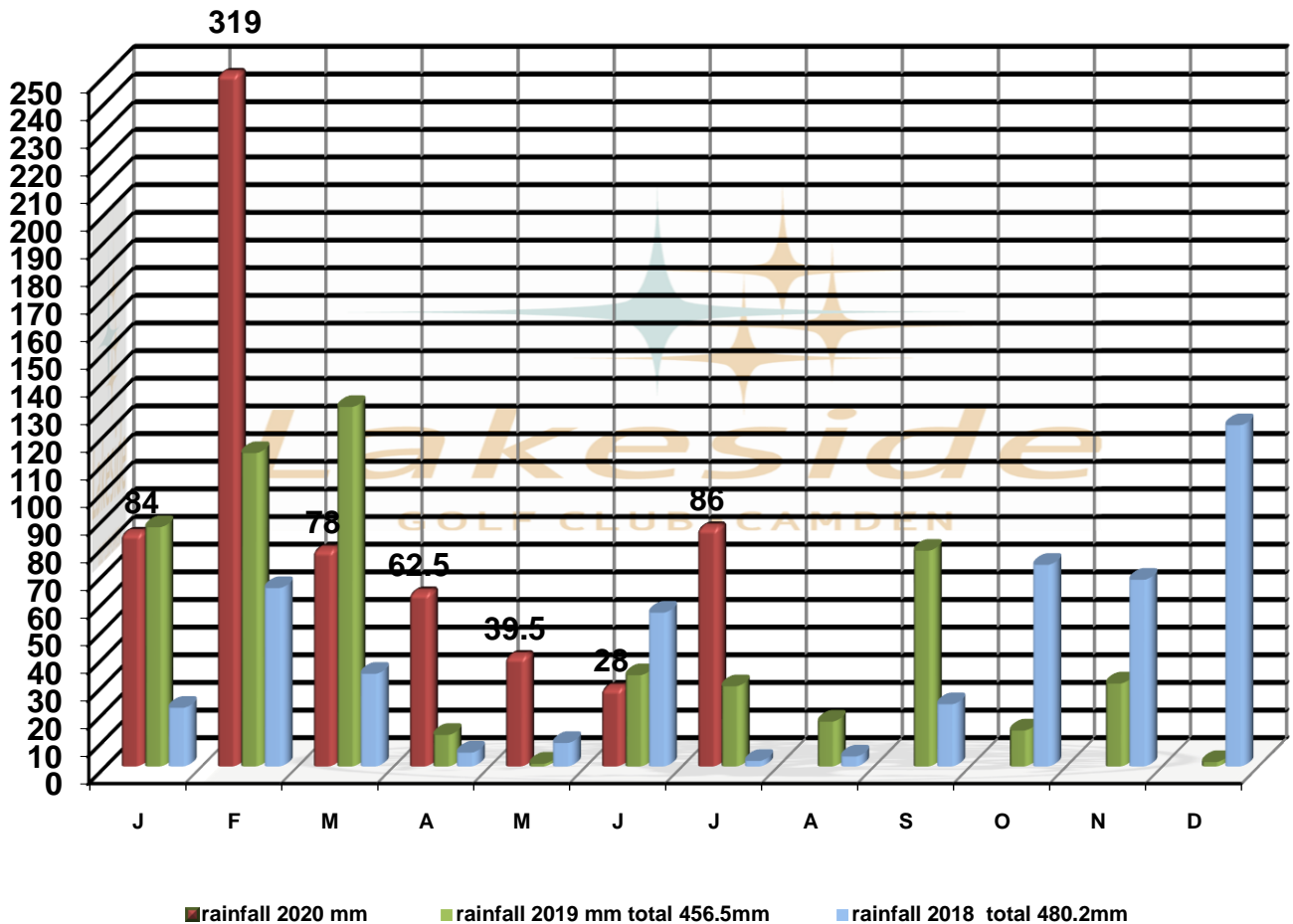


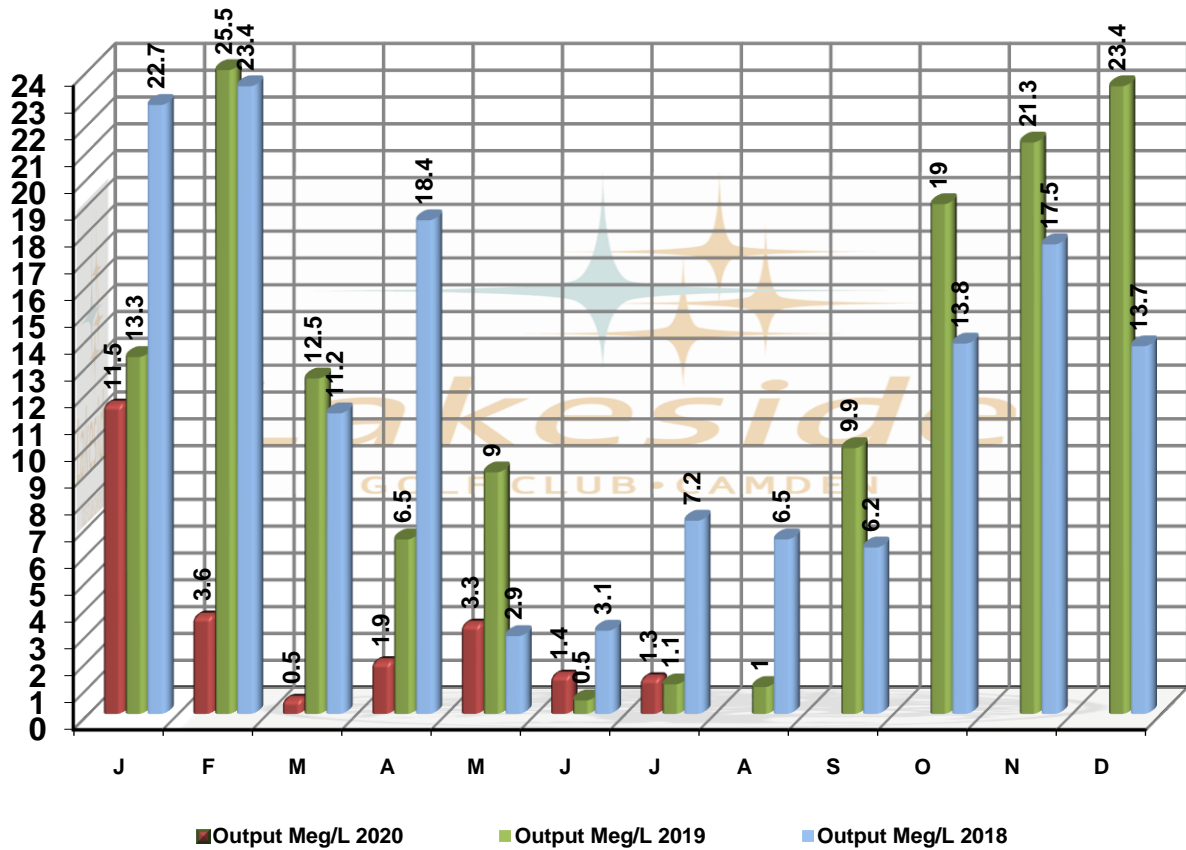
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



22nd July 2020 – 25th August 2020

JULY RAINFALL	86mm
Number of rain days in JULY	5
RAINFALL YTD 2020	698mm
JULY IRRIGATION	1.3meg
IRRIGATION YTD 2020	23.8Meg





GREENS

Cutting height 3.5 (mm)

Greens programs continued throughout July and will change next month as we move into warmer weather.

All greens received a foliar fertiliser as part of their fertility program. This was applied after our poa program started.

