

11 December 2018 BoD Meeting

Members in Attendance

John Stanton - President
John Foottit - Secretary/Vice President
Tom Reynolds - Membership
Brian Bond - Treasurer
Gary Hobin - Club Captain
Don McLeay - Greens
Judy Spencer - Ladies Representative

Staff in Attendance

Dan Kolar - Manager
Bill Hudson - Greenskeeper

Decision Record

1. The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.
2. Rick Anderson has graciously volunteered to be the Junior Program co-ordinator for 2019. He presented several ideas for promoting the program, all of which were endorsed by the Board:
 - Send out an e-mail blast in January offering members the opportunity for an early registration of their children or grandchildren, to ensure that they are enrolled before the potential limit of 50 is reached. After the early registration is complete, the program will be open to those who are not currently members;
 - The annual rate for juniors (with or without a parent being a member) will be \$199, with afternoon-only tee-times (7 days per week). However, if a new full-member category individual joins for 2019, the club will reduce the rate for a related child or grandchild to zero,

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with a maximum per qualifying individual of one junior member for one year. If the new member joins as an intermediate, the junior fee reduction will be to a value of \$100.

- The Men's Lounge downstairs will be assigned to the juniors on a trial basis.
 - Boys and girls hockey associations in the area will be approached, with a view to boosting enrolment in the Junior Program at the Mississippi.
 - Training sessions for both golf course etiquette and the rules of golf will be arranged.
3. The 2019 draft schedule in PDF form has been posted on the club's website (http://www.themississippi.ca/calendar_page). The calendar has not yet been updated. Feedback should be sent to the Club Captain (hobingary@gmail.com) A Golf Rules Clinic will be held in late April. A mid-winter e-mail blast will also be sent to members with appropriate links to the new 2019 rules.
 4. We will have a full audit conducted of the 2018 fiscal year. The results will be reported at the spring AGM.
 5. Following a much appreciated suggestion from Jane France, the Board will assemble a contact list of Carleton Place/Almonte home builders, realtors, and welcome wagon representatives. These people will be approached individually and offered a Mississippi Golf Club colour information brochure for distribution to their clients.
 6. The Greens Director, Don McLeay, gave a slide presentation detailing the requirement for a new greens roller. Our current

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roller is a 28-year old vibrator type with about 8,900 hours of use on it. A demonstrator 2017 Toro 1240 roller is available to us at a price of \$12,650 (used for 60 hours). The roller deployment mechanism does not use hydraulic fluid, thereby minimizing the risk of leakage. The purchase plan will extend over 5 years. Given the lower price and the potential to increase the smoothness and uniformity of our greens, the Board approved the acquisition of this equipment.

7. As a cost-saving measure, kitchen paper receipts are not normally given out. Notwithstanding, members are reminded that they are welcome to ask for a receipt for any transaction. This print-out will include the outstanding balance on kitchen debit cards, so that this number can be tracked.
8. While some trees have been cut around the number 5 green to improve aeration and sunlight exposure, Blake Wimperis has kindly suggested an alternative to cutting the cedar trees on the far side of the “gully” in front of that green. While the trees will be trimmed back, a local rule will come into effect, allowing a golfer to hit a provisional if it is not certain whether a ball has cleared the “gully” and penetrated the cedar trees.
9. One “seniors toilet” will be installed in the main floor mens’ room for evaluation. The fixture is a few inches higher than normal, but still meets disability requirements. The cost is expected to be less than \$500.
10. The Greens Director will take the lead on updating the club’s policy for employees with regard to drug and alcohol use so that it includes cannabis. The Secretary is consulting on the latest guidance material in order to acquire a more complete understanding concerning the recreational use of cannabis by members and green-fee players.

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11. Given that our remaining wooden benches are reaching the end of their life cycle, the Board approved the acquisition of 16 new composite benches in order to take advantage of a bulk discount. The total cost, without plaques, will be in the range of \$6000. These benches will subsequently be offered for lease to the membership, with the option to affix a commemorative plaque.
12. The Greenskeeper's Report is attached.
13. The second set of course maintenance information papers is also attached, produced by the Greens Director (with the assistance of the Greenskeeper). A final set will be distributed following the next Board meeting. In any case, the club's website (www.themississippi.ca) now has all 6 of information papers on it. They can be found on the home page under the menu items: "Our Course, Course Practices".
14. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.
15. Next meeting on 22 Jan at 18:00 at Myers Motors.

John Foottit
Secretary/VP

If any member has a question or a concern, please contact me at:
john.foottit@gmail.com

Greenskeeper's Report

We have cut a few trees along Wilson Street that were dead as well as some trees behind No. 5 green that were keeping the back of the green too shaded. We also trimmed up the cedars on the left side of No. 6 fairway making finding balls much easier. We have mulched some of

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the branches and burnt the rest. The brush at our dump behind No. 7 blue tee has also been burnt.

Because of the wet fall and very early snow, leaf cleanup was not done well. There will be a large amount to clean up in the spring.

The turf guard sensors that were installed in No. 11 and 14 greens are working and we are receiving readings off of the computer that are noticeably warmer than the air temperature at the time of the readings.

Owing to the amount of slush on Greens Nos. 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, and 15 we took the snow/slush off of these greens on 4 December. Greens were checked on 10 December and look to be without ice. Can't say the same about the fairways though.

We have begun to sharpen reels and paint course hardware.

Fairways and Rough at the Mississippi

Introduction

The Mississippi is committed to enhance the playing experience of members and guests by maintaining fairways that provide a lush, uniform surface to hit off and rough that is challenging but fair.

