Bull Bay Golf Club - PJA Course Report – 19th January 2024

1.0 Overview

This summary report follows an analysis and review of the greenkeeping practices which were carried out at Bull Bay Golf Club in 2023 as discussed between Peter Jones (Course Consultant), Owen Evans (Head Greenkeeper) and seeks to provide guidance and recommendations for the agronomic requirements of the playing surfaces for 2024 based on the available equipment, manpower and budget.

The annual course inspection in 2023 was carried out on Friday 19th May at which time the Course Consultant inspected the course and discussed the condition and objectives for the year with Club officials.

Throughout the year, the Head Greenkeeper liaised with the Course Consultant over any matters which needed technical advice or guidance as part of the mentoring process.

It is the considered opinion of the Consultant that the outcome of the consultancy process for 2023 was to enable the Club to get on with an important backlog of course improvement/project works, (such as drainage, trees, irrigation maintenance works), whilst also keeping the Head Greenkeeper firmly focussed on the Number 1 priority of managing the agronomic requirements and processes needed to maintain good quality greens to build the reputation of being the best in the area throughout the whole of the year.

Guidance was once again provided on how to gradually restore the historical aspects of the course and enhance the scenic views, presentation and playing quality of the surfaces all year round without the need to spend large sums of money on expensive restoration projects. The key aim therefore being to incrementally improve the course and reputation of the Club whilst working within the confines of a reasonably tight maintenance budget whilst prioritising any extra available funds in the future for machinery and qualified staff remuneration.

2.0 Greenkeeping Team

The Greenkeeping team would appear to be better structured than in the past due to the employment of a fifth full-time greenkeeper in 2023 and the continued investment in training, including the two apprentices.

From discussions with Owen Evans it would appear that the team and performing well and becoming more competent as time goes on, no doubt making up for the lack of training investment by the Club under the previous regime. The wider investment on course improvements should also provide a feel-good factor for the team, despite the tight budget. This bodes well for 2024 if things remain settled.

3.0 The Course in General

At the time of the course inspection it was very good to see the improvements now made at the First Tee complex & Putting Green area which has significantly improved the first impression of the golf course.

The sense of arrival achieved when walking onto good quality playing surfaces and course furniture at this stage of the game will ideally enable golfers to lift their eyes and take in the fabulous views of the coastline and beyond. Something quite special!

It was suggested that the mowing lines of the tee and fairway should be aligned with the fairway landing area to further enhance the first hole when viewed from the tee.

The greens were considered to be in good condition and benefitting from the annual agronomic programme coupled with seasonal variances to the maintenance practices. There is much skill and dedication of time required to get this right on a consistent and sustainable basis and the increase from four to five full time staff should help to achieve this desirable aim.

Problems with the irrigation system equipment early in the year had been frustrating due to the detrimental impact on the health of the greens, but were subsequently overcome with lessons being learned.

It was considered that there remains good scope for improving the sward quality of the tees and approaches from an agronomic perspective, albeit the consistency of quality and presentation is much dependent on natural rainfall at BBGC for the time being due to the lack of a tees & approaches pop-up irrigation system.

Demonstrations of desirable practices using the hollow-tining machine and scarifier were conducted on the large 17th tee to confirm the machine settings and techniques required and appropriate for the bigger tees with easier access.

On a wider note, the course tour also focussed on golfer's routes for winter use of the course in areas where drainage is known to be a problem in the winter.

Other significant course improvements such as tree removal, drainage work, 2nd hole crossing point, and the new Practice Facility were all noted to be very good and beneficial projects handled by higher level management and Club officials.

4.0 Irrigation System

It was noted that the recommissioning date for the irrigation system in 2024 is 1st March in line with previous recommendations.

5.0 Tees

The Club now own a robust, albeit heavy pedestrian hollow-coring machine which can be used on the larger tees with easy access. The aim is to hollowcore when conditions are ideal (dry & firm) then smash the cores with a scarifier as shown in the photo below. This is combined with overseeding and then followed up with a granular fertiliser application.

