

2008
Minutes of the Green Committee

February 7, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Betsy Conboy, Mike King, Lou Carducci, Ralph Box, Jr., Scotty Fraser and Kit Ober from the Committee; Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents, Matt Finn, Assistant and John Loudon from the CCMA Board.

COURSE UPDATES

- Needle tined Blackheath and MarshHawk greens
- Calibrated all spraying equipment for pre and post emergence control
- Cleaned off leaf debris on courses to ensure better post and pre-emergence coverage
- Applied pre and post emergence on all Bermuda grass on Blackheath, MarshHawk and the driving range
- Installed new electric clay valve on Blackheath #18 dam
- Removed about a dozen dead trees, stump ground their stumps and back filled holes
- Started on ball washer repair and maintenance on all three courses
- Prepared new cart path yardage post for MarshHawk course
- Installed new quick couplers on Blackheath #9 and #10 green complexes so that hand watering can be achieved with less disturbance to the golfers

Goals for February:

Continue with leaf clean up

Finish spraying pre and post emergence on dormant Bermuda grass

Work on catch basin on Blackheath #7

Work on Blackheath #8 pond area where path crosses over the water to correct the erosion issue

Continue to work on amenities throughout the golf courses

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Everything is on target for the seminar for the members scheduled for Wednesday, February 20th at 6:30 in the Banquet Room. The superintendents will give a 20 minute presentation followed by a question and answer session. The pro shop staff will give a like presentation.

Signs between Blue Heron #2 green and Blue Heron #3 tee – still to be erected but will be done

NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that chipping be permitted on a section of one of the practice putting greens – the staff is adamant that all chipping should be done at the chipping green on the members' range. They consider that if chipping were permitted on the practice putting greens damage would be done around and on the greens.

A suggesting was made that a small mound be built behind the concrete pads on the member driving range – the staff does not think that it is necessary since when the mats are removed the concrete is below the ground surface so that errant hit balls should not ricochet back at the golfer. When the mats are out then all golfers should be hitting off the mats and not behind them.

A discussion was had over whether it was necessary to install signs on the members range indicating that all hitting should be off the mats in the winter season. The staff indicated they did not believe signs were necessary and everyone should know that when the mats are out that all hitting should be off the mats. The range actually comes under the auspices of the pro shop so it was recommended that the pro shop educate the members on this issue.

The issue of signs to keep walkers off the course was raised again – the staff says that there are signs on the courses and that it is virtually impossible to keep walkers off the paths.

Many have complained about the fiber glass slivers received from the rake handles and it was suggested that as rakes are replaced they be replaced with rakes with aluminum handles – the staff replied that fiberglass handled rakes are the industrial standard and the slivers come from rakes in a state of disrepair. Those rakes are being replaced as quickly as possible. About 400 rakes are replaced a year.

The most often heard complaint this month was over the bumpiness of the greens, particularly Blackheath and Blue Heron – the staff said that a lot of that comes from the poa anna in the Blackheath greens and the fact that we have had a lot of freezing and thawing lately. In addition the greens are cut only about once a week during the winter so once they are cut more often they should start getting smoother and thus better. The MarshHawk greens are a lot smoother but that is because they are of a different strand of grass.

The ugly appearance of Blue Heron #11 and #12 was raised again – the staff is confident that the appearance will improve as spring arrives and the growing season commences.

It was suggested that perhaps the members through the MGA and LGA organizations could assist the maintenance staff in adding sand to the fairway divots and repairing ball marks on the greens during March prior to the arrival of the H2B workers in April. The staff indicated that they did not see where this was necessary but had no objection to the members helping out. This would require some organization by the MGA and/or LGA.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion about vandalism throughout the golf courses. Apparently it is far more than what we as members are aware of. The staff is going to supply a list of the most recent acts of vandalism. It was discussed as to whether these acts should be published. It was decided that this issue would be raised at the next CCMA board meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

GREEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 3, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Lou Carducci, Ralph Box, Jr. and Scotty Fraser from the Committee; Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents.

