

## December 2019 BoD Meetings

### 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  
Kyle Hudson - Assistant Greenskeeper

### **Decision Record**

1. A paper explaining the background to our 4% increase in membership fees is attached.
2. After getting feedback from some of our members who purchase the power cart season pass, the Board has decided to reverse the decision to charge the \$6 back-nine single rider fee to them. Customers who purchase power cart tickets will still be required to pay the \$6 fee (instead of using a second cart ticket) if they are riding their second nine alone. The pro shop will strictly monitor the situation to ensure this fee is being paid as needed.
3. By mid-December, Board representatives will have met with 4 potential suppliers of on-line tee time reservation systems, including our current one. We expect to be in a position to select

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a supplier for next year by mid-January 2020. One of our key objectives is to allow on-line green fee bookings.

4. We have received a few proposals for steps that could be taken to raise additional revenue and thereby reduce upward pressure on our membership fees. All ideas put forward had been considered in the past, but were reviewed at this meeting:

- Golf simulators and other indoor social events were considered to be mutually exclusive. Given the cost, clubhouse wear and tear and the present availability of other golf simulator venues, this particular suggestion was set aside in favour of looking at soliciting more indoor social events such as weddings.
- The Manager will work with a local wedding planner to see if we can attract about one event per month all year round. Winter events could be problematic, as the septic tank could cause problems if it is not in constant use.
- Small gatherings could be confined to the main lounge; larger events would need both the lounge and the bar area. In the latter case, the Club could erect a large parasol that would cover an area near the number 10 blue tee box, for the temporary use of members.
- The Manager will also look at slightly increasing the number of outside tournaments from about 3 to 5 per year to approximately 1 per month. Such tournaments would be in addition to routine competitive events.

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- We have tried offering a reduced membership rate for early renewals in the past. As this had no discernible effect, this idea was not pursued.
  - We have also considered using the clubhouse and the course for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Our insurance and legal advisors have counselled us to do neither as the liability associated with these activities could be detrimental. For example, the Gatineau cross-country trail system is supported by a 24/7 emergency number and snowmobiles equipped with patient transfer sleds. For us, the costs associated with providing a venue would likely far outweigh any revenue that might be gleaned.
5. Commencing in January 2020, the World Handicap System (WHS) will replace and unify six different handicap systems used around the world. Both Canada and the USA will be moving to the WHS in January 2020. More information will be sent in the spring, and a clinic to explain the changes is planned for April 2020. Here are some of the changes you should know about:
- Handicaps will be based on the best 8 of the last 20 rounds instead of best 10 of the last 20 rounds.
  - The maximum score on any hole (equitable stroke rule) will change to a "net double bogie".
  - Abnormal course conditions such as weather will be factored into calculations.
  - Only 54 holes will be needed to establish an initial handicap.

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- There will be a maximum handicap of 54 to make the game more inviting to beginners
6. Given the steady increase in green fee revenue in recent years, the Board decided to expand the booking window for this category of player from 3 days in advance to 5. In addition, the number of slots reserved for green fee players in the morning will be increased from 3 to 5.
  7. To slightly increase the number of available tee-times in the morning, the earliest available time slot will be at 06:30 rather than 07:00 during the week, except for Tuesdays, when the Greenskeeper needs the extra half hour for maintenance. The kitchen will not be open for tee times before 7 AM.
  8. In order to facilitate the ongoing maintenance of your handicap over the winter, you have to pay at least the Golf Canada portion of your membership by 1 January of any given year. If that sum is not paid by then, the account is allowed to lapse until a membership is renewed (to avoid the Club having to pay).
  9. The Board will send out a short e-mail questionnaire to the members in the new year, soliciting ideas for how our playing experience could be improved.
  10. The Greenskeepers report is attached.
  11. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.
  12. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 6 PM at Myers Motors.
  13. If any member has a question or a concern, please contact me.

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John Foottit  
Secretary  
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### **Fee Increases**

The Club remains financially sound. The goal of this paper is to help you to better understand the reasons why the Board felt some increases were necessary in 2020.

We had a slow start this year, because of flooding and the damages hit our bottom line:

- Costs went up to refurbish the course and fix damaged features:
- Some members did not renew resulting in an overall lower membership;
- We lost revenue from green fees, cart rentals, and bar sales. By the end of May we were facing a potential shortfall of \$95,000 for the season.

Thanks to Bill Hudson and his team, we were able to restore the course quickly and maintain it in excellent condition throughout the season. That enhanced our reputation and attracted more green fee players which helped restore our revenues.

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Nevertheless, our financial reserves have declined. Furthermore, greens-keeping costs have risen faster than general inflation, for both staff wages and supplies. That's why we're asking you to renew at a membership fee that is 4% over last year's (about \$70 per member).

We are not asking only members to absorb the increases in operational costs. Green fees are also going up 10% for 2020. Our survey shows that even with higher rates, our fees will stay competitive.

In addition, we are trying to recover some of our one-time flood costs from the Ontario Government.

All these measures will help restore our financial reserves.

We look forward to seeing you in 2020.

### **Board of Directors Meeting 9 December 2019**

#### **Greens Report**

The majority of the tarps were put on the week of 4 November with a few remaining tee tarps completed the following week. I would personally like to thank Gerry Brown, JC Lavergne, John Foottit, Brenda Hart, Peter Kufske, Ian Edwards and Don McLeay for helping with tarping.

We have installed one wireless Turf Guard soil monitoring system on #14 green. It measures soil moisture, salt and temperature, however this time of year we are mainly interested in temperature. Real time

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data is transmitted to our office computer every 5 minutes. So far this year the temperature under the tarp has not dropped below minus 2 C.

We will be blowing air into 10 of our greens this winter: 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and the putting green. These are greens that we have had problems with in the past. Today we plowed slush off of all the greens to prevent early ice build-up.

We have cut and chipped 24 dead trees. To improve air movement and help promote the growth of the rough along the right side of 4 fairway from the ropes to the green, three areas of brush have been opened up and smaller brush and vines have also been cleared. The hedge on the green side of 5 has been trimmed. We have cleaned out brush along the side of 5 green and the right side of number 6 so players on the tee will be able to see the bell posts on both sides of the fairway from the mirror. This fall, drainage work behind #3 green and the left hand side of #13 tee was completed.

Our pump station has been winterized (blown out). This is done so that the system won't freeze up if we lose power in the pump house.

Snow fencing has been installed in a few areas. We have also posted signs at each green warning people to stay off the greens. There are also signs posted at entrances warning people they are using the course at their own risk. The club is not responsible for any injuries sustained on the course.

All of our machines have been pressure washed and are put away for the winter until we begin our winter maintenance program. We have begun rebuilding some reels with bearings and seals and the sharpening of all of our reels.

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Bill Hudson – Greens Superintendent