



Cottesloe Golf Club (Inc)
Established 1908

WHY PITCH MARK REPAIR?

Why do we need to prepare on average, one pitch mark each hole?

The catch cry of all golf clubs is to 'repair your own pitch mark' (a philosophy of Individual Responsibility). This makes perfect sense when thinking of divots and bunker raking as the damage is clear and 'at the feet' of the player. However, in the case of pitch marks the damage is uncertain and is a distance away, on the green.

This philosophy ends in failure if you look at the results (a Members' work group repaired over 7000 sandy pitch marks on 12 greens when the course was closed). These are the reasons:

- A player may have made a pitch mark but,
 - I. May genuinely believe that he or she did not make a pitch mark.
 - II. May just not care.
 - III. May not know where the ball landed
 - IV. Could not find it or it was genuinely hard to see.
 - V. The ball landed a significant distance from where the ball finished, and it is inconvenient or impractical to look.
- Some players do not understand how to correctly repair a pitch mark, or they do a bad job. These efforts have the same outcome as not repairing them in the first place.
- Many shots to our greens (particularly the new ones) are causing bruising rather than breaking the surface of the grass and creating a visible pitch mark. This bruising is difficult to see at the time it is made, and it is difficult at that time to repair. These bruises will turn to sand over a few days as the grass dies. Whilst some players may think they do not create pitch marks, every player is contributing to these bruises and ultimately the sandy patches on our greens.

When you add up the consequences of these events there will be a lot of pitch marks, bruises and other damage on a green which needs to be repaired a day or 2 later.

A different philosophy – A large group of Members who care for the course

The only solution to the problems set out above is for the player group to repair more pitch marks than they currently are repairing. This needs to include old sandy pitch marks, the majority of which are created by bruising of the grass (which we all are responsible for).

Cottesloe Golf Course is a Members' golf course and it is the Member's responsibility to take care of it. We need a way of sharing that responsibility in relation to the greens which is simple and effective. This is the basis of our Condition of Play which requires every Member to repair, on average, one pitch mark each hole (including old sandy pitch marks), each time you play. If every player did this, you would see an improvement in the condition of the course you are playing, and you will know you played a part in that change.

It will take each player 5 to 10 seconds a hole to repair a pitch mark and it is easier when the requirement is 'any pitch mark'. This represents a small commitment by each of us to a facility that gives all of us pleasure.