COURSE UPDATES

- Took soil samples of greens to determine fertility program for the upcoming season
- Brought up irrigation system and started trouble shooting problems
- Deep tined Blue Heron and Blackheath greens; small tined MarshHawk greens
- Aerified, rolled, top-dressed and fertilized all greens
- Improved hole playability by low-limbing trees on MarshHawk #1, #6 and #7
- Tackled several drainage problems throughout the courses
 - Green side bunker drain on Blue Heron 5
 - 12 inch collapsing drain behind Blue Heron 15 green
 - Green side bunker drain on Black Heath 10
 - 2 drain inlets that were caving in on Black Heath 7
 - Improved the drainage erosion problem on Black Heath 8
- Enhanced cool season area on the left side of Blackheath #7 by aerifying, seeding and putting in new irrigation
- Installed and rerouted irrigation to prevent water from hitting homeowner's property
- Put out ball washers, new tee towels, water fountains and new flag poles for the upcoming season

Goals for April:

- Welcome the arrival of seasonal laborers
- More detail work such as mulching and sodding
- Continue with drainage issues
- Replace broken hazard stakes and mark the courses for up coming events

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Thanked the staff for a job well-done at the members seminar held in February

Signs between Blue Heron #2 green and Blue Heron #3 tee – subcontractor has still to supply the signs but they are still on the list of things to be done

H2B workers are still on schedule to arrive around April 16th or 17th. They are the same men as last year and should be 27 in number

NEW BUSINESS

The large hole behind Blackheath #4 green created by an irrigation problem will be roped off to protect against injury until such time as it is repaired

The question was raised as to the positioning of the tee markers on the silver tees being too close together, too close to the back of the tees or in other areas where the tees are not level – The staff replied that the two people currently setting the tees were not golfers and as such were probably not conscious of the problems being caused. They will be instructed on how to set the markers so that these problems should be avoided in the future.

The numbers painted on the concrete markers on the par three tees are becoming illegible – The staff will repaint the numbers as soon as possible. Several sprinkler heads do not have yardages marked on them. The Staff responded that T.C. Sessoms said last year that he would take the responsibility to see that more sprinkler heads were marked with the correct yardage to the greens. Lou Carducci said that he would follow up on this.

Problems with the Blackheath and Blue Heron greens being slow and bumpy were raised by several emails to the chairman in late March. The greens seem to have gotten a lot better after the March aerification. The greens are growing now so it is the objective of the Staff to mow the greens every day, weather permitting. This will help resolve the bumpiness issue as the increased mowing will also roll the greens some. The Staff is putting in 100% effort to make the greens the best they can but the members must keep in mind (1) that it is still early in the season and (2) that the greens will never be super fast inasmuch as the Staff's main goal is to keep the greens green all year long.

There was a general discussion of ideas to increase the playability and enjoyment of the courses. It was suggested that some of the tees on the longer holes be moved up in the winter months when scores are not being posted so as to increase the enjoyment of winter golf by the members. This discussion will be continued at future meetings when more committee members are present.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion about the golf course vandalism issue. Apparently events of vandalism have decreased significantly since our last discussion in February.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

GREEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 1, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Ralph Box, Jr., Scotty Fraser, Betsy Conboy and Mike McDonald from the Committee; Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents and John Louden from the CCMA.

COURSE UPDATES

- Welcomed the arrival of the seasonal workers
- Worked on mowing on a routine basis
- Began using irrigation system more frequently and started trouble shooting problems
- Installed a new high pressure bladder tank on the MarshHawk irrigation system
- Minimized some mulch areas by sodding over them and sodded two drain inlets on Blackheath #7
- Solved some bunker drainage problems
- Worked on cleaning tree and other debris from storm that occurred April 28th causing extensive damage on Blue Heron #2
- Mulched throughout the courses
- Removed and installed new drain pipe in front of MarshHawk #4 gold tee
- Put out new tee markers on the Blackheath course

Goals for May:

Fertilize all Bermuda grass

Finish cleaning up newly installed drain in front of Marshhawk #4 gold tee

Continue with mulching, drainage and sodding projects throughout the golf courses

Aerify greens: MarshHawk on May 19th and 20th, Blue Heron on 27th and 28th and Blackheath on 29th and 30th

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Signs between Blue Heron #2 and #3 – the path at the end of #2 had been marked to indicate the location of the next tee – this was deemed adequate until the April 28th storm uprooted the cart path and deleted the paint – the cart path will be remarked

