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# Greenskeeper Report

Preston Lawn Bowling Club

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## Compaction

The act of removing the green aeration cores last fall has proven to improve the ongoing challenge of mitigating the foot traffic compaction and thatch layer. Removing vertical cores by snow shovel, and leaving these holes open all winter and only filling these openings with new sand the following spring seems to be a positive solution. Aside from that one location by the corner of the clubhouse where the most foot traffic occurs. We used all our nursery turf to try and repair that area throughout the year, with little success. Now that has been prior to the removal of the light tower. My hope is that the foot traffic will now stay off that area and follow along the edge of the playing surface. If we see people still damage the turf in that area a solution I have thought could work is to slice out the existing turf and place a piece of artificial turf.

## Fertilizing

We have found that weekly feeds of small amounts have keep the green at a level of growth which provides the most consistent play. The turf was able to repair itself by growing into small damaged areas well by having the green fed weekly rather than one large amount monthly. The fertilizer damage which occurred this August was human error. Someone thought is was sand instead it was fertilizer. These spots are slowly regrowing this fall. With any luck with a long warm fall we can regrow them in completely.

## Mowing and Rolling

This balance has been refined over the past 3 seasons. Cutting 3 times a week and rolling 2 times is what we have been finding the best for play and turf growth. From the comments of players, highlighting the speed is good and the draw is also. Rolling only provides a short term benefit to play and long term detriment by adding to the compaction issues. Cutting more frequently keeps the carpet of turf at the same height and always removing the clippings helps reduce the addition to the thatch layer. Thatch layer is all the dead plant matter in the top 2 inches of soil profile. This layer needs to be reduced as much as we can by aerification. It harbours disease spores and reduces the water and nutrients infiltration in the root zone.

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## Disease Control

As I have learned from last year, the control is better handled by applying 3 different products on a rotating basis over a 2 week interval. This rotation of chemicals is to reduce the disease resistance to say just one chemical. Each chemical has a different active ingredient which its mode of action is different. This difference is what has given us a good protection to the ongoing stress the turf has to fight off the many diseases which can impact the turf quality in just days. Last year I was always waiting to see the signs and symptoms prior to chemical application. This year, based on the discussion I had with Wayne, the greenskeeper from Heritage. He highlighted we must have a 2 week interval. Even if there is no signs of disease for he mentioned it is always there and will proliferate very quickly when no chemical is there to keep it at a minimum. Thanks to Wayne, We have managed the green disease free of symptoms this year.

## Looking Forward

Our nursery is increasing in size, for we used up our small nursery in short time. I also found that trying to regrow turf from seed doesn't work in the heat of summer and can only be accomplished early or late in the season when temperatures are a little lower.

The sprinkler in the middle of the green will need a better solution rather than just filling it with sand. The sand ends up creating a bigger dead spot for always adding sand to level it has created a volcano effect. A high ridge around the dead spot which keeps getting bigger. The sand over time will harm to operation of the sprinkler, by getting into the head and reducing its ability to turn.

I would suggest digging out a circle of turf and using an artificial turf plug build of wood and turf. This can be built correctly so to keep the sprinkler head clean of sand and on the nights of watering I will remove the plug to ensure the operation of it properly.