

20 November 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

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. My apologies for not disseminating the decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 23 October. The briefing slides for that gathering were sent to the members with the 18 October Board of Directors decision record and I somehow overlooked the requirement to advise you of further details.
3. To correct that oversight, including proxies, we had 82 people in attendance. Thank you for engaging; we're a stronger club for it.
4. The Bylaw amendment stipulating that the Board may establish various committees was passed by a vote of 48 to 13 (rather than "shall" establish). Some concern was expressed that the Greens Committee should be a constant rather than an option. Given the value that it adds to the Board's deliberations, we

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agree that this particular committee should always be present but prefer not to compel any future Board to constitute it.

5. The incumbents in the positions of Secretary/Vice President, Membership Director and Treasurer were acclaimed for another 2-year term. A vote was taken that saw Don McLeay elected to the position of Greens Director.
6. In response to a question posed at the meeting, the Club Captain has arranged for a clinic on the new 2019 golf rules. It will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday 27 April at 1PM. Some video instruction links will be disseminated to the members in the interim.
7. In addition, the ladies' par for number 10 was questioned. It is currently a par 4, but the Club Captain now advises that it is within our purview to request a change to a par 5 if sufficient information to back our case is provided. The ladies' executive are dealing with this issue and are expected to provide a recommendation in January.

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8. A Celebration of Life for Sylvia Kolar will be held on Saturday 1 December 2018 from 1 to 3 PM in the clubhouse.
9. After an analysis of the top seven green fee categories by revenue, it was decided to increase the early afternoon rate (noon to 2 PM) from \$35 to \$38 beginning in 2019, on all days of the week. The twilight rate (after 4 PM) will be increased from \$22 to \$25. We will introduce a new late afternoon rate from 2 to 4 PM of \$30.
10. We are also discontinuing the subsidized cart rental rate for Men's and Ladies Nights in favour of charging the regular rate.

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11. For the 2018 fiscal year we budgeted for a small loss. In the event, a small surplus was recorded, thanks primarily to an increase in membership, plus green fee and bar revenue. For the upcoming 2019 fiscal year, conservatively using the same membership base as last year, we are also forecasting a deficit, although smaller than the previous year.
12. After a line-by-line review, the 2019 budget was completed, to the extent that membership invoices can be sent out in early December. There will be no increase to these rates beyond the usual compensation for annual inflation.
13. Given the length of time that it took to finalize the 2019 budget, the Board decided to defer other agenda items to our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday 11 December.
14. Notwithstanding, the latest Greenskeeper's Report is attached.
15. In addition, the new Greens Director has met with the Greenskeeper and drafted several information papers concerning the management of our golf course. The first 2 of these papers is attached for your edification.
16. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

John Foottit
Secretary/VP

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

Greenskeeper's Report

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All greens and tees have been tarped. We got most of the greens covered on Monday 10 November. Two of our greens were not done until Thursday owing to snow coverage. We had to shovel 3 and 6 off by hand, then put the tarps down.

The irrigation system was blown out on 29 and 30 October. The pump station was blown out on 6 November.

We have installed a Turf Guard wireless monitoring system in two of our greens. This will show us the soil moisture, salt and temperature in two of our greens (11 & 14).

All of our greens, tees, fairways, approaches and surrounds of greens were sprayed on 7 November with Trilogy, a fungicide that will protect the turf from snow mould.

We are now catching up on the removal of dead trees. We will be doing this as long as the weather allows us to.

Special thanks to the following members for helping us tarp 16 greens in a single day!

Bill Allen

Ian Edwards

John Footitt (he's been asked to return next year only because
Lorrie sent brownies)

Derek Johnston

Peter Kufske

Don McLeay

John Minter

Restricted Use of Golf Carts During Wet Conditions

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The use of golf carts plays an important role at the Mississippi. They provide a revenue source and increase the accessibility for our members and guests who might not otherwise be able to play the course.

However, golf carts can have very negative impacts on turf health and playing conditions, especially during wet conditions. Therefore there will be days where carts will not be allowed out on the course. This occurs when the course is deemed to be too wet.

Unfortunately, wet course conditions and cart traffic do not mix. Carts can slide, skid and sink when turf is wet, causing immediate and lasting damage. Compaction of wet turf can also have a negative long-term effect on playing conditions, even if those impacts are not immediately visible. Compacted areas are more susceptible to diseases such as dollar spot, fusarium patch, typhula blight, pythium blight and Rhizoctonia brown patch. The decision to restrict the use of carts is not made or taken lightly.

Before the decision is made following a rain event, several steps are taken to evaluate the condition of the course. First, the previous day's fairway moisture readings are examined. (Note that moisture readings are taken daily on the fairways, greens and tees.) Second, the exact amount of rainfall is determined using data from the weather station at the course's maintenance area. Finally, a visual inspection of the course is made to evaluate the presence of standing water. Based on all this information, a decision is made regarding cart usage.

With the variation in drainage rates on the course, certain areas will appear dry enough to allow the use of carts. However, we have to protect the entire course and we ask for your patience and understanding. We don't want to put the cart before the course.

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For the 2018 season, there were three days when cart usage was not allowed.

Don McLeay (Greens Director)

1 November 2018 (Sources: USGA and the MGC)

Frost Delays at the Mississippi

In spring and fall we will experience playing delays owing to frost. When a frost occurs, the course management will put a notification on the daily tee sheet indicating this and there will be a delay in tee times.

On these mornings, play will not start until the frost on the grass has melted, as in spring and fall frost appears on the longer grass before the greens. To minimize delays, tee-offs will begin on the Carleton Place Nine (the back nine) as the holes on this nine are not as sheltered as those on the Almonte Nine (the front nine) and the frost melts more quickly.

Frost damage can occur on any height of mowed grass, but it is amplified when the plant is mowed low, as on a green. Frost is essentially frozen dew. Ice crystals visible on the outside of the plant can also form on the inside of grass blades. The grass plant, normally resilient to footsteps or cart traffic, becomes brittle and fragile when ice crystals form. Under the pressure of traffic, ice crystals puncture living plant tissues and rupture plant cells. Damage will not appear right away, but it will show up in footsteps in the following days as the plant is unable to repair itself and begins to die and turn black. The recovery from this severe damage can take months.

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Keep in mind, a foursome typically takes many footsteps on each green, so even allowing just a few groups to play when frost is present can be very damaging to the greens. It is not completely understood when frost will cause damage, so the decision to keep traffic off the golf course is made conservatively to protect the condition of the course. For this reason, the Mississippi will close the course to play or delay starting times until frost has completely melted.

Don McLeay (Greens Director)

1 November 2018 (Sources: USGA and the MGC)