Twenty-six H2B workers have arrived; they are the same individuals as last year

The yardage numbers on the cement yardage markers on the tees are being repainted so as to be more legible; the pro shop has agreed that the interns will paint yardage on various sprinkler heads; there is talk that maybe the pro shop will come out with a yardage book

The positioning of the tee markers on the silver tees has been corrected to the satisfaction of the ladies so as not to be too close to the back of the tees or close to each other or on non-level ground

The use of the alternate tees on MarshHawk #6 and #8 has been met with approval by most

NEW BUSINESS

There was a request by one of the ladies to occasionally position the ladies' silver tee on the 130 yard tee box – the maintenance staff has no objection to this but after a discussion it appears that many of the LGA players will oppose such since many ladies consider that they cannot carry the water – the matter may be discussed further at the LGA level

A discussion was had as to the upkeep of the driving range – one of the H2B workers is responsible for its maintenance during the week but he works only 3 hours on weekend days so the pro shop is also responsible for helping to maintain the appearance of the driving range

A member of the committee raised the issue of many dead branches and other unsightly debris being located on the side of the cart path leading to the Members' Range – the staff said that was a “dead area” where they stored some of this debris until they were able to use the chipper to eliminate it

It was noted that the fairway on Blue Heron #3 is very wet between the 150 yard marker and the green – apparently a spring has popped up in that area and will have to be corrected by installing a French drain

A sink hole has formed between the pond and the green on MarshHawk #14 – this will be corrected

A request was made by several members for the staff to consider that on “cart path only” days that they consider letting carts out on certain of the drier holes on at least the members' designated course – after much discussion it was determined that this was not practical and that if a member was unable to walk from the cart path to the ball on days that the course was restricted, then perhaps they should reconsider playing on those days—the use of handicap flags was raised but apparently a doctor's certificate is required before a flag can be issued

There was a discussion about the general course conditions and all agreed that the greens on all the courses are the best they have been in a long time and the fairways are very good for this time of year – thanks was given to the staff for a great job on maintaining the courses

A member had raised the issue of trying “adopting a hole” project again – this issue has been tried before and it was decided to raise the issue at the CCMA Board level to get a consensus of whether it was worth trying again or not

There was a discussion continued from the last meeting about increasing the playability and enjoyment of the courses without making the courses easier – it was discussed that maybe the rough could be cut at 1 and ½ inches instead of 2 inches, that the tees on the par 3's be varied so as not to always be so

predictable and the tees on Blackheath #18 be moved up more frequently under wet conditions – no decisions were made

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion about the condition of the area behind MarshHawk #6 green – the area was left in a stark condition due to the loss of trees and was being worked on by the staff to improve the aesthetics

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 5, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Betsy Conboy, Mike King and Kit Ober from the Committee; Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents and John Louden from the CCMA.

COURSE UPDATES

- Aerified, rolled, top-dressed and fertilized all greens and aerified all tee boxes
- Fertilized all Bermuda grass
- Installed French drains on Blue Heron #3, Marshhawk #11 and Blackheath #7
- Repaired sinkhole in front of Marshhawk #14 green
- Evaluated turf throughout the courses and sodded some areas
- Continued the work on the back side of Marshhawk #6 green
- Edged cart paths on Marshhawk and Blackheath courses
- Repaired several irrigation problems

Goals for June:

Pave broken areas on cart paths and install some curbing

Apply a growth regulator to all fairways

Install greenside fans on Blue Heron

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

The yardage marker at the gold tee on Blue Heron #17 will be repainted to reflect the correct yardage of 149

The condition of the pond on Blue Heron #3 was discussed and the staff does not think a bubbler will improve the appearance of the pond – the pond was quite clear last year with no bubbler

NEW BUSINESS

The bunker rakes should have rubber grip handles on them so as to avoid golfers getting fiberglass splinters; most rakes are ok but those without rubber grips will be repaired.

Status of the cart path repairs – most of the asphalt cart paths have been repaired or are in the midst of being repaved.

Missing towels on the club washers on both end of the range will be replaced.

The poison ivy at the right of the cart path on Blackheath #12 is being sprayed every week in an effort to get rid of it.