Oversow by broadcasting Barenbrug Extreme Tees mix grass seed at 15gms/m2.

In preparation for the tournament in May, apply a controlled release 16.4.8 fertiliser to all tees around late March when light rain is due. See link below.

Evolution Naturelle Sport Spring 16-4-8 applied at 35gms/m2.
https://amenity.agrovista.co.uk/product/evolution-naturelle-sport-spring16-4-8/
This is available from Agrovista.

6.0 Greens

There is a detailed PJA agronomy plan to follow for the key elements of renovation and maintenance work on greens for the year which is shown in appendices of the report.

Owen is much focussed on the day-to-day requirements and fine-tuning of the greens, which is essential. Spring 2024 will hopefully be more promising for keeping the greens in good condition now that the irrigation system problems from last year have been addressed, especially with March and April being the most difficult months in the Greenkeeping calendar to get growth moving due to cold, dry winds, and the start of wear issues.

It is recommended that mowing the perimeter cut on greens is limited to a maximum of once a week until Easter, as this will help to avoid wear issues around the perimeters when the greens are soft and have limited growth.

It was recommended that the 'shape' of greens can be adjusted (as shown on site) at the start of the year (March) to improve the contour mowing shape of greens and with the aim of generally enlarging the smaller sized greens, as discussed.

It is recommended that an application of ICL Invigorator 4.0.8 fertiliser is applied to greens to coincide with a mild period in Feb to get the greens off to a good start in 2024. (This can be applied in addition to any of the remaining 20.20.30 programme yet to be applied). Depending on the date applied, another application of Invigorator may be required 3 to 4 weeks afterwards if temperature remain to low for applying the Sierraform Momentum.

It is recommended that the following granular fertiliser is purchased and applied in mid-April: ICL Sierraform GT Momentum 22.5.11 + 2MgO + TE applied at 25gms/m2.

A fertiliser plan which relies mainly on liquid/sprayer applications every fortnight has been recommended from late-May onwards as the previous year.

The 10th Greens has two known issues which need to be monitored again this year.

i) Toadrush – Treat individual plants with a paint brush/dab and diluted Glyphosate.

ii) Drainage – A PJA greens drainage specification was provided to Owen for guidance on any future greens drainage required, or where the existing 'contractor's spec' installation needs to be upgraded in due course. (Refer to PJA spec and cross-section sketch drawing).

Greens Topdressing:
It transpires that only 18 tons of TD5 topdressing was applied to the greens in 2023 which is a very low amount. This was applied in March.

Unfortunately the June application was missed out due to various issues including weather. It is recommended that a minimum of two applications are programmed for in 2024 albeit we know that the cost of purchasing topdressing in 20 ton loads to north Anglesey is unfortunately very high.

To put things into perspective, it is not unusual for most mainland courses to be applying 80 to 120 tons of topdressing sand onto greens per annum to help achieve good surfaces. Luckily, we are doing well with less at BBGC partially helped by the coastal location and the other complimentary agronomy work, but it is recommended that more than one application per year is applied to help prevent issues with thatch and organic matter build-up further down the line. It is therefore recommended that this eventuality is budgeted for.

May Tournament:
With there being a tournament booked for May 2024, it is recommended that a topdressing is applied no less than two weeks beforehand. The same applies for the fertiliser application on greens. (i.e. For fert, apply ¾ normal rate 14 to 18 days before tournament).

Greens Overseeding:
Given the cost of good quality bentgrass seed for greens, it is recommended that only the worst greens are overseeded in 2024. These have been identified as 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th greens. (Six in total).

7.0 Machinery

The overall machinery inventory remains fairly basic whilst the Club endeavours to improve its finances and address the historic backlog of modernising the machinery. This situation is not helped by the ever increasing cost of the equipment in recent years.

The Consultant highly recommends that the Club does not take on any unnecessary capital projects on the course (as typically advised by Golf Course Architects) as there is more to be gained from having reliable, efficient and productive machinery and more greenkeeping staff than there is from spending thousands on bunker renovation projects and the like.

