

2010 Green Committee Archives

Green Committee

August 5, 2010

Attendees: Bill Burke, Jan Urban, Steve Schmidt

Course Updates

July Accomplishments

- Aerified all bermuda grass throughout the courses
- Fertilized tees and fairways on all three courses
- Cut around all lake banks on all three courses
- Fixed catch basin left side near green on Blackheath #6
- Replaced 24" pipe across #14 Blue Heron
- Fixed high pressure pipe Blue Heron #15 tee area
- Edged bunkers on blue heron
- Continued daily work on Satellite boxes
- Fixed, adjusted, and replaced sprinkler as needed
- Asphalt patch work throughout the Blue Heron and Club area
- Hired part time irrigation technician

Goals for August

- Move two and add one sprinkler head between Marsh Hawk #2 and #7
- Edge cart paths throughout Blackheath
- Remove dead trees at the tee areas on Marsh Hawk #1 and #7
- Fertilize Marsh Hawk, Blackheath and Blue Heron Tees and Fairways with growth regulator
- Finish edging bunkers on Marsh Hawk and Blackheath
- Paint combo marks on path throughout the blue heron
- Prepare for club championship

Old Business

- **Sink hole Repairs**

Work is ongoing. The Club is looking at less costly ways to undertake the necessary repair of the sink holes on Black Heath number 4.

- **Chapter 11 impact on golf course maintenance**

There are no new issues here. All necessary course maintenance work is getting done albeit at a slower pace, since all procurement must be done on a COD basis.

We understand that the Court might be considering approval of a Capital Improvement Budget. If this happens, it should have a positive impact on course maintenance.

- **Combo tee markings on Blue Heron**

All combo tees were previously marked by a small, red letter "C" on the golf path. When time becomes available, this will be changed to a larger, white letter "C".

New Business

- **Staffing**

Ryan Nolan (one of our assistant course managers) is no longer employed by the Club. Steve is currently looking at all restructuring options before deciding on a replacement. This is not a budget issue.

- **Course Signage**

The committee asked Steve to look into better signage on both sides of the Blue Heron bridge in order to assist visitors with navigating the course. There have been reports of lost visitors on the course, who were unable to find their way back to the clubhouse without assistance. Better signage should solve this problem.

- **Fairways**

Some LGA-18 and LGA-9 members have commented on the difficulty of reaching the fairway from the tee box on some of the Marsh Hawk holes (for instance, #2, #3, #9, #10, #12, and #16). Steve is going to look at how difficult it would be to lengthen those fairways towards the tee boxes, given his staffing limitations and terrain issues.

Open Discussion

Steve and the Committee had a discussion about the impact of grounds keeping decisions on the playability of the courses and therefore, on pace of play. Specifically, the speed of the greens, fairway height, the height of the first cut and the height of the rough were discussed.

Currently, the fairways are cut at 1/2"; the first cut at 1" and the rough at 1 3/4". Steve indicated that these heights have been in place since he took over, but he knows that at one time the rough was as high as 2 1/4".

We know that the two most often quoted reasons for quitting golf are; first, it's too expensive, and second, it takes too long to play.

Therefore, the impact of course conditions on playability and pace of play is important. We have no record to tell us how long it has been since these grass heights were last reviewed.

Other issues

None

Next Meeting Date – Thursday, September 7 at 3 p.m. at Maintenance Facility

Green Committee Minutes

Sept 9, 2010

Attendees: Steve Schmidt, Warren Wright (CCMA liaison), and Jeff Canon (chair)

Course Updates (presented by Steve Schmidt)

August Accomplishments

- Repaired 4" main line on Blackheath #3 and Blue heron #14
- Removed dead trees at the tee areas on Marsh Hawk #1 and #7
- Edged cart paths throughout Blackheath
- Aerified, top dressed, fertilized, and seeded weak areas necessary on Marsh Hawk and Putting greens
- Mowed back towards tees two fairway mower widths on Marsh Hawk 2,3,9, and 10
- Fixed high pressure pipe Blue Heron #14 middle of hole
- Fertilized Marsh Hawk, Blackheath and Blue Heron Tees and Fairways, and added a growth regulator on fwys
- Added sand in greenside bunkers holes 1,2,6,7,9, and 15.
- Painted big "C" for combo tees on path throughout the blue heron

Goals for Sept.

