

Month 1 (July)

Introduce mowing aprons

Mow a 1m wide strip around each green to reduce the lip that has developed.



Introduce mowing short rough

Mow a 1.2m wide strip around the perimeter of each fairway from my experience at Ashlar the members have giving very positive feedback about the short rough and I believe it looks good.



Re-sand all bunkers and fix cloth that is coming through the sand

This will create better consistency with the bunkers throughout the course and also install stickers on the rakes with instructions on how to leave the rake after use.



Install new or paint bucket stands

Use blue buckets only to create some consistency with the course furniture.



Tee sand boxes

Install 300mm x 300mm timber soil buckets for every set of tee markers this will allow the members to assist the green staff in repairing there divots



Improve general house keeping

During my walk around the course last week the following areas were very untidy and require urgent attention,

- Bunker edging - they were all in need of edging and should never look that untidy.
- Tee surrounds maintenance – the pathways and edges around all the tees were full of weeds and require attention.
- Leaks being left over weekend ie: there was a leak on the QCV adjacent to the 18th green which should never be left over the weekend.
- Fix unsafe bridge entry exit points – there are numerous trip hazards and pot holes on almost all the bridges

Green speed

Improve green speed by grooming, better cultural practices and additional rolling including Saturday mornings, the green speed will also be measured and displayed every competition day.

Introduce 6 x 6 x 6 flag system

Implement the (front – middle – back) flag system 3 different coloured flags



Month 2 (August)

Fix creek line retaining walls

Repair retaining walls on the creek line where they have eroded.

Repair temporary greens

The temporary greens on the 3rd, 11th and 15th are poorly built in my experience members don't mind playing on temporary greens providing they are in good condition and resemble the other greens on the course therefore I would make the temporary greens in bent turf.

Eradicate Parramatta grass

There is a large amount of Parramatta grass on the course which should be spot sprayed with R/up and removed.

Turf out thin areas on green surrounds

There are a number of thin areas throughout the course on the green surrounds therefore they should be turfed out using Kikuyu which will create consistency throughout the course.



Month 3 (September)

Course Renovations

September will be spent renovating the entire course including

- Greens – 5/8 inch hollow cores, scarify, top dress and fertilise
- Tees – 1/2 inch hollow cores, scarify, top dress and fertilise
- Fairways – Verti drain, light scarify and fertilise
- Green surrounds – 1/2 inch hollow cores, top dress and fertilise

Capital Works Schedule

It is impossible for me to prioritise a capital works schedule without firstly consulting the various committees and gathering some feedback from the membership, however if I was successful my plan would be to utilise the spare green on the 3rd hole and take each hole out of play for approx 10 weeks and upgrade the green including bunkers if required, the tee including a cement path and the fairway including fairway bunkers. Obviously finance would dictate how many holes could be completed each year however with the reduction of the maintenance budget more funds should be available for capital works. The following is what I believe is required and some cost estimates using in house designs and labour.

Greens

Improve each green complex by rebuilding each green using A1 bent also introduce a 1m perimeter of Sealse Paspalum, The bunkers on each green will be evaluated to weather they require rebuilding or just a refurbishment including new drainage and sand. I have built 2 green at Ashlar in recent years and they can be built at a reasonable cost depending on how many bunkers.

Estimated cost average green including 2 x bunkers = \$30,000



Tees

Improve each tee complex by levelling all tees introducing Santa-ana couch, installing a cement path and surrounding gardens.

Estimated cost per average size tee including cement path = \$30,000



Fairways

While the hole is out of play it is a great opportunity to level any uneven areas such as the 14th fairway, any fairway bunkers should also be either rebuilt or refurbished.

Estimated cost including a bunker and some returfing of unlevel areas \$15,000



Summary

Therefore an allocation of \$75,000 per hole would be required obviously like any capital works projects it would rely on available funds however I would think if we could do a minimum of 2 holes per year we would be making great progress.

Maintenance Facility

Through reading some of the information about the club I have been made aware of the need to upgrade the maintenance facility, I have been unable to inspect the area therefore its impossible to comment on any of the issues relating to the area. However personally I would prefer to spend capital works money on the course itself but in saying that the maintenance facility does have to be functional and need to meet certain OH&S and environmental requirements therefore the area will need to be reviewed.