It is recommended that a review of the machinery replacement costs is made so that a financial forecast can be put in place looking seven years ahead.

It is noted that the Club do not have a set of 13mm diameter tines for the Weidenman aerator as needed for the winter aeration & decompaction of the greens, and therefore these would be a useful purchase for use on the greens in late autumn and late winter in the future.

8.0 Other Areas/Issues

Winter Buggy Routes:
Suggestions and recommendations were made at the time of the visit for winter buggy routes that will avoid wet areas and help to keep the course open. This included the route behind the 4th green to a new winter tee, and a track to the 15th fairway. The completed work and crossing at the 2nd was noted to be complete and an improvement.

9.0 PJA Agronomy Programme

The PJA recommended agronomy programme appears below and in Appendix 1.

PJA **BULL BAY GOLF CLUB - 2024 AGRONOMIC PROGRAMME - SOIL GREENS - 19.01.24 ©**

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
TOPDRESSING				M	4th								
	Note 1			A									
Medium TD5 top dressing	Note 2			I	E								
	Note 3			N	A								
PENCIL-TINE AERATION 8mm dia.	Note 4			T	S								
PENCIL-TINE AERATION 5mm dia.	Note 5				T								
VERTI-DRAIN AERATION	Note 6	X 2025		N	E								
PREVENTATIVE FUNGICIDES	Note 7			A	R			Hmaxx		?		?	?
WETTING AGENT & PGR's	Note 8			N									
	Note 9			C									
VERTICUT (0.00mm to 0.50mm)	Note 10	0.0		E									
VERTICUT (2.0mm to 3.0mm)	Note 11		1.0		2.0mm	2.0mm	2.5mm	2.5mm	3.0mm				
FERTILISER APPLICATION Liquids	Note 12	20/20/30 Programme				Headland liquid feed programme				Headland 20/20/30 Programme			
FERTILISER APPLICATION Granular	Note 13		ICL Invigo	ICL Invigorator	ICL Momentum				ICL All Season 18.6.18				
OVER-SEED BENT	Note 14												
SURROUNDS, APPS & TEMPS	Note 15										S/A		
HOLLOW CORE TEES	Note 16			Tees			Tees				Tees		

Note 1.
Note 2. Apply 12 tons of topdressing on 19 greens
Note 3.
Note 4. Solid tine with 8mm dia tines on Weidenmann.
Note 5. Pencil tine /needle tine monthly in summer with 5mm tines at 30mm or 50mm spacings according to ground/ moisture and root conditions.
Note 6. Weidenmann verti-drain with 13mm tines at 50mm centres with 2.5 degrees heave in Jan/Feb, and in autumn (Oct/Nov) @ 200 - 225mm. deep
Note 7. Use Heritage fungicide in July for prevention of Anthracnose disease. Follow 20/20/30 programme from 1st Sept onwards. Apply fungicides as required due to disease.
Note 8. Use Tricure AD wetting agentprogramme (follow recommended monthly programme) to aid even water penetration. Use hand applicator with WA pellets on 'hot spots'.
Note 8. Use Plant Growth Regulators (e.g. PrimoMaxx) on tees and lush fairways to reduce mowing frequency.
Note 9.
Note 10. Verti-cutting depth and frequency adjusted according to conditions and growth. 0.00mm. 0.25mm to 0.50mm.
Note 11. Verti-cutting depth and frequency adjusted according to conditions and growth. 2.00mm to 3.00mm max.
Note 12. Apply 20.20.30 liquid spray programme. Apply Headland liquid spray programme for summer months - Mid-May to August.
Note 13. Apply ICL granular fertilisers as detailed. ICL Invigorator 4.0.8 ICL Momentum 22.5.11 ICL All Season 18.6.18
Note 14. Barenbrug All Bent seed mixture on selected greens only at 4 g/m2.
Note 15. Work on Surrounds & Approaches . - i.e. Scarification, De-compation, Verti-drain, Irrigation, Fertiliser, Seed, Topdressing, Wetting agent.
Note 16. Scarify, Hollow-core & Overseed Tees. Break up cores with pedestrian scarifier. Core worst tees, Par 3 tees and compacted tees twice in the year in April/May & Sept./Oct.
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* * *