The health of the willow tree on the cart path of Blackheath #12 is in question. It looks sick but seems to have some new growth on it.

Some ball washers have been dry – this will be corrected

The dead grass clippings near the gold tee on Blue Heron #17 are scheduled to be picked up so that it will not adversely affect the grass underneath.

The range was closed initially on Monday of the Memorial Day weekend. This was an error made by the pro shop. The staff permits the range to be open on Monday holidays and it will be closed for maintenance on some other day.

There was a discussion about the general course conditions. A complaint was raised that many of the tees are very thin. The staff responded that all the tees have been aerated and that until very recently it has not been warm enough at night for the Bermuda to get its growth spurt. The recent hot days and warm night should help the tees immensely – the staff says they move the tee markers daily so as to avoid uneven wear – the bare spots in the fairway is spring dead spot and is common to our area; the recent heat should cause these areas to grow and improve in appearance – the greens are improving after the recent aeration and should be back to normal in another week or so – a request was made to roll the greens prior to the MGA One Day Member Guest tournament in June – the staff is rolling the greens once a week.

The fairway is wet on Blackheath #11; the leaking sprinkler head will be repaired.

There was a discussion about the pin placement flags not accurately marking the pin locations. It was determined that this was a matter of interpretation on several holes and the staff was amenable to suggestions from the members as how to better mark the locations if they thought this was necessary.

There was a request to put a concrete turnaround up to the silver tee on Blackheath #15. This would be expensive and will not be done now but the staff said they would not oppose letting silver tee players take the carts up near the tee so long as this is regulated so that if the turf begins to look worn, such action may be prohibited until the turf improves.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Irrigation is being installed on the hill behind the Academy and sod is being put down to improve the appearance of that area. Some of the area located behind the driving range is not Country Club property so cannot be improved by the staff.

The area behind Blackheath #14 appears to be a dumping area for branches and other trimmings – they will try to put the items further back into the woods so as to be less noticeable.

A complaint was raised as to the inconsistency of the sand in the bunkers – the staff hand-rakes the greenside bunkers and they admit that there is a lot of inconsistency in the bunkers.

A suggestion was made that the left greenside bunker on Blue Heron #2 be changed to a grass bunker so that everybody will not exit the green in the same area creating a path from the green to the cart path. The staff said that the Fords would probably oppose this inasmuch as the hole's bunker creates an appealing appearance from the road which sells lots and further that grass bunkers are not consistent with the course designs – the staff may rope off the path area so that everybody will not exit in the same place thereby wearing out the grass.

It was suggested that the holly tree before the corner on Marshhawk #16 be trimmed at the bottom so as to help speed up play by preventing long searches for errant balls in this area; the staff said they would look into the situation.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 3, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 2008 MEETING

No meeting in July

GREEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 7, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Mike King, Kit Ober, Scotty Frazer and Lou Carducci from the Committee; Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents and John Louden from the CCMA.

COURSE UPDATES

- Aerified all Bermuda grass
- Fertilized all Bermuda grass for aerification recovery and green up
- Applied growth regulator to all fairways each month in June and July
- Installed fans on some of the Blue Heron greens to aid in air movement
- Paved broken areas of cart paths and installed curbing and back filled and sodded all new curbing
- Sodded hill side located behind Golf Academy
- Replaced rusted galvanized pipe on Marsh Hawk #4 fairway with plastic pipe
- Installed French drains on Blue Heron #5
- Repaired Marsh Hawk #18 fairway by installing a French drain and re-sodding
- Replaced broken bunker rakes throughout the courses
- Leveled Blue Heron #11 silver tee
- Cut back trees on Blue Heron #12 black tee to aid in sunlight penetration
- Needle tined all greens
- Excavated throughout Marsh Hawk to remove water from standing paths
- Repaired irrigation problems throughout the golf courses

Goals for August:

Prepare for Club Championship

Continue to help the bent grass to deal with summer heat stress by various methods

Prepare for fall green aerification September 8th through 11th and 15th and 16th

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Willow tree along the cart path on Blackheath #12 has died and will be cut down as soon as possible

Carts will be let off the path to get to the silver tee on Blackheath #15 on Tuesdays when the LGA is playing Blackheath weather permitting

The depression existing after the dogleg on Blackheath #4 needs repair but a large pipe has broken and the repair is a large job and will be taken care of as soon as feasible

MarshHawk #13 fairway was wet again but the sprinkler-head causing the problem has been repaired

NEW BUSINESS

The ponds on Blue Heron #16 and Blackheath #15 have turned pea soup green – there have been many complaints concerning this situation – the Staff does not know what is causing this change in color other than the lack of rainfall and no fish seems to be dieing. They will take a water sample to see what the problem is.