- Move two and add one sprinkler head between Marsh Hawk #2 and #7
- Aerify, top dress, fertilize, and seed weak areas necessary on Blue Heron and Blackheath courses
- Continue to seed and plug weak areas on the greens
- Start marking dead, dying and diseased trees for removal this fall and winter months
- Edge all bunkers one more time before the member guest

- Move irrigation technician from part time to full time
- Promote staff member from seasonal labor to crew leader
- Cut around all lake banks on all three courses
- Scout and spray for June beetle grub infestation into the bermudagrass stand
- Start preparations for leaf removal

Old Business

- **Staffing:** the staff reorganizations have consisted of an additional irrigation tech and a crew leader. Due to the heavy load for watering this made more sense than hiring an assistant superintendent. The up side is that the two people were hired to make up for the loss one person. In addition more staff will be kept on for the winter months at twenty hours/week and thus keeping experience staff on board. The more staff that can be kept less new people to be hired and trained in the Spring.
- **Course Signage:** There is a sign in place on 13 /6 of Blue to direct folks back to clubhouse. More signage will be worked on as year winds down.
- **Fairway extensions:** 2,3,9 and 10 have be cut back on Marsh
- **Rough height:** The rough height has not changed for Black and Marsh. The difference is that by August the rough fills in gets real gnarly and difficult. The cut guides are 1/2" for fairway, 1" for first cut and 1 3/4 " for second cut of rough. Unfortunately the 1 3/4 " is a real penalty this time of year.

New Business

- **Aeration:** The current aeration on the three courses completes the fall schedule and the greens should be in prime conditions for smooth putting as the cool fall weather prevails. The next aeration will be needle punches in November which will have minimal impact on the putting surface. The winter shutdowns on the courses will be the next full aerations which will have no impact on the play as course will be closed. Blue will be closed for 6 week after Thanksgiving.
- **Damaged greens:** The heat has caused some damage on a few greens notably 2 on Marsh and Blue. The greens that have received heat damage were reseeded during the aeration and will not be cut as short to help the greens recover. These greens will not be shut down for play.
- **Yardage Markings on sprinkler heads:** The Greens Committee will take on the task of remarking the yardage on the heads that have been lost or changed. This will take place later in the year when play diminishes.
- **Bunkers:** Sand has been added to several bunkers to improve consistency. More work will be done on the bunkers in the coming weeks as time permits.

Open Discussion

The garden beds throughout the course have not been getting the attention due primarily to staff resources. This is not an issue that is going to be easily resolved as there is no dedicated resources to keep the beds weed free and looking good. Steve indicated that he does not have the resources and it would require full time position of 2 or 3 staff just to keep the beds up. This staff does not currently exist. The options are somewhat limited at this time. One option is to look at volunteerism or club participation as an alternative. This needs to be discussed more fully. I would not like to see the beds totally lost to our courses because they do contribute to the look and feel of the total experience.

The issue of rolling the greens periodically to improve roll consistency when putting is one of equipment. Currently the equipment is not part of the tool set inventory and would have to be purchased. This would have to be taken up at the Management level where budgets are handled.

Recognition was given to Steve Schmidt and staff for the work of keeping the courses in great playing condition during very difficult weather conditions this summer.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, Oct 7 at **3:00 p.m.** at maintenance facility

The 2010 Green Committee consists of the following members.

Jeff Canon – Chair
Bill Burke
Ruth Bott
Jan Urban
CCMA liaison (Warren Wright)

Green Committee Minutes

Oct 7, 2010

Attendees: Steve Schmidt ,Bill Burke, Warren Wright (CCMA liaison), and Jeff Canon (chair)

Course Updates (presented by Steve Schmidt)

September Accomplishments

- Filled-in, reshaped, and added drainage to greenside bunker on Blue Heron #17
- sodded around bunker on blue heron #17
- Moved two and added one sprinkler head between Marsh Hawk #2 and #7
- Edged majority of the bunkers on all three courses
- Aerified, topdressed, fertilized, and seeded weak areas necessary on Blue Heron and Blackheath courses
- Fixed two different irrigation leaks on #10 Blue Heron

