

Increasing use of Verti-Drain to relieve compaction and aid draining

The Verti-Drain has been widely used throughout the country during the last 3 or 4 years with considerable success. Machines have been purchased by the larger clubs and hired by those of more modest means. However in the last 12 months we have found an increasing tendency for the less wealthy clubs to purchase their own machines for a mixture of reasons.

1. The Golf Club can use the machine at their own convenience and when the conditions are most favourable for work to proceed.
2. Golf Clubs owning their own machines can take one or two greens out of play at a time using all their staff to conduct a short maintenance programme including Verti-Draining (with or without hollow tines), top dressing, scarifying and mowing. This may take a whole day and would not be possible if a contractor was aiming to cover the whole 18 greens in two days.
3. Many Golf Clubs have come to realise that not only their greens but also their tees, surrounds, walk on and walk off areas and fairways need deep tine aeration using a Verti-Drain. Obviously to hire a contractor to do the whole of this work would not be economically viable.
4. The development of hollow tines for use on a Verti-Drain has opened up a new avenue for golf courses which have problems with their greens and which are a corollary of the material from which the greens were made. In short the only solution to their problems is to remove the soil from which the green was originally made replacing it with different soil types.

This can be done in one of two ways.

The first is drastic and expensive and involves ripping the whole green out, re-building, re-seeding, and starting again.

The second is using the Verti-Drain with hollow tines to remove $\frac{3}{4}$ " cores 8" to 9" long at 4" centres, top dress back sand or the preferred material.

Experience over the last 12 months at Buckingham Golf Club has shown that this sort of treatment can be conducted approximately 4 times a year during the growing season. Each treatment can involve top dressing as much as 5 tons of sand per green and the holes heal over in approximately 7 to 14 days. It is estimated that after 4 years of this treatment the greens will have been totally renewed. Indeed, after 12 months treatment the members at Buckingham agree that they have never been in such good condition. Obviously this type of treatment is only possible if you own your own machine.



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