



Course Superintendents Report March 2026

Despite the wet weather during renovations my team completed everything we set out to accomplish. It was a great effort by everyone involved especially the 6 staff members who volunteered their time for 7 – 8 hours on Sunday afternoon even though they knew they were not going to get paid and it's a real shame certain members have posted things on social media to tarnish our reputation for the whole world to see. I would like to thank the 3 members (Serge Hilaney, Wayne Park and Robert Trice) who volunteered their time on Sunday and Monday to help out during the process.

I've been in this industry for 26 years and I know every month certain aspects of the golf course are going to be bought up, and I felt this would be a good opportunity to put certain things into perspective.

Every golf course is different, what works here might not work at a different golf course because it is a completely different environment. As I have said in previous reports we have a high sting nematode count in our greens which we spray for most month's throughout the growing season, some greens are 10 – 15 times the desired number and essentially what they cause is a shorter root system which decreases the drought tolerance which means I have to keep the greens more hydrated than normal to get them through hot and humid days especially when it's still 38 degrees with full sunlight at 7:30pm and with our water source being high in salinity that too decreases the overall root depth.

The golf course use to have 2 separate irrigation lines, one for the greens which was getting pumped out of the 13th dam which was a better quality water source and one for the tees and fairways which was getting pumped out of Cabramatta Creek. At some point these lines were cross connected and now we solely pump out of Cabramatta Creek so I feel this would make a huge difference especially during Summer when I have to irrigate more frequently due to high temperatures and a shallowed root system caused by high populations of sting nematodes.

Due to the age of our greens, the majority being over 50 years old they don't drain/infiltrate as good as a newly constructed green therefore during periods of prolonged wet weather especially after big rain events like we had on the 17th of January when we had 110 millimetres of rain fall and the 26th of February when we had 103 millimetres of rain fall the greens are going to develop diseases and algae especially if there is prolonged cloud cover afterwards and it continues to rain as it did. The total amount of rainfall from the 11th – 20th of January was 150.5 millimetres and from the 26th of February – 9th of March we had 128.5 millimetres but I still feel although the greens were slow due to the high amounts of rainfall they still showed no signs of disease apart from some algae which developed on certain greens that have very poor infiltration rates such as the 5th.

During hot, humid and wet weather especially like we have had from January – March, this is the perfect environment for the grass to grow especially kikuyu, I'm sure everyone who has grass at their house would be noticing how often you are cutting and how quick the grass is growing. My team are frequently cutting all areas around the course everyday but unfortunately due to sick leave, annual leave, TAFE and other aspects around the course being prioritised such as greens which is and always will be number one unfortunately all the rough isn't being cut at the start of the week but we make sure the majority is cut by Friday afternoon especially in highly played areas. The fairways in some areas have been narrowed but not to the point where it is impossible to hit the fairway, some fairways have been reduced by 1 – 2 metres or redirected so the hole plays differently like the 13th for example.

In Winter I know the question is going to be asked when are carts going to be back on course? I hear it from May – August every year. As I have said in previous reports Winter is cooler and it takes longer for the course to dry out, I can only give my assessment on the situation as I see it and it's always a mixed review amongst some members but I have to make a call early so it can be advertised so occasionally yes the carts could have been out but due to an early call I have to make a prediction in advance what is going to happen over a 12 – 24 hour period.

Generally, towards the back end of the year November – December it does get quite hot and dry with little to no rainfall and despite irrigating it sometimes gets to a point where no matter how much water is applied to the surface it doesn't seem to make a lot of difference and certain areas will dry out and develop bare areas especially around highly tree lined fairways such as the 2nd, 4th and 8th holes and when you still have another 3 months of hot weather coming up and you can't always bank on any rain falling in the future it reaches a point where water must be conserved so you can get through the January – March period.

If there are any questions regarding the course and what we are or aren't doing, I'm more than happy to answer any questions anyone has to throw at me instead of posting negative comments on social media. I'm here most days, I know how hard my team works and how dedicated they are and believe me we are doing everything we can to produce the best possible course we can for members and guests.

Peter Chard

Course Superintendent

