



Greens Committee Newsletter

April 13, 2010

In its first meeting of 2010, the Greens Committee (Committee) spent about an hour with our new superintendent Mark ("Sparky") Lockhart reviewing the condition of the course. We discussed the current situation, items to be addressed during the season and items to be addressed over the course of several seasons.

Current Situation

Sparky advised of the following:

- he has hired three individuals to perform day-to-day tasks such as mowing, sand trap maintenance and so on
- mowing equipment issues have been resolved and all equipment is available for use including a walk-behind greens mower
- the most immediate task on his to-do list is to get the irrigation system up and running and to inspect and catalog any repairs and/or improvements that may be needed at the pump house

Items to Be Addressed During the Season

Sparky identified a number of items that he plans to address in the coming months including (but not necessarily in chronological order):

- rebuilding/restructuring of the sand traps at #2, #5, and #9 greens
- installation of drainage tiles to address chronic wet areas such as #2 fairway, the left hand trap at #3 green, #4 fairway, the path between #4 green and #5 tee and #5 fairway
- restoration of the grass in #5 fairway
- installation of irrigation for the new putting green
- rescue/revival of the old putting green
- removal of the old bench by #7 and clean up of previous bench locations

Items to Be Addressed Over the Course of Several Seasons

Lastly, the Committee and Sparky reviewed other areas that have been identified as problematic but that would probably require several seasons to remediate. Those items include:

- rebuilding/leveling of many (if not all) of the tee boxes
- moving the ladies tee at #8 to the left of its current location



Once the immediate items have been addressed, e.g., drainage tile installation, irrigation to the putting green, etc., Sparky will develop and share with the Committee his plan(s) for addressing the longer-term issues.

Following the course review, the Committee talked about the new benches that were procured last season. It appears that the benches were not constructed to the quality that was anticipated and that they are weathering badly and some are splintering. It was suggested that those benches should be pressure-washed and then sealed with either paint or stain to help them withstand the weather. After discussion, the Committee decided that such activity was outside the purview of the grounds crew.

As a result of that decision, Dennis Wagie agreed to ask for volunteers who would be willing to perform this maintenance.

Next, the Committee heard from Richard James who requested that the area between #8 green and #9 tee be left in its current condition, i.e., windmill in place surrounded by prairie flowers/grasses. After a review of member comments regarding this area and discussion between the committee and Richard, the following compromise was agreed upon:

- Richard will move the windmill and the taller prairie flowers to the right side of #5 tee
- Richard will plant shorter prairie flowers in the now vacant area between #8 green and #9 tee

We believe this compromise will result in better proportion between the size of the plantings and the area in which they are planted.

Finally, the Committee then discussed changes to several areas of the course to provide a better quality of play and reduce maintenance efforts by the grounds crew. Those changes are:

- eliminate the small sand trap behind #5 green
- either eliminate or increase the size of the sand trap behind #6 green

The Committee agreed to recommend those changes to the Board for their action and approval.