Goals for October

- Continue with storm cleanup
- Granular fertilize all greens
- Continue to plug weak areas on greens
- Verti-cut Blue heron and Blackheath greens
- Finish edging several bunkers that are left
- Start pruning back ornamental grasses
- Finish Bunker on Blue Heron #17
- Raise mowing heights of fwys and tees to prepare warm season grasses for winter
- Work on some bunker drains throughout the courses

- Fix cart path on Blackheath #3 beside green

Grade work along paths that are holding water

Old Business

- **Staffing:** Staff will start to ratchet back beginning Nov 1 and a small staff will continue through the winter at half time. This will help to keep some of the trained staff on board during the winter.
- **Course Signage:** We discussed the signage for the fork on Blue between 13 and 5 requesting a sign to direct people back to the club house to prevent visitors from going out on the road ways or circling back around the outer loop looking for a way back to the clubhouse especially visitors who only play 9 holes. Steve agreed to put a sign up.
- **Fairway extensions:** 2,3,9 and 10 have be cut back on Marsh. Others will not be cut back until spring.

New Business

- **Aeration:** The next aeration will be needle punches in November which will have minimal impact on the putting surface. The winter shutdowns on the courses will be the next full aerations which will have no impact on the play as course will be closed. Blue will be closed for 6 week after Thanksgiving.
- **Damaged greens:** the green restoration is proceeding on those greens that suffered from the summer heat. Plugging is underway on many green especially on the aprons where loss was most evident. On the whole greens are in very good shape including #2 on Blue which was almost totally gone a month or so ago.

- **Bunkers:** You should see improved bunker play as a lot of attention has been given to conditioning in the bunkers over the last month. Bunker work will continue through the winter months..

Open Discussion

The garden beds throughout the course have not been getting the attention due primarily to staff resources. The Greens C will need to identify the areas that need attention and attempt to make recommendations as to the best practices going forward.

As the Fall season comes into play more resources will be dedicated for leaf maintenance. Fairway and green cuts will be somewhat less as the colder temps arrive in order to protect the grasses from damage.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday Nov 4 at **3:00 p.m.** at maintenance facility

The 2010 Green Committee consists of the following members.

Jeff Canon – Chair
Bill Burke
Ruth Bott
Jan Urban
CCMA liaison (Warren Wright)

Green Committee Minutes

Nov 4, 2010

Attendees: Bill Burke, Jan Urban, Warren Wright (CCMA liaison), and Jeff Canon (chair), Mat and Andy filling in for Steve

Course Updates (presented by Andy Stewart)

October Accomplishments

- Tree trimming to improve air movement, sunlight, and limit shot interference:
 1. Marsh hawk 5 green, 6 tee, 8 green, and 1 tee
 2. Black heath 11 tee, 12 tee, and 16 fwy
Blue Heron 1 green and 18 tee
- Removed over a dozen dead trees throughout the golf courses
- Cut down the stump on Marsh Hawk #6 green
- Planted a maple on Blackheath #4 tee area
- Cart path repaired on Blackheath #3 next to green
- Granular fertilized all greens
- Worked on the artificial mat on the upper tee of the driving range
- Plugged and seeded weak areas on greens

Goals for November

- Install three cups into greens for winter maintenance
- Continue to plug and seed weak areas on greens
- Continue with removal of dead trees and stump grind
- Needle tine Marsh Hawk and Blackheath greens to reduce compaction problems and promote root growth
- Continue with pruning back ornamental grasses

- Winter maintenance on equipment so it will be ready for 2011
- Work on directional signs for Blue Heron so one can get back to Clubhouse

Winterize irrigation system

Old Business

- **Course Signage:** Over the next couple of weeks Steve's staff will be preparing new signage where needed to aid golfers to get to next tee or to the club house. This is especially needed on the 13 Blue.
- **Damage Greens:** Plugging and reseeding has brought back green areas that were affected by the hot dry summer. Plugged areas will continue to grow into areas that still need coverage. No other measures needed at this time. Greens in general are in very good shape

New Business

- **Trimming and Cleanup:** Some additional end of year money allowed tree trimming services to clean up some needed areas for three days of service. 16 on Black have brought up some issues regarding the need to cut back the Willow which was part of the character of the hole. The second issue was the delay on cleanup and that was due to the heavy coverage of poison ivy that covered the tree. Once poison ivy leaves die which will be this week the cuttings will be collected and disposed. It was suggested that future optional cuts like on 16 being reviewed by GC to make sure that character issues not be disregarded even though many golfers would complain about a tree being an obstacle for play.

