Greens

Vertidraining

We have acquired a new vertidraining machine. With this a series of tines penetrate the ground up to 13" and 'shake' the earth. This results in the shattering of compact layers and the complete aeration of the surface. This provides continuity between the surface drainage systems below.
We will be vertidraining the greens each month – This will not affect play, as does hollow tinning.

Black Layer

This is a common disorder of high-sand-content golf greens, characterised by an interrupted or continuous subsurface blackened layer in the sand.
We are currently experiencing problems with this on several greens. It is caused by the greens receiving too much water. This is due to the amount of rain over the summer. The affected area requires air in it. The vertidraining will help with this and a week of good weather should see it disappear.

Fusarium Patch Disease or Snow Mould

This is caused by a fungus and consists of roughly circular patches (at least 3"-12") of dead and matted grass blades.
It is called snow mould as it usually appears after the snow melts and exposes the grass in late winter. It is currently causing problems, again due to the constantly wet grass. It should disappear quickly once the grass dries and the greens are sprayed.

Hollow Coring

The Agronomist's visit will reveal if the greens or tees require hollow tinning.
The pictures below were taken on the 7th August 2009 from the 13th green.

On the left shows the complete sample, and that on the right the amount of thatch contained in the sample. In this case it was 12mm – well within acceptable limits.

Thatch

As shown above the thatch is the layer of 'matting' that lies between the grass top and the soil below. It is the thatch that gives the greens their 'spring'. Too much and the greens become spongy and the ball sticks dead. Too little and the greens become too hard and the ball will not stop. It is a juggling act and if required, hollow tinning will be carried out.