

Knighton Heath Golf Club Maintenance week information

This year our essential Spring maintenance will take place between Monday 21st March and Friday 25th March.

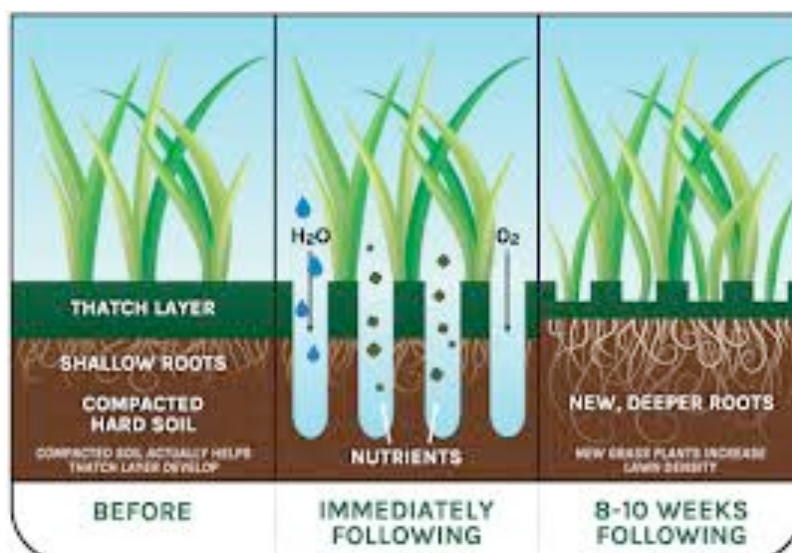
During this period the Greenstaff will work hard to ensure the impact to your course and rounds are kept to a minimum but there will unfortunately be some disruption to your game during this week. This will include 9 holes per day playing to temporary greens (Monday-Thursday). Please remember this is an essential process and the greens will benefit hugely from the work undertaken.

Our long term aim is to remove any need for temporary greens here at Knighton Heath, I fully believe this is achievable but only if these processes are undertaken.