There is a sinkhole near the drain near the 100 yard marker on Blackheath #7 – the Staff will investigate the problem but think that it is another drain pipe gone bad

There seem to be many more ball marks on the greens, particularly on the MarshHawk front nine. The composition of the MarshHawk greens are different from the greens on the other courses and seem to be more susceptible to ball mark damage plus more people seem to play the MarshHawk front nine. Try to properly repair your ball marks regardless of which course you are playing.

The gold tee on MarshHawk #8 is not handling the summer stress very well and it was suggested that the gold tee be repositioned to the back tee more often so that the normal gold tee could heal – the gold tee will be rotated to the back more often.

The wooden 200 yard post on MarshHawk #16 is much more than 200 yards from the green and has now been repositioned correctly opposite the 200 yard plaque in the fairway.

There were several suggestions from silver tee players that the rough be cut closer to the silver tees on MarshHawk #2, 9, 12, 13 and 15 so as to enable more of the silver tee players to reach the fairways – the Staff will look into this request as far as the par fives are concerned if the condition of the fairway permits and report back to the Committee -- #13 does not lend itself to increase the size of the fairway

There was a discussion concerning who was responsible for marking the yardage distances on the sprinkler heads. The pro shop has said for a couple of years that they would take care of it but have not done so; therefore, the Staff said that they would work with the membership in the fall and that if the membership will provide the yardages, they will mark the heads.

There was a discussion as to who decides if the grass or the tour turf on the range is to be used during the summer months particularly on tournament days – the tour turf is generally used on Mondays during maintenance and the grass is normally used on other days.

There was a comment that there were many divots on the Members' Range that had not been filled with sand – the Staff will look into this.

There followed a discussion about the general course conditions and it was agreed that our fairways are in far better condition than those at Kingsmill, Williamsburg National and the Horseshoe. While our greens are feeling the stress of the summer heat without receiving rain, they are still in good condition. The Committee thanked the superintendents for their hard work in keeping our courses in superb condition.

The Staff was asked whether the H2B workers worked for anybody other than the Country Club during normal working hours and they replied that they did not work for the HOA or the Fords.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no other matters raised during the open discussion period.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

GREEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Mike King, Scotty Frazer, Lou Carducci, Betsy Conboy, Ralph Box, Jr. and Mike McDonald from the Committee; and Steve Schmidt and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendents

COURSE UPDATES

- Prepared for club championship by edging all bunkers and yardage markers and put out new flags and tee towels
- Removed two dead trees on Blackheath #11 and the weeping willow by the road on Blackheath #12
- Replaced two rusted galvanized pipe on MarshHawk # 13 with plastic pipes
- Graded area behind MarshHawk #12 to prevent rain water from washing out the back greenside bunker
- Graded area next to MarshHawk #17 gold tee to remove standing water from the path
- Installed drain on Blue Heron #5 that now allows the irrigation pond to be tied in with the whole system of ponds
- Fixed irrigation problems throughout the courses
- Continued to help bent grass deal with summer heat stress by various methods

Goals for September:

Aerify all greens

MarshHawk September 8th and 9th

Blackheath September 10th and 11th

Blue Heron September 15th and 16th

Fertilize fairways

Start moving our equipment around to prepare for leaf cleanup

Prepare for Member Guest Tournament

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Willow tree along the cart path on Blackheath #12 has died and as now been removed along with the tree that was struck by lightning on Blackheath #11. Dead tree was reported on Blackheath #2 and staff will look into it.

There was a discussion of the condition of the ponds throughout the golf courses. The use of copper sulfate was suggested by the County in order to clear up some of the ponds. This caused a temporary fish kill in the pond on Blue Heron #16 but now the pond looks better.

