

May 5, 2014

**Windmill Ridge Golf Course
Monett, Missouri**

DATE OF VISIT: April 22nd and 23rd

PERSONS PRESENT:

Justin Beck, Golf Course Superintendent
Michael D. Vogt, CGCS, CGIA

Overview of Greens

Due to the extreme winter, several green have experienced thinning from exposure to cold-dry winds without snow cover. Superintendent Beck has aerified and sand topdressed to aid in the healing, I would predict within a short time these areas will be excellent.



Photo 1 Slight thinning of turf on greens inside red circle

Overview of Greens (continued)



Photo 2 Red arrow indicates excellent rooting for this time of year

Sod Nursery / Practice Green



Photo 3 Sod nursery/practice green, May 14th 2013

Sod Nursery / Practice Green (continued)

Coming out of winter, the sod nursery/practice green appeared to be severely damaged by the cold, open winter. With the recent warmer temperatures the bentgrass sod has made a 180° turn-around. Photo 2 illustrates what the green looked like nearly one year ago.

Superintendent Beck decided after the 2013 season to sod the green and reduce the chances of not having a green proper surface to present after the new clubhouse was built. Sod was placed on the sod nursery/practice green last fall. Now the area looks as though a great surface may be ready for play this fall with a minimum of maintenance. Sod was pure bent, and should be a close match to the turf that is currently present.



Photo 4 Bent sod nursery/new practice green, April 23rd, 2014

With aerification, rolling, light vertical mowing, sand topdressing and organic fertilization, this green should be playable before it's needed in the late summer/early fall. Mowing could be set at .150 of an inch during the summer months to facilitate a dense bentgrass population prior to a step-down cut to match the height of cut of the rest of the greens.

The green will need many sand applications and rolling to match the sod to the old turf stand. Vertical mowing will also be helpful to blend the two separate surfaces.

Annual and Perennial Weed Control

If there is any doubt that fairways need to be treated for winter annuals and perennials, Photo 3 is proof, weed control should be applied each fall.



Photo 5 Poa annua escapes on 15 fairway

A slight miss in a weed control chemical application can prove what an area would look like without the control measure. Between the two red lines a crop of *Poa annua* is flourishing in an untreated area.

To achieve truly good quality fairways a fall and an early spring application of weed control is critical for success.

Sand Bunkers



Photo 6 Number 18 greenside sand bunker

The sand and drainage are correct in the sand bunkers that have been rebuilt. After time the edges will fill and a crisp edge will be able to be established. This ongoing project will enhance the playing experience as the project moves forward.

When machine raking these newly renovated bunkers care must be taken not to enter and leave the sand bunker from the same position each time. Repetitive traffic will break down the edge and eventually sand will begin “spilling” from the bunker and a poorly defined bunker edge will result.



Photo 7 Number one greenside sand bunker

Sand Bunkers (continued)

In Photo 6, the greenside bunker on number one green, there happens to be a dry sump placed inside the sand bunker to facilitate drainage. The problem is-once the dry sump fills with water the bunker will always remain wet. Ideally, water must be pipe away from bunker sand to a remote area or currently functioning drain tile. Repairs on the sand bunker illustrated in Photo 6 will need the gravel removed and new drain tile installed to drain into the storm water trench to the east, along the highway.

Conclusion

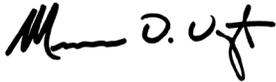
Superintendent Beck is doing a fine job in bring Windmill Ridge to the next level. It must be noted that changes on golf courses is a gradual progression. Many programs and processes are multi-year propositions, I encourage management and patrons to exercise patience, and I expect that these programs lead by superintendent Beck will yield great results, given the appropriate time.

New equipment will also augment and support these renovation endeavors. Equipment must be refreshed on an ongoing basis to keep repair cost down and production at a high level.

My last and final visit will be July 9th and 10th, 2014.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience, email mvoigt@mcmahongroup.com or cell number (636) 448-0699.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Vogt, CGCS, CGIA