Open Discussion

The leaf season is here and that brings issues of play into view especially in the tree lines or rough lines. The other issue is that deep wooded areas where leaves could be blown to are fewer due to housing along the courses. There will be more effort to pickup and mulch leaves as a result of fewer wooded areas to blow leaves into.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday Dec 2 at **3:00 p.m.** at maintenance facility

The 2010 Green Committee consists of the following members.

Jeff Canon – Chair
Bill Burke
Ruth Bott
Jan Urban
CCMA liaison (Warren Wright)

Green Committee Minutes

Dec 2, 2010

Attendees: Bill Burke, Jan Urban, Ruth Bott, Warren Wright (CCMA liaison), and Jeff Canon (chair), Steve Schmidt (Superintendent)

Course Updates (presented by Steve Schmidt)

November Accomplishments

- Removed water fountains at Bathrooms for winterization
- Started to winterize ball washers throughout the courses
- Fixed electrical problem at Blue Heron #3
- Continued to plug and seed weak areas on greens
- Remove dead trees on marsh hawk #2 and #7
- Fixed High Pressure irrigation leak on Blue Heron #6
- Installed three cup system on Marsh Hawk and Blackheath greens
- Deep needle tined Marsh Hawk and Blackheath greens
- Experimented with small green houses on greens to help seed germinate

Goals for December and January

- ½ inch deep tine blue heron greens
- Cover weak areas of greens with plastic (bigger green houses) to help seed germinate
- Continue with removal of dead trees and stump grind
- Continue with leave cleanup
- Continue with pruning back ornamental grasses

- Winter maintenance on equipment so it will be ready for 2011
- Work on directional signs for Blue Heron so one can get back to Clubhouse
- Winterize irrigation system
- Start spraying golf courses with pre and post emergence weed control
- Time allows build a new silver tee on Marsh Hawk # 4

Old Business

- **Course Signage:** The new signage will be prepared in the off season as the weather now permits the time to take on the additional indoor activities as the busy season comes to a close.
- **Damage Greens:** Reseeding experiments are being tried to get early germination in this late Fall and early Winter periods. You will notice the small boxes on one and two of March. This has been successful and Steve will try larger areas to get more germination on the aprons of greens that got damaged during the hot dry summer.

New Business

- **Leaf Cleanup:** Grinding up the leaves is the process that has been followed and will continue to be the choice of leaf disposal. Other disposal options were discussed but cost for picking up and disposal are the primary reasons. There is limited space for leaf disposal. Although not optimal, the fact that housing, is on most of the holes, leaf grinding is the current practice.
- **Course Closing:** Blue will be closed through mid Jan followed by Black or Marsh. Two courses will remain open through the winter months. During the closure of Blue a major aeration will take place. Marsh and Black will wait until spring as grass will not grow when they are shut down.

Open Discussion

Black and Marsh will have different aeration schedules next spring to try to minimize disruption of golf play. In addition needle tinning will also be used more extensively next year to keep the greens healthy and viable.

The rough will be kept the same on Blue next year but the roughs for Black and Marsh will be cut shorter at the urging of the associations to provide a more playable surface. The mowers will be lowered a quarter of an inch to accommodate these requests.

During late fall and winter months when the leaves are falling there will be reduced bunker maintenance mainly due to limited staff. Weather permitting bunker maintenance will occur weekly. There will be leaf blowing out of the traps but no racking out of the footprints except during a weekly maintenance. Local rules should cover racking out foot prints etc., without penalty since handicaps will be kept year round.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday Feb. 10 at **3:00 p.m.** at maintenance facility

The 2011 Green Committee consists of the following members.

Jeff Canon – Chair
Bill Burke
Ruth Bott
Jan Urban
CCMA liaison (Warren Wright)