

18 October 2018 BoD Meeting

Members in Attendance

John Stanton - President
John Foottit - Secretary/Vice President
Tom Reynolds - Membership
Brian Bond - Treasurer
Dave Evans - House
Gary Hobin - Club Captain
Judy Spencer - Ladies Representative
Peter Beerli - Greens Director

Staff in Attendance

Dan Kolar - Manager
Bill Hudson - Greenskeeper
Kyle Hudson - Assistant Greenskeeper

Decision Record

1. The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.
2. The Board reviewed and approved the presentation that was given to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 23 October 2018. (Copy attached)
3. The Board voted to purchase a new grass seeding machine. This will be a capital lease-to-purchase contract over the next 5 years. The value of the seeder is \$17,800. The club does not own one now. We have been top-seeding by hand or using a rented seeder in recent years. We expect a significant improvement in the quality of our fairways and tee boxes if we have continuous access to a seeder that cuts a groove in the soil and then deposits the seed.

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4. There has, apparently, been considerable speculation of late concerning the cutting of some trees. In fact, this topic is regularly discussed at many Board meetings, but the subject is normally considered to be routine. Indeed, in addition to cutting dead, dying, or diseased trees (often on safety grounds), it is the collective experience of the Board and the Greenskeepers that healthy trees on all golf courses must sometimes be cut down to improve playability, especially as trees grow larger and the average age of our members and green fee players continues to increase.
5. In any case, in the interests of transparency, the Board discussed at length and then voted to take the following actions, most around the 2019 playing season:
 - the mature tree in the sand trap to the left of number 4 green (the par 5) will be preserved by eliminating the left-hand side of this bunker, in favour of building a grass berm “through” the tree and retaining a narrower sand trap between the tree and the green. This work will begin in the near term. The status quo was not considered acceptable, as landing in this trap and ending up behind this tree was, in effect, penalizing a player twice for one errant shot
 - the twin maples about 110 yards to the right-center of the fairway in front of the number 9 tee box will be removed because they are directly on the line of a “perfect” drive and the vast majority of players do not have a control fade or draw shot to get around them. In effect, many players are being penalized for an “ideal” tee shot. If a player pulls or pushes a shot off this tee, such that it ends up behind a large tree to the left of the center-line or a stand of trees adjacent to the 150-yard marker on the right, the result is perceived to be a “deserved” penalty for an errant shot.

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- Several cedar trees surrounding the number 5 green will be removed to reduce the number of seedlings, twigs and leaves that clutter the green when the wind is coming from the prevailing northwesterly direction. Debris from the cedars gives rise to many valuable labour hours, as well as subtracting from playability. These trees also block air movement, which contributes to a wet, soft playing surface. In addition, the tree roots at the back of the green compete for nutrients and water.
 - The cedar tree closest to the clubhouse on the left-hand side of number 18 is currently paired with another cedar tree and will be removed in order to give some visibility from the patio to play on the fairway. It is not felt that this tree is in play or would stop any errant shots going to the patio. The other cedar tree will remain.
6. The Greenskeeper's report is attached.
 7. The Board voted to close the course on Tuesday 13 November. The last full playing day, weather permitting, will be Monday 12 November.
 8. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.
 9. The date for the next Board meeting will be Wednesday 14 November at 6 PM at Myers Motors. Budget setting for 2019 will begin at this point, with a view to sending invoices before the end of December.

John Foottit
Secretary/VP

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

Greenskeeper's Report

Deep tining will be done either the week of October 22nd or 29th.

Have done lots of sodding on fairways and bunker banks.

We have stripped the sod on 7 tee and are starting to level it and will hopefully have it sodded by the end of this week.

There needs to be some drainage work done on No. 3 fairway at the base of the hill. We hope to do this work in the next couple of weeks, weather dependent.

We will be starting to cut dead and diseased trees in the next few weeks.

2018 Fall Meeting Notes

- 1) The irrigation project was deemed completed on July 6th at a final cost of \$1,054,947 coming in at \$13,912 or 1.34% over the initial contract price.
- 2) MGC responsibilities related to the irrigation project and Pump House exceeded initial estimates by \$7,528 or 3.2%.
- 3) The contract holdback payment was released to Atkinson Irrigation on August 21st marking the final contract obligation.
- 4) Comparing January to end of September 2018 vs 2017 shows the following:
Net Revenue is up 6.6%
Total Expenses are up 5.7%
Overall Net Income is up 6.7%

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- 5) Tracking of increased costs due to the new minimum wage shows the following through the end of September:

Greens employee expenses have increased \$3,120

Bar expenses have increased \$4,253

Membership

Increased marketing efforts to encourage new members and green fee sales by:

- *Improvements to website and Facebook page and interaction with Facebook Messenger activity*
- *Mississippi booth at the Spring Golf Expo show:*
 - *Brought in 3 new members*
 - *Increased public awareness of MGC*
 - *Produced an MGC mailing list of about 500 relevant e-mail addresses*
- *Periodic e-mail blasts to Golf Ottawa mailing list and to new MGC mailing list*
- *Publicizing of our recent major improvements to course and clubhouse is stimulating increased public interest*
- Achieved 64 new members for 2018
- We had 420 members in 2018 as follows:
 - *Full single* 184
 - *Full couple* 146 (i.e. 73 couples)
 - *Honorary* 18
 - *Social* 14

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|---|---------------------|----|
| ➤ | <i>5-day</i> | 17 |
| ➤ | <i>Intermediate</i> | 29 |
| ➤ | <i>Corporate</i> | 5 |
| ➤ | <i>Junior</i> | 7 |
- 2018 Fall Special promotion yielded 10 new members to date for 2019

2018 in Review

- Held 38 events (15 outside events, 23 inside events) plus qualifiers, match play, ladies and men's leagues.
- Big wins for ladies O'Brien Cup team, Ethel Ferguson team, and mixed myFM teams – Congratulations!
- Consolidated qualifying events for both men and women to eliminate 6 weekend dates.
- Commenced the use of multiple tees (gold, white-gold for men) for some events based on age and handicap.
- Congratulations to our 2018 Club Champions
 - Junior – Ellis Kinnaird
 - Ladies – Chloe Wilson
 - Men – Peter Beerli
 - Senior Ladies – Tracey Wilson
 - Senior Men – Al Seabrook
 - B Class Men – Harry Bombay
 - C Class Men – Doug Specht
 - B Class Ladies – Gay Wilson
 - C Class Ladies – Sandy Geren

Thank you to Volunteers

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- Thanks to the ladies section and ladies club captain Trish Wilson for looking after the ladies events.
- Thanks to the more than 25 volunteers who helped organize the men's and mixed events, keep scores, post results, and captain teams

Looking Ahead to 2019

- Junior Program. Only had 12 junior members and could not fill several events this year. Will drop membership fee from \$429 to \$199 in 2019 and will run some targeted advertising.
- The introduction of multiple tees was somewhat successful but needs some fine tuning for 2019.
- New USGA/RGA rules come into effect in 2019. These rules are aimed at simplifying the game and to speed up play. More details will follow by newsletter before next season.