Some of the benefits of this work include

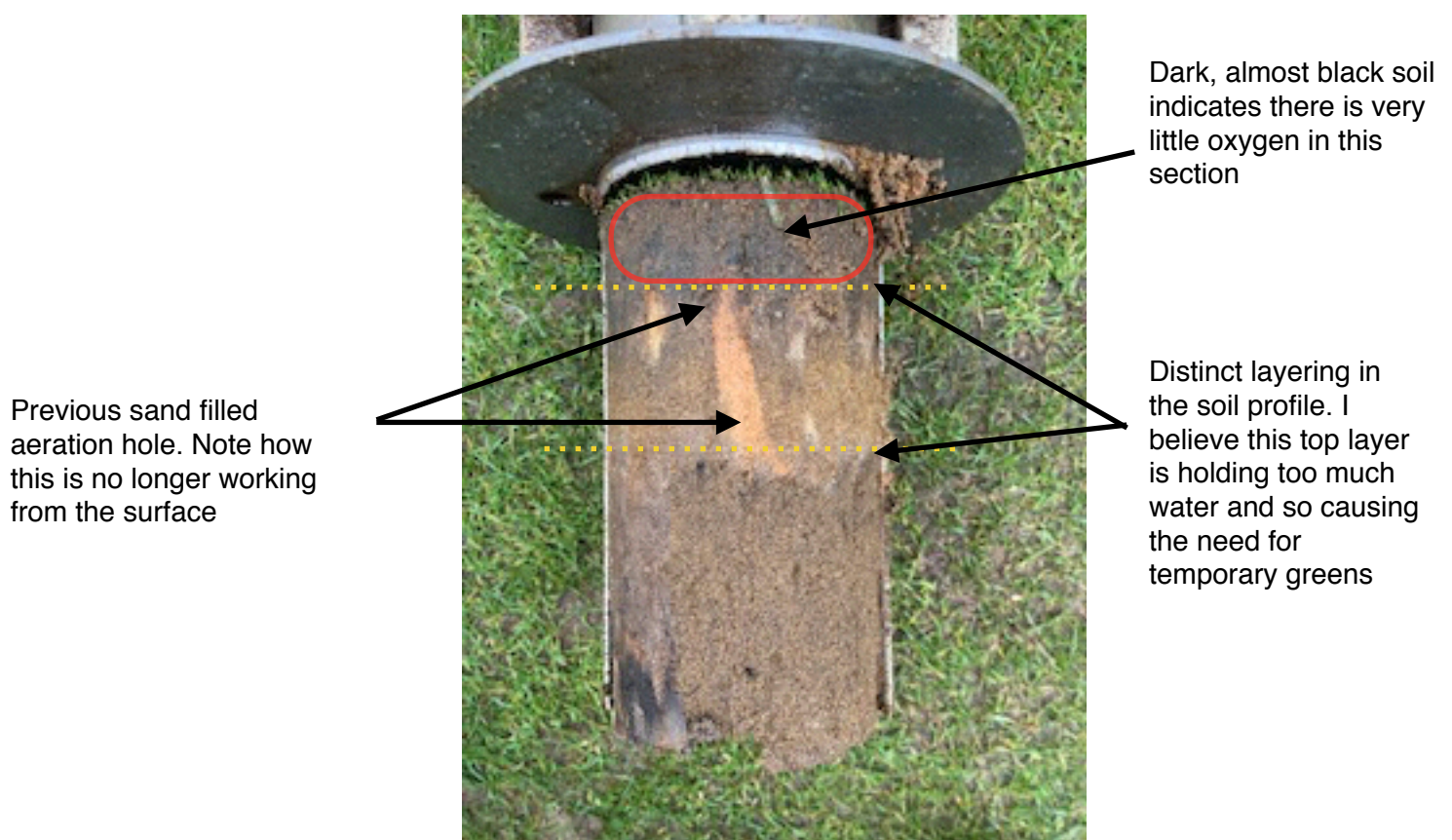
- Deeper rooting grass plants (roots chase down channels created by tine holes)
- Drainage channels (water can flow down channels created)
- Firmer surfaces (allowing water to percolate down through the root zone and away from the surface)
- Dilution of any organic matter in the soil (organic matter build up can create a sponge like surface)
- Oxygenate the soil (open holes allow soil to breath)
- Less pesticide usage (with healthier soil and grass plants, greens are able to withstand attack from pests and diseases better)

All of the above is demonstrated well in the image below



All of the benefits shown above will apply to us here at Knighton Heath. Rest assured the holes from the tines will not remain open for the 8-10 weeks stated above! But the benefits will continue to improve soil conditions for the 8-10 weeks stated above.

One more main reason for the aeration work is to produce a uniform soil Rootzone. In the soil profile at the moment there is some distinct “layering” as you can hopefully see below



Creating a better soil profile and one where water can percolate through to the native, and free draining sub soil will allow greens to drain down quickly and be able to withstand play in the rain without the need for temporary greens.

Our plan for the week consists of:-

- Heavy sand dressing 1-2 tons of sand per green
- 13mm Solid tine to a depth of 200mm
- Allow sand to dry
- Brush sand into tine holes
- 13mm Solid tine to a depth of 100mm
- Light sand dressing
- Allow sand to dry
- Brush sand into holes
- Roll greens to smooth tine holes

While I can not be sure how long the surface recovery will take as we are, as always, at the hands of mother nature with regards to growth rates and recovery periods. I would expect to have the greens back to an acceptable standard by the end of the week (Friday 25th March). After this we will continue to work on their recovery, processes such as rolling, brushing, further light sand dressings may be required but these dressings will be at such low rates it should not interfere with the roll of a golf ball. Moving over to our summer fertiliser programme to ensure recovery is as quick as possible. All being well the use of our new irrigation system will also help with recovery as we can wash any excess sand off the surface into the turf canopy away from play and into the area we really need the sand to be working for us.

I hope this information is helpful, gives an understanding of what our plan is and explains what we are trying to achieve with our maintenance plan. As we move forward future maintenance weeks may involve different work practices to ensure we are always hitting the areas in the greens which need most urgent work.

Kind Regards

Graham Hastie
and your
Greenkeeping Team