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**FROM THE SUPER'S DESK -  
MARK FINDLAY**



Dear Members,

You would have noticed a change in the condition of our greens and it's worth communicating an update on what has happened, what we have found, and what we have done to them over the past 3 weeks to return them to a healthy state.

There is insect damage caused by what is known as nematodes. These are microscopic worms get inside the plant and eat the roots away and damage the weaker grass first, in this case the poa annua. The conditions we had recently with lots of rain and hot weather produced great conditions for nematodes to germinate in huge numbers.

They are very hard to diagnose as the referred damage they cause can look like a number of other things. As such we have needed to work through all the possible causes starting with diseases as we need to eliminate things so that we are sure of the actual cause of the problem. Once we had ruled out disease we had an agronomist come and look at the greens last Thursday. He also confirmed we had nematodes and with his recommendations, we have put in place a program to tackle the issue.

On the 2nd of January, I did an initial spray of nemacide. What will happen over the next 3 weeks is that I will fertilise greens Monday the 7th, then spray for nematodes again Wednesday the 9th. The 7th green is the worst affected, and to assist in regenerating the surface, a mini tine will be run over the green prior to the spray on Wednesday.

If needed we will spray again for nematodes in a fortnight, and follow up with fertiliser the following day.

I believe the greens should recover quickly and going forward every year we will be preventative spraying for nematodes in November.

If you would like to see what they are there is a good explanatory video on YouTube on nematodes (managing nematodes presented by Syngenta) and what they can do to the greens.



Our recent treatments are summarised below.

- 20/12 we sprayed a fungicide for Pythium/Rhizoctonia which are 2 common Diseases found this time of year
- 24/12 we sprayed an insecticide for black beetle/stem weevil which is a common practice this time of year it's more of a preventative spray
- 31/12 we sprayed a fungicide for Rhizoctonia again with a different fungicide
- 2/1 we sprayed a nematicide for nematodes

Regards

**Mark Findlay**

## ***BUNKERS***

The same growing conditions that have created the problems on the greens have also created issues you see in our bunkers. A lot of the bunkers have sand washed away due to the rain and weeds in them. To help our small team get this under control quickly I would like to run some volunteer days on a Tuesday mornings the 15th and 22nd of January. If you would like to assist please call 03 9394 9494 or email [club@sanctuarylakesclub.com.au](mailto:club@sanctuarylakesclub.com.au)



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