Peter Jones

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PJA **BULL BAY GOLF CLUB - 2024 AGRONOMIC PROGRAMME - SOIL GREENS - 19.01.24 ©**

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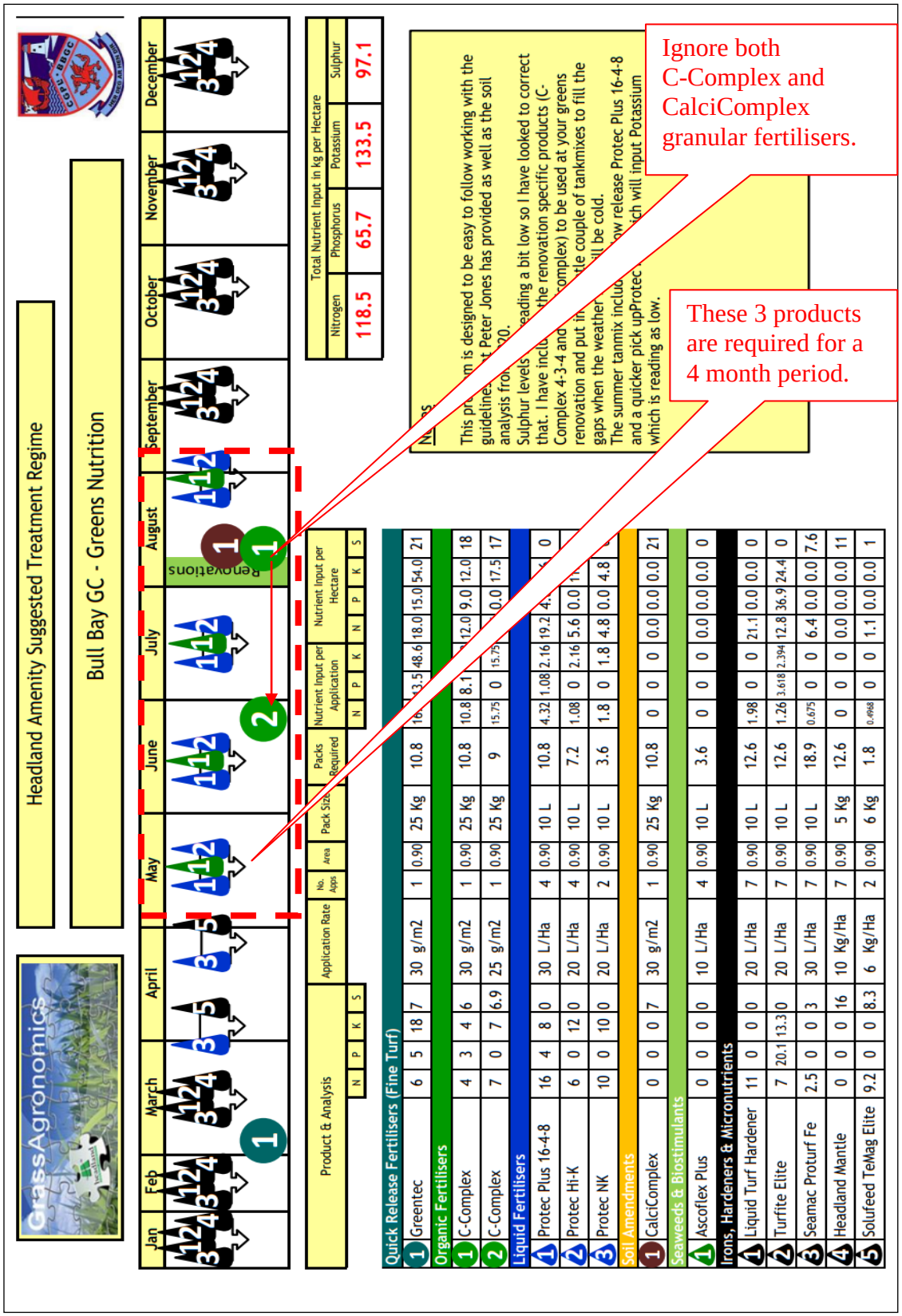
PJA © 19.01.24

