

Hello Don,

It was nice to visit the Mississippi Golf Club a few weeks ago.

Overall Impressions of the Mississippi

Again, I was suitably impressed by the overall condition of the course. The Mississippi has the river and the marsh areas and it has done and continues to do a really good job of enhancing these natural features. I really liked the work done along the marsh on the back of the 12th green and the 13th tee box. The Club may want to consider cutting back the willow on the marsh opposite the 6th red tee box to provide more view over the marsh.

The enlargement of the 5th tee box and the new retaining wall has enhanced the overall appearance of the hole.

The enlargement of 13th tee box was extremely well done with the new lower level and the steps.

Kyle has done a remarkable job building the new red tee boxes and they look great. Again, I would like to mention how impressed I was at the club's desire to make the course more entertaining and fairer for the members and guests. Adding new tees, expanding tees and providing a more flexible golf course for the many golfing groups will bring many rewards. I wish more courses would see the importance of offering a shorter course. I was also happy to hear that the membership is making good use of them. All new golf courses should provide great variety in the distances the course can play from.

Recommendations and Suggestions

I would recommend on the first hole to remove the evergreen tree on the right-hand side of the fairway above the creek where the cart path exits the fairway. This would offer a fairer line into the green from the right side of the fairway and rough.

Bunkers and Sand

Bunkers and their sand are always a subject of discussion among the membership of any golf course. The blame is usually directed at the condition of the sand, etc. However, a sand shot is a very difficult shot which requires a certain technique. Sand shot recovery frustrates many golfers, both skilled and new.

Many clubs are investing heavily into their bunkers and are totally rebuilding them and installing the "Billy Bunker" system or an equivalent method. This is an expensive endeavour and a manpower-intensive renovation. Kyle and Don recently visited a local Ottawa club which is spending a considerable sum to redo all of their bunkers with the system. I am also working with a local Toronto course to install the system in the green-side bunkers at a cost of \$1 million plus.

The new bunker systems need good drainage to be effective, which means in the bunker the main drain line needs to be 12 inches beneath the bottom of the bunker. The drain line must extend well beyond the bunker and needs an adequate slope to provide good positive drainage.

If the Mississippi was contemplating installing the system, I believe the big challenge would be the subsurface rock which would need to be cut or chiselled. The rock was a big issue during the installation of the irrigation system.

My recommendation would be to maintain your existing bunkers by periodically adding sand, rebuilding them as required and ensuring existing drainage is unobstructed.

This approach works well and, in my opinion, would be a more cost-effective solution for the club.

Greens (9 and 10) Remodeling

When I reviewed the 9th green it was obvious that the false front and green slope along the left side of the green above the false front were making approach shots difficult. The green however, in my opinion does not need rebuilding. Though the front is tough I would recommend you add more gently sloped green area to the left of and behind the green and more green area on the front left. Adding more green area will provide a better, more acceptable target for approach shots.

This type of expansion is fairly common and a good way to make more greens accommodating for putting and pin placement. The pictures provided show the area where green expansion could be made. The ninth green would require the removal of a few of the left side trees; however this was seen as a positive not a negative.

The cost of this solution is quite low and can likely be done in-house. Building new greens is both expensive and disruptive. For a finishing green I do not feel a rebuild is necessary for the 9th green especially given the area of puttable surface existing on this green. This said I feel the expansion will be well received by your members.

The 10th green certainly has a large sloped incline on the front of the green that would not be pinnable. Often greens are remodeled if there are severe slopes and few fair pin placements. This fall I'm remodeling four new greens on two older golf clubs that need rebuilding as the slopes within the green greatly limit pin placements and the greens totally frustrate the golfers. Unfortunately, these greens will not be back in play until mid June 2024. They are also extremely expensive, running in the neighbourhood of \$80,000 each.

The 10th hole appears to have grasses on this front slope that are cut to a green-height level. With the slope being so pronounced I would return or change this area to a fairway-height grass. The area above this slope is adequate in size and has slopes more acceptable for putting and pin placement. However, to add some size to this green and some excitement, the recommendation would be to expand the green on the back and back left side. This new size and shape would allow you more pinnable places and

a nice accented back left side area pin that would be guarded by the pronounced left side rough. I feel this is a natural expansion that hopefully can be done very easily and at a low cost.

The expansions recommended for both the 9th green and 10th green can be created hopefully without closing the green for an extended time and at an estimated cost of under \$10,000 each. After the expanded areas are sodded, the new areas could be marked off and not used until the grass is fully mature and the cutting heights match the rest of the green.

I trust these notes are helpful. Please give me a call if you have any questions or concerns about the report or its recommendations.

Graham Cooke,

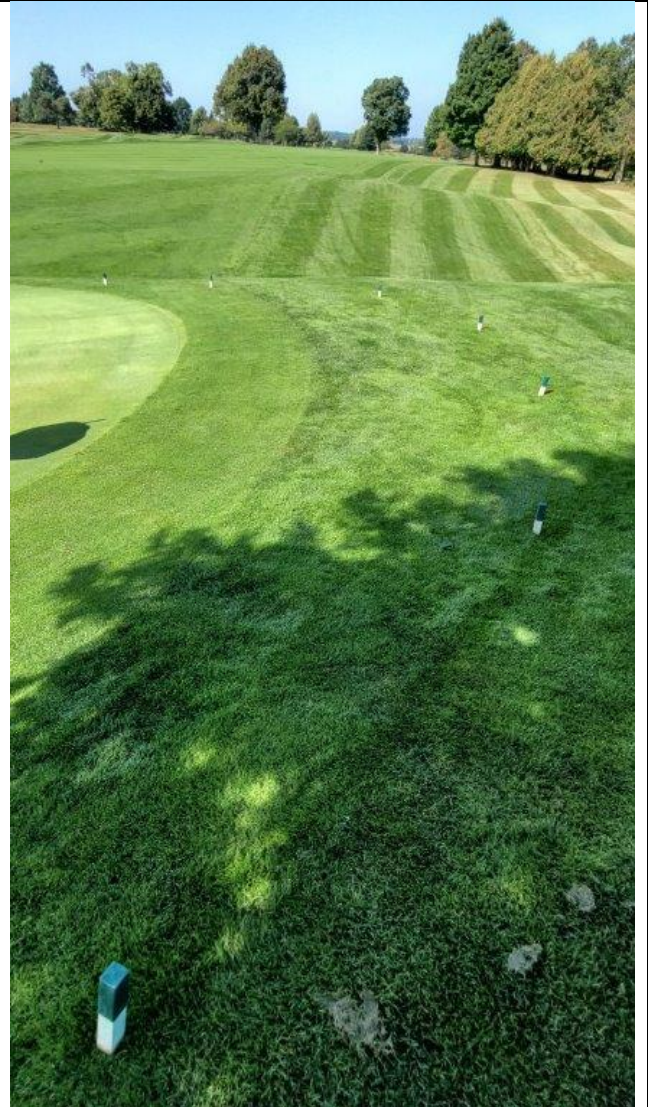
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Proposed Extension Add-on for the 9th Green

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Proposed Extension Add-on for the 9th Green



Proposed Extension Add-on for the 10th Green

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