not affect the fescue, thus providing a barrier around the putting surface. Steve is currently beginning some trial work into introducing a 'fine fescue' type turf into the practice putting green, chipping and 19th green surrounds.
- Santa-ana couch grass has been established to the left of the 5th green where a large patch of kikuyu has been removed. This will be treated as fine turf and link in with the 8th tee.