Tee positions -- the back tees on MarshHawk #8 will be used more often to give the regular gold tees some rest -- tee markers will not be placed further back on the tees than two club lengths from the back of the tees

A discussion was had as to whether the rough could be cut closer to the tees on the par fives on MarshHawk. This has not been done yet because of irrigation problems that persisted on these holes but as soon as the fairways dry out some, the suggestion will be looked into.

There was a discussion concerning marking the sprinkler head with yardages to the green. The staff will supply the Committee with maps of the various holes and the location of the sprinkler heads and the Committee members will supply the staff with the distances and the heads will be marked probably later this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that only the tour turf on the range be used when there are large outings. All agreed that this would be a good idea but hard to monitor since the MGA or LGA may be scheduled the same day or at the same time. Therefore this probably will not happen.

Some of the fairways appear to have been scalped. The staff says that all fairways have been cut the same height and that the appearance is probably due to the lack of rain.

The positioning of the rakes in the bunkers has again been raised and it was suggested that the maintenance workers have been positioning the rakes close to the edges of the bunkers instead of placing them further toward the middle so as to avoid balls being stopped by rakes near the sides of the bunkers. The staff will attempt to educate the maintenance workers as to the correct placement of the rakes. In the meantime, the members should remember to place the rakes in the middle of the bunker and not near the edges.

Maintenance workers very often seem to follow a foursome along for several holes so it was suggested that instead of working forward on holes that they work backward so as not to follow a foursome from hole to hole.

The committee discussed the general course conditions and it was agreed that the courses were in excellent condition in spite of the dry conditions that we have been having most of the summer. The Committee thanked the superintendents for their hard work in getting our courses in superb condition for the Club Championship.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion concerning the placement of an out of bounds stake behind the green on MarshHawk #3.

There was also a discussion about determining when a flag should be marked as front, back or middle. There is always some dispute on this matter so it was suggested that the Committee come to some resolution on this issue and advise the staff how we want the flags marked on questionable locations.

The so-called tournament flags, being the light weight ones with the tapered bottoms, were used for the Club Championship and were met with approval. They will be used as the daily flag sticks next year and new flag sticks will be purchased to be used as the tournament flags.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

November 6, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Mike King, Scotty Frazer, Betsy Conboy and Ralph Box, Jr. from the Committee; and Ryan Nolan, Golf Course Superintendent and Andy Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for the Blackheath course.

COURSE UPDATES

- Prepared for Member Guest by putting out new flags and poles, edged all bunkers and yardage plaques and Blackheath cart paths, added new soap and towels to the ball washers and replaced damaged hazard stakes
- Applied a poa annua retardant on some greens
- Graded area behind Blackheath #1 silver tee to aid in water run off
- Installed yardage on sprinkler heads on Blackheath
- Cut all ornamental grasses down to about 1 ½ inches in height
- Winterized ball washer and water fountains
- Started removal of dead, damaged and dying trees

Attacked a couple of irrigation problems (main line leaks on MarshHawk #2 and #13, clogged boot valves causing weeping heads, adding antennas to satellite boxes that did not receive signal anymore)

- Started leaf cleanup
- Worked on early order program with vendors on supplies for 2009

Goals for the remaining year

Deep tine greens on Blue Heron and Blackheath and fertilize

Needle tine MarshHawk greens and fertilize

Winterize irrigation system

Continue with tree removal where necessary

Continue with leaf clean up

Work on planning for 2009

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

There was another discussion concerning cutting the fairways closer to the silver tees on the par fives on the MarshHawk course so as to accommodate the shorter hitters. This request will be considered and most likely implemented where possible as soon as the Bermuda grass goes dormant.

The sprinkler heads on Blackheath have been marked with the correct yardages to the middle of the green. The Committee has supplied the Staff with the yardages on MarshHawk and inasmuch as these heads are different than those on Blackheath, they are in the midst of devising a system to mark these heads. The Committee is still working on obtaining the yardages on the Blue Heron course and once obtained will provide them to the Staff.

NEW BUSINESS

There are a number of sinkholes on Blackheath #4, 6 and 7. These have been caused by damaged drain pipes of various sizes. The one on Blackheath #4 is a very large pipe and will have to be repaired by an outside contractor in the future. The others will be marked by tape until repaired by the Staff as soon as possible. They are working on them as quickly as they can.