Moving into Spring Renovations we are looking at having a tough approach on the new greens to stop populations of winter grass becoming bad. We have different aging greens with different establishment methods so some greens are worse off than others. Our approach this time is the following:

- Boom Spray greens with the herbicide poachek at recommended rate to highlight the winter grass and provide a sickening blow to it at the same time. The side effect being the bentgrass also takes a slight hit and will yellow and brown off.
- Next step is to dab the individual plants with weed wickers and continue a dose of poachek and a PGR (growth regulator) containing the active ingredient Paclobutrazol. This further increases a yellowing of the plant.
- Fertilise the greens to promote some covering of the bent grass into these locations.

- We then will Boom spray greens once again with the herbicide poachek 10 days after initial application. We also have to be mindful that we want to oversow with some T1 bent grass so we cannot spray to close to this happening as this will stop germination. Another yellowing of the bent grass will result.
- Spiking of the greens will occur and our renovations as well.

We believe that members deserve the purest bent greens we can offer, and with a lot of construction happening over the years, programs have been hard to maintain. If we can stop the spread before it's a problem and hence why we are taking a strong approach now, our greens will remain pure bent for many years to come.

Winter grass in bent is one of the most challenging things that is faced on all golf courses over the world. I have seen first-hand clubs build new greens only to be a high percentage of winter grass a few years later. Even high profile Championship courses like The Lakes golf club which totally reconstructed can go from pure bent to almost 80% winter grass within 9-10 years.

Rolling continues whenever we can amongst the weather. Growth is still slow during these cooler months. A fungicide was applied to greens to reduce any pathogen numbers of Pythium as we head into renovations.



Winter grass targets with blue dots after being dabbed with paint brushes

GREENS COLLARS

Collars 8mm

Collars are cut once a week.

As mentioned in the last report, collars were sprayed previously on holes 5,6,7,8 for winter grass, kikuyu and bent grass. The remaining new greens collars also were sprayed to eliminate those weeds last month.

GREEN SURROUNDS

Cutting height 12mm

Surrounds have been sprayed for Mullumbimby grass, flat weed and winter grass. We now are going into spring and a core of the surrounds will also commence. Due to the amount of rain and the boggy conditions, we would like to open them up, get oxygen exchange and promote deep roots as we move into summer.

The 11th green surrounds has been repaired and additional drainage placed in the wet area.



The old boggy turf



The new drainage line in front of green



The 3rd green also had its drainage pits connected to an outlet allowing it to drain away without needing the pit pumped out

TEES

Cutting height 8mm

Tees and tee surrounds were boomed sprayed with an herbicide for flat weed. Also tees will receive a light renovation during spring to promote.

The 6th tee surrounds was also looked at and after a thorough irrigation investigation, the problem was still put down to ground water coming down the natural line towards the dam. Drainage and new turf was put in this area.



FAIRWAYS

Cutting height 12mm

Fairways are in desperate need for spraying for flat weeds and winter grass. As you can imagine, given we have had so much rain, 3 midweek competitions and wind, we have not been able to get out to do this job. The next available day we get favourable conditions it will be carried out.

ROUGHS

Cutting height 40mm

Roughs will also be boomed sprayed for weeds and winter grass. Given we had only 4 frosts this winter, our normal knockdown herbicide Glyphosate could not be sprayed on the roughs at all, leaving a breeding ground for weeds to grow with all that rainfall.

MAINTENANCE CREW / COVID 19 UPDATE

Crew have been split again into 2 teams of 6 that start/break and finish at different times. This is to stagger the social gathering in the lunchroom. We just have to minimise our risk of the whole maintenance team isolating for 14 days if it should come to this.

DRIVING RANGE TEE

Driving range tee is completed for now and the mat is in play. The tee itself will still require some work but we must wait until it is warmer to carry out these works. This Artificial turf to accommodate this, and at the same time we would lose some dip and the stairs from the back of the tee and level and slope this whole area.

BUILDING WORKS

As all would see the works that are going on in front of the clubhouse, these too involve the maintenance staff and crew into other things we would like to be doing. Building temporary paths, cleaning of building waste to make it manageable to golf is all time consuming.

We also moved some 1000t of clay from the top carpark to out on our building area on course. This was in anticipation of 2500t of topsoil which unfortunately fell through.

Dean Hopper
Course Superintendent