

GREEN KEEPERS REPORT FOR 2024 AGM

This season has been a landmark year for Belvoir Park Golf Club, marked by several major improvements aimed at enhancing the member golfing experience. One of the standout projects was the improvement of tees on holes 5, 3, 11 and 10. These tees were levelled, resurfaced, and received much-needed irrigation upgrades. These changes ensure better turf health and more consistent surfaces, which are already having a positive impact on playability. Tees on holes 8 and 16 will be addressed soon.

Improving turf health has been a primary focus, with increased mowing frequencies and a tailored nutrition program following the MLSN (Minimum Levels for Sustainable Nutrition) guidelines. This careful balance has resulted in healthier greens, fairways, and tees, showing stronger resilience to wear, drought, and other stresses.

In terms of aesthetics and playability, we introduced new mowing patterns to the fairways and green surrounds. The varied cutting heights enhance not only the visual appeal of the course but also create more strategic play options around greens. Players now have more variety in shot-making, improving their overall experience and making each round more engaging.

We also continue to trial Pylex as a treatment for couch encroachment control, with promising early results. This trial will help determine its long-term effectiveness on our course, especially in combating couch invasion across key areas.

Looking forward, one of the major projects scheduled to begin in late October 2024 is the resurfacing of the 10th green. This green has been impacted by significant couch encroachment and an overly steep slope on the right-hand side. We plan to resurface it with Dominant Extreme Bentgrass, which will enhance both its playability and long-term durability.

To further support our course management efforts, we've invested in new equipment, including the POGO Turf Health Probe and the Bernhard MC3000 reel and bed knife grinders, which are due to arrive in January 2025. The POGO probe has greatly improved our ability to monitor soil moisture and nutrient levels in real time, enabling us to optimize irrigation and fertilization practices.

The **Bernhard MC3000 grinders** will allow us to sharpen mower blades in-house with precision, ensuring that our cutting units remain in peak condition throughout the season. A sharp blade is essential for achieving clean cuts, which minimizes damage to the turf, reduces disease pressure, and enhances the overall appearance of the grass. Having this equipment in-house will reduce downtime, eliminate outsourcing costs for sharpening, and ensure our mowers are always operating at their best, leading to healthier and more consistent turf.

Additionally, we have initiated a greens committee to aid in the development of a course enhancement plan. This committee will play a crucial role in shaping our long-term vision, focusing on strategic improvements that enhance playability, aesthetics, and overall member satisfaction.

Ultimately, all of these efforts—whether in course maintenance, new equipment investments, or ongoing trials—are aimed at providing a better experience for our members. We are committed to ensuring the course is not only visually appealing but also plays consistently well throughout the season. Members can expect improved conditions, enhanced playability, and an overall elevated golfing experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated volunteers, whose contributions have been invaluable in helping maintain and improve the course. Additionally, I extend my appreciation to the general committee for their unwavering support and vision, which have enabled us to take meaningful strides toward the future. We're excited to build on this momentum in the coming season, with a continued focus on turf health, playability, and presentation.

Dylan Knight

Course Superintendent, Belvoir Park Golf Club