



**DURBANVILLE GOLF CLUB**  
**COURSE REPORT**  
**July 2017**

## Introduction

As my last weekend of leave approaches, the one thing I have realised as a green keeper is that you never leave your job, the surrounds merely change. Although you know the course is in good hands, your mind is constantly wondering what is going on and how your team is performing in your absence. You also hope that the last tasks you wanted to complete before going on leave were successful and that when you get back you merely continue where you left off. I was in regular contact with my supervisor Mavuso over these last 2 weeks and he seemed to handle all that was thrown at him judging by the compliments and has certainly earned his break.

## Greens:

It seems I should stay away longer as the greens were great in my absence judging by a few of the comments from the clubhouse. There was a bit of Fusarium disease pressure before I left but we sprayed quickly and stopped the disease before it got any worse. So at this stage I am happy with the greens and we will continue with our programmes. I would like to verti-drain them in the beginning of August to relieve some of the compaction and allow the continued downward movement of water past the roots.

## Tees:

With the geotextile having been removed off the over-seeded 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> tees, it has revealed a successful procedure. One more fertilisation and a week or two of thickening up, these two tees will be ready for play. The geotextile on the 15<sup>th</sup> will be removed this week and will be in play very shortly. The new 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> tees will be fertilised and topdressed once more before being ready for play in the first half of August. We continue to mow with walk-behinds and this is making a difference to the condition of the tees.



The over-seeded 17<sup>th</sup> tee after covering



The 17<sup>th</sup> dam wall tee

### **Fairways and Rough:**

We continue to manage the fairways and keep them mowed as much as possible. You may have noticed we have been mowing in a 2-stripe pattern rather than the back and forth striped pattern. The 2-stripe pattern reduces the amount of turns at the start and end of the fairways which prevents unsightly turn marks and damage. We have kept the mowing height consistent and the condition of the fairways is good, despite the earthworm casts creating a muddy appearance. The rough has come alive with broadleaf weeds and we are spraying this on a regular basis to keep it under control. We continue to treat the moles and this seems to be making a difference.



Broadleaf weeds in the rough

### **Bunkers:**

The work at the 2<sup>nd</sup> bunker was completed and we just need to do a little more sodding and tidying to the left of the bunker where the old path used to be. One final fertilisation and top-dressing should see the fluffy grass around the new bunker firm up and become playable. I havent heard any positive or negative feedback on the bunkers while away but will certainly address any issues there may be.



2<sup>nd</sup> bunker before



2<sup>nd</sup> bunker progressing well

### **Irrigation and dams:**

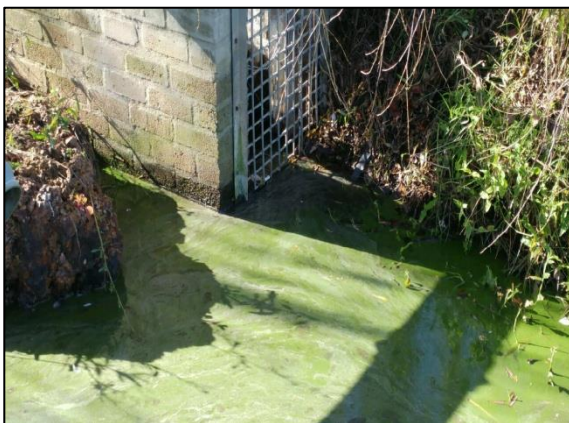
The work in the pump house is near completion and all that's left to do now is the servicing of the pumps and an audit of the irrigation system in preparation for summer. The top dam has eventually started over-flowing to the bottom dam and one can certainly see the bottom dam level increasing.



14<sup>th</sup> dam in June



14<sup>th</sup> dam in July



The top dam over-flowing



The new filter in the pump house

### **3. Machinery:**

The machines have had another good month with no major breakdowns to report. Now if all the staff could just come back from leave so that someone can drive them!

#### **4. Projects:**

Completed...

- 2<sup>nd</sup> bunker renovation
- 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> tee over-seeding
- Planting of trees and plants on 7<sup>th</sup> tee mounds
- Planting of shrubs behind the 14<sup>th</sup> green
- Seeding of Fynbos on 7<sup>th</sup> tee mounds
- Seeding of the nursery

On the go...

- Getting the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> tees ready for play
- Last sodding and tidying right of the 2<sup>nd</sup> green
- Seeding the out of play areas



Plants and seeded Fynbos on 7<sup>th</sup> mounds



New plants behind 14<sup>th</sup> green

#### **5. ATD ( Attention to detail ):**

One of the main factors that separate STM from other golf course management companies is its attention to detail. This ATD covers all aspects of the course from the presentation of furniture to the accuracy of mowing lines and the neatness of stakes. It's what we specialise in and hope that this dedication to the presentation of Durbanville sets it apart from other courses in the area.

## 6. Rainfall:

July to date has given us 34mm. The long term average is around 114mm. From January to end July, the long term total is around 437mm. To date we have had around 212mm this year.

### Rainfall chart

YEAR	2017
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DATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Total mm	9	8	4.5	28	9	119.5	34	0	0	0	0	0	212





2016	8	1.5	26.5	72	17.5	141	101	39	27	13	4.5	26	476.5
2015	23	1	3	8	64	103	72	25	34.5	6	32	3.5	375
2014	32	1	55	27.5	81	200	186	159	13	11	39	2	806.5
2013	12	27	13	55	45.5	151	81	227	92	32	75	2	812.5
2012	5	2	21	66	60	95	139	148	123	32.5	12	0	703.5
2011	8	0	5.5	39	75.5	149	45	85	54	31	47.4	26	565.4
2010	0	11.5	11	7	178	129	70	100	22.5	61.5	65	12	667
2009	7.5	1.5	3	58	112	189	126	80.5	81	59	133	13.5	863
2008	15.5	24.5	11.5	24	99.5	120	251	125	149	29	52	20	920.5
2007	0	33	25.5	90	113	174	148	137	35	43	53.5	35.5	886
2006	0	6	5	38	193	95	118	104	28	32.5	34.5	16	669.7

Below 25
Above 25
Above 50
Above 100
Above 150
Above 200

Average	10	9.75	15.38	42.7	87.21	138.7	114.2	102	54.9	29.2	45.7	13	663.13
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2011-2016	14.7	5.4	20.7	44.6	57.3	139.8	103.9	113.8	57.3	20.9	35.0	9.9	51.9
2006-2010	4.6	15.3	11.2	43.4	138.8	141.2	142.5	109.1	63.1	45.0	67.6	19.4	66.8

## 7. Objectives for August:

-  In-house, non-disruptive projects
-  Irrigation audit
-  Greens verti-drain
-  Establishment of out-of-play areas

Kind regards from Chris Kitson and your Southern Turf Management Team.

Durbanville Golf Club Course Superintendent

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