

Discussion points for meeting with Paul Emmanuel (Aitken Sportsturf)

Meeting at Low Harrogate Crown Bowling Club at 14.30 on Monday 30 January 2023

Attendees:

Peter Hicks, Peter Syson and Derek Wilson

1. Assessment of the current condition of the green
2. Action plan for green maintenance up until the start of the new season (approx.. mid-March)
3. Development of an annual programme of green maintenance
4. Ideas for record-keeping of green maintenance activities undertaken
5. Soil testing – benefits and costs
6. Assistance with use of old stock of green treatments
7. Direction of mowing the green
8. Recommendations for watering the green

Notes and actions arising:

- PE recommended winter cutting every 1-2 weeks to 7mm when dry enough.
- Green is not in the worst condition for the time of year but PE recommended:
 - Rake out moss from bald patches as preparation for sowing seed with top dressing.
 - Cut the green to 9mm ASAP and then regularly every 1-2 weeks gradually reducing the height of cut by 1mm each time to reach 6mm at present.
 - In a couple of weeks vertigroom the green (+2mm).
- Soil samples taken for testing. Meet up with PE again when results available (at least 2 weeks) to agree the next set of actions.
- No need to regularly complete soil testing but PE will arrange as and when beneficial.
- PE will put together an annual programme for green maintenance.
- Record-keeping – we could use the Aitken planner or develop our own records.
- PE advised that we should not dispose of any of our residual green treatments as he will be able to advise when/how we use them.
- Through the growing season we should be mowing the green a minimum of 3 times a week, the more often the better. The direction of mowing should be varied each time and diagonally is a good alternative to the 2 directions we used last year.
- Watering the green needs the assistance of wetting agent to be effective.
- Fertiliser – granular more effective than liquid as it is longer lasting. Cutting the green without the grassbox will break it up and make it easier to be absorbed.

Peter Hicks