

# Greens Report 2017

## Course condition

The end of year is nearly here and it seems like it has gone by in a blink of an eye !!!! Unfortunately, this year provided a few hiccups, mainly staffing due to the injury to Alan Black and the uncertainty of him returning to work. We also had the invasion of disease to some of our greens.

I have put a Fungicide prevention programme in place for this upcoming wet season to try and minimize any disease and turf damage we do get throughout the coming months. There is no guarantee that we won't get any turf disease, but it will definitely keep it to a minimum. I do believe the course is holding up well after some very dry months, we have had some much-needed rain in the last six weeks which was great timing leading into our Open and for the new 2<sup>nd</sup> green. We are in the process of growing in the new 2<sup>nd</sup> green and at this stage I could not be happier with its progress. I have tried a few different things with the grow in programme this time and at this stage it all seems to be working out well. I am cutting the green at 6mm after only 4 weeks which is well ahead of schedule. All going well I am hoping to have it open around the start of the new year which would be a great result.

I have started spraying some of the fairways that are infested with crowfoot and from some of my trails I did at the start of the year with this new herbicide I am hoping for some good results. So we should not need to re surface anymore parts of the fairways and interfere with the play of golf. We will also be trying to get to all the tree roots that have come to the surface on the fairways and rough areas by cutting them out. We will be also looking at working on levelling some of the tees in the new year. We will be re building the turf nursery early next year so that we can keep the re surfacing of the greens going and it will also allow us to patch up any damaged areas on greens if needed.

## Weather report

It has been a below average rainfall so far, this year with us recording 1469mm of rain to date with the average being around the 2000mm mark, which makes it a very testing time for our irrigation system and the effluent supply. I am doing my best to keep as much of the course green and healthy but unfortunately with our aging irrigation system it makes it hard to get good water coverage over some of the fairways. We are looking at upgrading our two pumps next year which will run a lot more efficiently and give me better results out on the course.

## Staff

We have had a very stable groundstaff here at Half Moon Bay for a number of years. Unfortunately we lost another member of staff this year Alan Black (due to injury) . Alan had done his greenkeeping apprenticeship here and was a very key member of my staff. Alan had turned his hand into being our Gardener as well which he was doing a fantastic job. To lose Alan left a big hole. We have had a few short-term casuals throughout the year which makes it a bit tough at times. Bret Taylor has been with us for around four months on a casual basis and he is working out well. Josh Kelly, Swainey Sagiba and Brent Higginson are all still on staff.

Thanks to our Manager Greg Ferry and our Club captain Ross Mc Connell and all the volunteers who have helped out throughout the year it makes my job a lot easier to have you all helping out in some way or another and it is greatly appreciated. I would also personally like to thank Peter Lazarus for all your support throughout the year.

## Greens Report 2017

Over the next 12 months and beyond we will continue with our prime objective in mind to continually improve playing conditions and the surrounding landscape to our golf course.

Peter and I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Grant Cockerell

Peter Lazarus

Course Superintendent

Greens Director