There was a discussion when the mats would be returned to the Members' Range. We were told that this came under the jurisdiction of the Pro Shop and that they had been told that the mats had been ordered. It appears that the mats that were there last year had been taken by the Golf Academy.

One course will be closed each month during the winter season. Blue Heron will be closed December 1 through January 16, MarshHawk will be closed January 19 through February 15 and Blackheath will be closed February 16 through March 13. We were assured that all three courses will be open thereafter.

It was suggested that some of the winter hole locations on the greens were very close to the edge of the greens. The Staff responded that this might be the case but they will be moved every week or two depending upon the amount of play.

The H2b workers left early this year, apparently as a cost cutting measure. We will not have the H2b workers back next year unless the governmental rules change between now and spring. The cap has already been met and although we received an exemption last year, it will not be occurring this year. Ford's Colony is not the only entity not getting the workers back as the rules apparently affect most all the Williamsburg area golf courses and other business that previously relied upon these workers. The management and Staff are working on alternatives for obtaining another source of workers. In the meantime there are only 11 full time people on the staff which includes the supervisors.

We understand that the Golf Committee is working on determining the need for additional out of bounds stakes on all three courses where vegetation has grown up between stakes that prevent one from seeing one stake from the last one. The Staff has supplied a number of stakes to the Golf Committee to assist them in their project.

A question was raised as to further aerification for the year. They are deep tining or needle tining the various course as set out in the Course Update above. They have done this every year and the holes are minor and should not affect play but will aid the longevity of the greens.

We discussed the general course conditions and once again gave the Staff our thanks for their efforts in putting all three of our courses in superb condition.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a question asked about rebuilding some of the bunkers. The Staff is investigating this matter and will take action as needed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Maintenance Facility.

December 4, 2008 MEETING

ATTENDEES: Rick Jackson, Betsy Conboy and Ralph Box, Jr. from the Committee; and Steve Schmidt, Golf Course Superintendent.

COURSE UPDATES

- Deep tined Blackheath greens and rolled them twice
- Needle tined Marshhawk greens, putting greens and nursery green
- Winterized the irrigation system
- Started winter maintenance program on equipment
- Blew leaves on a daily basis
- Deep tined greens on Blue Heron and rolled the greens

Goals for the remaining year

Mark sprinkler heads on Marshhawk

Fertilize greens with granular fertilizer (1/2 lb per 1,000 square feet)

Continue with tree removal where necessary

Continue with leaf clean up

Continue on winter maintenance program for equipment

Investigate needed repairs on Blackheath #7 fairway

OLD BUSINESS

Status:

Distance markings on sprinkler heads – Blackheath has been marked – Marshhawk will be marked starting in December – Frank and Marie McMorrow are finishing obtaining the distances on Blue Heron and they will be supplied to the Staff as soon as possible. The Staff should have marked all of the sprinkler heads inside 200 yards (further back on the par 5's) on all the courses by the opening of the spring season.

Update status of maintenance employees for 2009 – It is certain that we will not have the H2B workers back next season. The Staff has contacted an agency that provides temporary help and

they have indicated that they should be able to fill out needs for 2009. Steve remains positive that all be well for next year.

NEW BUSINESS

The question was raised as to what happened to the several small dogwood trees that were planted behind Blackheath #7 — These trees have been moved back behind the cart path at the request and expense of the homeowner who just moved into the house behind the green and with the consent of the Staff.

A homeowner along the fairway of Blackheath #9 complained that the maintenance staff was blowing leaves into the pond on Blackheath #5 – This matter was brought to the attention of the Staff inasmuch as it appeared that doing so could cause an environmental impact on the ponds. Steve said that he asks the employees to minimize the amount of leaves being blown into the ponds but on some holes there just isn't any other place to blow leaves. Even though it may not be the best thing to do, leaves have been blown into ponds since the beginnings of Ford's Colony and Steve has not seen any negative effect.

We discussed the composition of the Green Committee for 2009. Betsy Conboy will be the chairman of the Committee and she will contact the various other members as to their interest in remaining on for next year. Two other names were given to Betsy to be considered as members of the Committee for 2009.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no further discussions.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed but may not be until February.