Appendix 2 – Liquid Fertiliser Summer Programme + 20/20/30 Winter Programme
Refer to the PJA notes in Red boxes below for quotation & ordering purposes.



Headland Amenity Suggested Treatment Regime

Bull Bay GC - Greens Nutrition

Jan Feb March April May June July August September October November December

Renovations

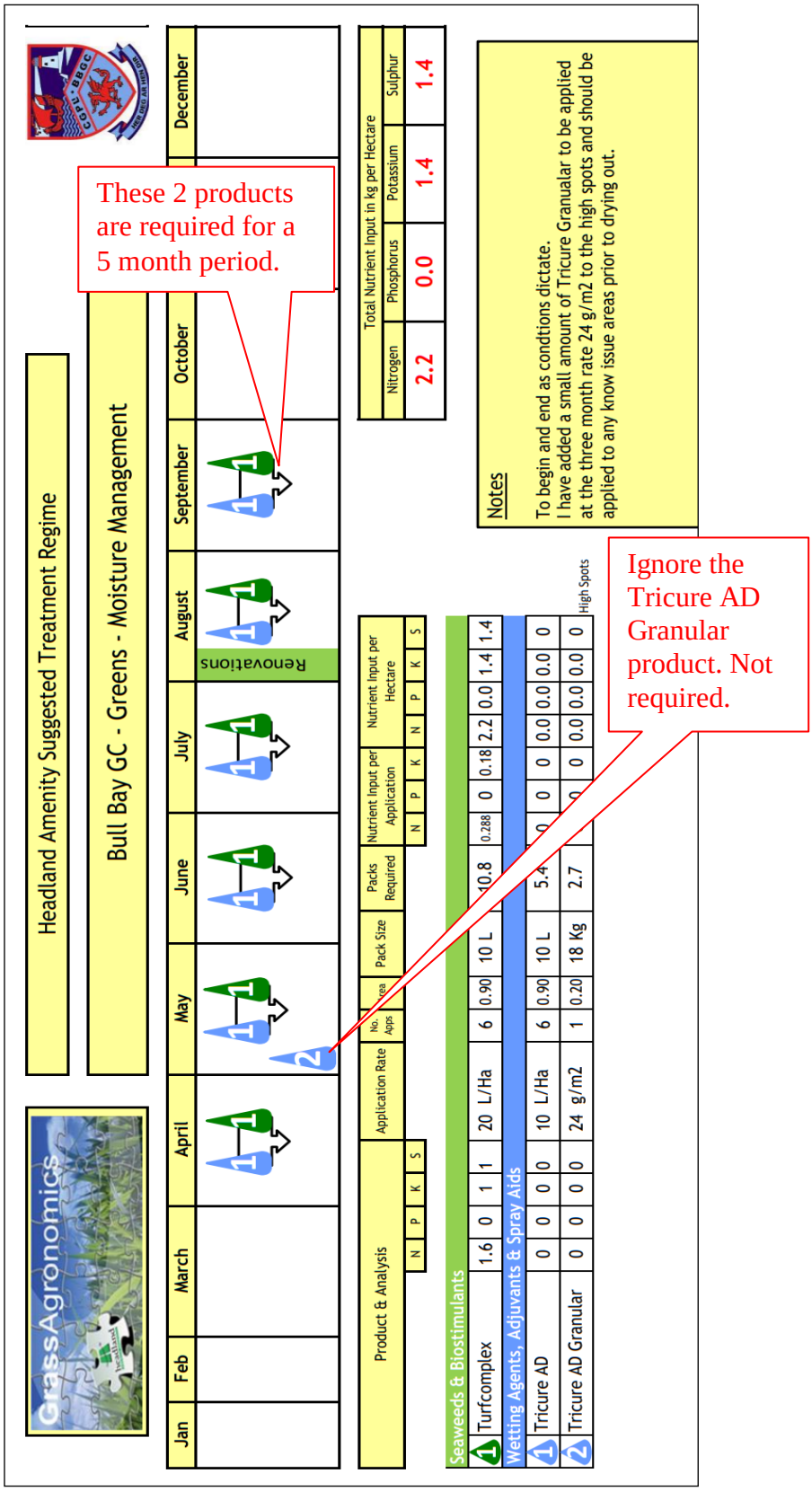
Product & Analysis	N	P	K	S	Application Rate	No. Apps	Area	Pack Size	Packs Required	Nutrient Input per Application N	P	K	Nutrient Input per Hectare N	P	K	S
Quick Release Fertilisers (Fine Turf)																
1 Greentec	6	5	18	7	30 g/m2	1	0.90	25 Kg	10.8	16	13.5	48.6	18.0	15.0	54.0	21
Organic Fertilisers																
1 C-Complex	4	3	4	6	30 g/m2	1	0.90	25 Kg	10.8	10.8	8.1	12.0	12.0	9.0	12.0	18
2 C-Complex	7	0	7	6.9	25 g/m2	1	0.90	25 Kg	9	15.75	0	15.75	0.0	0.0	17.5	17
Liquid Fertilisers																
1 Protec Plus 16-4-8	16	4	8	0	30 L/Ha	4	0.90	10 L	10.8	4.32	1.08	2.16	19.2	4.	1.	0
2 Protec Hi-K	6	0	12	0	20 L/Ha	4	0.90	10 L	7.2	1.08	0	2.16	5.6	0.0	1.	
3 Protec NK	10	0	10	0	20 L/Ha	2	0.90	10 L	3.6	1.8	0	1.8	4.8	0.0	4.8	
Soil Amendments																
1 CalciComplex	0	0	0	7	30 g/m2	1	0.90	25 Kg	10.8	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21
Seaweeds & Biostimulants																
1 Ascoflex Plus	0	0	0	0	10 L/Ha	4	0.90	10 L	3.6	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Irons, Hardeners & Micronutrients																