Grasses are specifically selected for use on the fairways and the rough. At the Mississippi, the fairways and rough are a mixture of blue grass and Poa annua.

The following information is provided to help understand our maintenance program and the resources needed to provide the best fairways and rough possible.

Rough

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The primary rough is mowed to a height of 2.50 inches. Mowing starts Monday morning and is completed by Thursday afternoon; this requires approximately 24 man-hours. The secondary rough is cut Monday and Friday to a height of 1.25 inches during fairway mowing. Depending on the hole, the secondary rough is either approximately 12 feet or 24 feet wide; this requires 1 or 2 mower passes respectively and takes a total of 8 man-hours to complete.

The rough is fertilized once a year in June with granular slow-release fertilizer, which helps prevent weeds and grubs. Throughout the season the rough is also spot sprayed for weeds.

Fairways

Fairways are cut Monday, Wednesday and Friday to a height of 0.540 inches.

Fairways are fertilized once every five weeks throughout the season with a granular slow-release fertilizer. Between the applications of the granular fertilizer a water-soluble fertilizer is applied twice.

Aeration of the fairways is conducted twice a year in spring and fall but is dependent upon weather conditions. The spring aeration removes a three-quarter inch diameter core with a depth up to 3 inches. In the fall, a three-quarter inch diameter core is punched to a depth up to 3 inches. The aeration program will occasionally disrupt playing conditions but is aimed at maintaining and improving the fairways and their soils.

Depending on the weather conditions, a fungicide is applied four times each summer to the fairways.

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Moisture readings are taken once a day on the fairways. When and how much to water is also based on several other factors, such as fertilization and aerification.

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Mississippi Greens

Introduction

The Mississippi is committed to enhance the playing experience of members and guests by providing greens that provide a firm and uniform surface to putt on.

Grasses are specifically selected for use on putting greens. At the Mississippi, the greens are made up of bentgrass and Poa annua type grasses.

Newer greens are mostly composed of sand. These types of greens are commonly known as USGA built greens and tend to be firm and provide a fast putting surface. The first and the eighteenth greens at the Mississippi are of this type.

Our other greens at the Mississippi are soil-based putting greens known as “push-up” greens. To ensure we provide the fastest and truest putting surface possible on our greens, we have implemented a comprehensive maintenance program of aeration, topdressing and rolling. The aeration and topdressing programs will occasionally disrupt playing conditions but are aimed at maintaining and improving the putting greens and their soils.

Our objective is to ensure that Mississippi greens run at 10 to 11 on the Stimp-meter.

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The following information is provided to help understand our maintenance program and the resources needed to provide the best greens possible.

Mowing

Greens are mowed seven days per week, weather permitting. This mowing frequency helps promote a dense turf. Our greens are mowed at a height of 0.140 inches from opening day and gradually reduced to a mid-summer height of 0.120 inches. Starting at the beginning of October, height is gradually increased to 0.140 inches.

Starting the third week of June to the beginning of September, the greens are double cut daily.

Green aprons and approaches are mowed Monday, Wednesday and Friday to a height of 0.50 inches.

Aeration

The three important objectives of aeration are to relieve soil compaction, improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots, and reduce or prevent the accumulation of excess thatch.

In mid-May, the greens are aerated by removing a half-inch diameter core with a depth of 3 inches followed by top dressing. In late August, a half-inch diameter core is punched to a depth of 3 inches followed by top dressing. In late fall, a three-quarter inch core is punched to a depth of 6 inches and left open.

Vertical Cutting

Verti-cutting involves the use of vertically operated rigid blades that cut into the turf perpendicular to the surface. It is done to control the lateral growth of bentgrass and is done as required, when growth is too tight.

Light Top-dressing

Top-dressing is the spreading of a thin layer of sand on the green. This is done to smooth the surface, control thatch for modification of the surface soil and to provide a firm, tight putting surface. We top-dress every second week from the beginning of May until September, when the turf is actively growing. We mow the greens first, then top-dress. The material is brushed and watered in and we follow up with a second mowing.

Rolling

This operation smooths the putting surface and increases green speed. Rolling is done on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week and if possible both days on the weekend. Care is taken to ensure that conditions are appropriate for this procedure. We use a vibrating type of roller to perform this work.

Growth Regulators

We use growth regulators on our greens throughout the growing season. The product we use is called Primo (Trinexapac-ethyl). It is applied weekly, generally from June 1 to mid-September. It encourages grass to spread, as opposed to growing upwards.

Fertilizing

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Granular slow-release fertilizers are used at low rates every 4 to 6 weeks on the greens. In addition, we apply water-soluble fertilizer once a week.

Wetting Agent

A wetting agent is applied to the greens once a week to reduce the surface tension of water molecules, which allows them to infiltrate the soil more effectively. This helps maintain a firmer putting surface and allows us to use less water when watering.

Pesticide Applications

Pesticides are applied to the greens on an as-required basis to help keep turf healthy by reducing damage caused by insects and fungus diseases. For additional information see [Pesticide Use at the Mississippi](#).

Watering

Moisture readings are taken once a day on the greens. When and how much to water is also based on several other factors, such as topdressing, fertilization and aerification. We try to water the greens as effectively as possible to help keep them firm.

Winter Protection

In preparation for winter, the greens are sprayed with three applications of a fungicide which prevents snow mould or fusarium patch. The first application is done in mid-October, the second at the beginning of November and the last just prior to the greens being covered with tarps, which is generally in mid-November.

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The greens are covered with two types of tarps. The first is a bubble type laid over perforated piping which is laid directly on the green. This is then covered with an ice-shield plastic tarp.

During the winter, the greens are inspected regularly and air is blown every two weeks under the tarps through the perforated piping.

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