



OPTIMISING PLAYING QUALITY

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT?

All involved in the turf management industry should have one main aim – the production of better turf for golf. More specifically, for greens we must produce a surface that is firm underfoot and refined to enable the ball to roll fast, smooth and true. Through the greens, the production of tight lies and firm, free draining conditions remain the major aim.

MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL QUALITY

Golf was developed in Scotland is where the art of greenkeeping was born. Ever since, the theories and principles of good greenkeeping have barely changed, except of course the standard, efficiency, frequency and quality of the practices that are implemented. Such traditional principles are based upon cultural and mechanical operations to produce the turf surfaces on which to play golf.

These principles involve the implementation of regular aeration and top dressing, in addition to minimum applications of fertilisers and water, with sufficient and appropriate / sensible turf refinement operations. By doing this, a deep-rooted, healthy turf is promoted (ideally dominated by drought-tolerant grasses, i.e. bent and fescue) that grows slowly, supports fine leaves and produces a firm surface.

Furthermore, limited amounts of organic matter are produced and resistance against disease is relatively high. These simple principles have stood the test of time and will always do so, as long as they are correctly adhered to in the future.

The implementation of traditional greenkeeping principles will ensure the turf surface that is produced is done so in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner possible, i.e. with minimal inputs of fertiliser, water and pesticides.

By doing this, we are producing playing surfaces that fulfil the requirements of golfers as well as ensuring the turf is best adapted to climatic extremes – a very important attribute considering the changes we have seen and will continue to see.



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