

April 30 2020 BoD Teleconference

Members in Attendance

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

Staff in Attendance

Dan Kolar - Manager
Bill Hudson - Greenskeeper

Decision Record

1. The video/teleconference was convened at 6:40 PM.
2. We have decided to continue using our Buz tee-time reservation system for 2020.
3. The 2020 version of our Membership Guide will be ready for posting on the Club's website in the near future.
4. Our detailed COVID-19 Protocol remains in draft form, primarily because the Province has not yet specified the rules governing how we could play. Notwithstanding, an abbreviated version is attached, so that some concerns can be addressed.
5. In response to a question, while we will be restricting the number of power cart riders to one for the duration of the pandemic (unless from the same household), we will be charging the single rider rate, with no surcharges.

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6. Over-riding the Bylaw, the Board has formally expanded justifications for granting Social/Holding memberships to other than medical because of the hardships and concerns imposed by the pandemic.
7. Individuals on a holding membership will not be granted the three-year exemption from the loan repayment surcharge that will be in place beginning next year. In addition, Social/Holding members in 2020 will not receive any free green fee passes. They will, however, have their years of membership credited towards qualifying for an honorary status (80 years of age and 25 years of contiguous membership).
8. The 2.5% surcharge normally imposed for using a credit card to pay membership dues past a certain mid-winter date will not be applied until after 15 May 2020. Those that have already paid this surcharge will have the appropriate amount credited to their account.
9. Members who have fully paid their dues and are not carrying golf clubs are welcome to walk the course.
10. Some have questioned the need to maintain the course at considerable expense while we are still closed. A summary of the reasons why is attached, as well as a Greens Report.
11. The meeting ended at 8:10 PM. Our next video/teleconference will be held on Thursday 7 May at 6:30 PM.
12. If any member has a question or concern, please e-mail me at john.foottit@gmail.com

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John Foottit
Secretary/VP

Update on the MGC Covid-19 Protocol

1 May 2020

The Mississippi Golf Club has the obligation to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our members, guests and employees.

To ensure the safety of everyone at the Mississippi during this Covid-19 pandemic, procedures are being developed and implemented. They are being designed to minimize contact with surfaces and between individuals so as to ensure your safety and that of your playing partners and course employees.

In order to finalize and publish our Covid-19 protocol we need the requirements/restrictions from the Ontario government, which are expected with the announcement of golf courses being allowed to open.

Note that the Protocol will be a dynamic document and will change as new information becomes available from the health experts and we gain experience with our processes and procedures.

Some members have expressed concern about the use of power carts and the availability of washrooms when we open.

Power cart occupancy will be limited to one rider. Two players will be permitted in a cart if they are members of the same household. The carts will be wiped down with disinfectant prior to each use.

We are currently planning to allow access to the upstairs clubhouse washrooms, with occupancy limited to one person at a time. As well, the men's and ladies' downstairs washrooms will be limited to two persons at a time. In addition to frequent cleaning by a staff member, the washrooms will be provided with a

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spray bottle of sanitizer and wall-mounted paper towels (or Lysol wipes). Members and guests will be asked to use these supplies to wipe down surfaces.

It is also our intent to maintain on course portable toilets. They will also be equipped with sanitizer and paper towels. Hand sanitizer will be provided outside each of the washrooms.

Once we receive the government's requirements for opening golf courses in Ontario we will finalize the protocol. It will then be e-mailed to all members and posted on the Club's website.

Course Maintenance Requirements

Some members may be under the impression that we can let the course go until we're allowed to play, then just cut it back to a proper height. That's not the case. It's important to know that a stoppage in maintenance would mean a long and expensive road to recovery.

According to the US Golf Association, mowing is governed by what's known as the "one-third rule," which boils down to this: never lop off more than one-third of the leaf blade with a single mow. Mow any lower and you risk "scalping" the grass, which can cause both short-term and long-term damage. Scalping shows itself in brown and thinned out patches, which are bad enough to start but get even worse if left untended, as they allow for algae, moss and other unwanted invaders to creep in.

All grass on a golf course is susceptible to scalping, but greens, because of their low mowing heights, are especially vulnerable. Greens typically need to be mown at least once every three days. Without that regular tending, they become overgrown. Getting

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them back up to speed is tough. Sometimes it's impossible, and the entire putting surface has to be reseeded, and then you're looking at least two months before they're ready for play again.

Though fairways can be left to grow longer than greens, they still need mowing at least once a week. Mowing also helps to control weeds.

Proper maintenance includes laying down fertilizers to foster growth and plant-protectant materials to stave off weeds, insects and various diseases. If such treatments aren't applied in a timely manner, problems will crop up in the weeks ahead and they'll be much more stubborn and expensive to deal with.

We also have to keep watering. Burnout can happen quickly, and addressing it is costly and time-consuming. In some cases, it requires replanting.

Bunkers are less vulnerable to maintenance issues than greens and fairways, but if they're left untended, weeds can overtake them. Bunkers are also subject to decline from sand wash-outs. Repeated wash-outs can result in sand contamination that can't be fixed without replacing the sand completely.

We are fortunate to have a greens staff that knows how to care for a course better than most. They just need our understanding and support.

Board of Directors **Greens Report - Thursday 30 April**

We have cut our greens 4 times; tees and fairways 3 times.

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We have verticut, aerified and seeded numbers 4,6,7 and 8 fairways. These fairways had the worst ice damage. We still need to spot seed smaller areas on other fairways. There is not nearly as much damage as last year. There was very little flooding this spring and the water levels are almost back to normal.

All tees have been aerified, seeded, topdressed and fertilized. Most tees are in great shape, only a few of them have some ice damage on them. We have aerified, topdressed and seeded over half of our greens and we will finish them the first week in May. They have also been fertilized and we will topdress again the first week of May.

All of our gardens have been cleaned up.

Soil temperatures are in mid 40's F or under 10 C when taken at 2" deep. Grass seed germinates best when soil temperatures are between 50-65 F or 10-18 C. Now that the seed is in the ground and we are able to keep it moist I am hoping things will start to grow.

Up until today (April 30th) the course has been very dry and we have been watering the greens, tees and the fairways that were seeded.

I would like to thank Ian Edwards for volunteering his time staking out hazard markers, out of bounds markers and the lateral hazard markers. He has also put out new forward red tee stakes and has replaced any damaged yardage markers on the fairways. He has also put up ropes around the few fairways that are normally roped off.

We have all of our sanitizers ready for when more staff are able to work.

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Bill Hudson,
Greens Superintendent