1 Liquid Turf Hardener	11	0	0	0	20 L/Ha	7	0.90	10 L	12.6	1.98	0	0	21.1	0.0	0.0	0
2 Turfite Elite	7	20.1	13.3	0	20 L/Ha	7	0.90	10 L	12.6	1.26	3.618	2.394	12.8	36.9	24.4	0
3 Seamac Proturf Fe	2.5	0	0	3	30 L/Ha	7	0.90	10 L	18.9	0.675	0	0	6.4	0.0	0.0	7.6
4 Headland Mantle	0	0	0	16	10 Kg/Ha	7	0.90	5 Kg	12.6	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11
5 Solufeed TeMag Elite	9.2	0	0	8.3	6 Kg/Ha	2	0.90	6 Kg	1.8	0.4968	0	0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1

Total Nutrient Input in kg per Hectare			
Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Sulphur
118.5	65.7	133.5	97.1

This pr m is designed to be easy to follow working with the guidelines t Peter Jones has provided as well as the soil analysis fro 20.
Sulphur levels eading a bit low so I have looked to correct that. I have inclu the renovation specific products (C-Complex 4-3-4 and complex) to be used at your greens renovation and put in tle couple of tankmixes to fill the gaps when the weather ill be cold.
The summer tanmix includ w release Protec Plus 16-4-8 and a quicker pick upProtec ich will input Potassium which is reading as low.

Ignore both C-Complex and CalciComplex granular fertilisers.

These 3 products are required for a 4 month period.

Appendix 3 – Wetting Agent Programme for Greens

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