Don Garrett, CGCS
Superintendent

Renovation Update

As I write this, we are six weeks into our eight week renovation project, and we are still on target to open as planned on August 15th. For the most part, things have gone well. The bridge work is complete, the tunnel retaining wall project is complete, most of the cartpath work is done, all of the greens have been planted and most of the tee, drainage and bunker work is complete. However, there is still a lot to be done over the last 2 weeks. We had a very tight and aggressive schedule to accomplish all of this work in only eight weeks and some of the work will be completed only a day or two before we open. In addition, there will be some things along the periphery that will be finished after we open. And some small things that we had planned to do in house that we were unable to get to will be done at a later time. This means there will be many construction scars still evident when the course reopens on the 15th. With this in mind, let me summarize what to expect during the first few weeks we are open.

Greens - The first green was sodded on July 6 and the last on July 18. Therefore, the first few greens had an 12 day head start on the last ones completed. Obviously some will be ahead of the others, with the last few less than a month old when we open. The greens will be a work in progress throughout the remainder of the summer and into the fall. When we open, you can expect that they will be slow and still somewhat bumpy. We will not have the height down yet to what we will normally maintain them at and we will still be topdressing and verticutting to smooth them out. They should slowly and steadily improve day by day as we go along.

Please understand that it is important that we do not rush things. With less than 90 days until our average first frost date, we must also make sure that we allow them to become established and well rooted before they go dormant to protect the long term health and viability of the greens. If you are concerned about the condition of the greens, I would ask that you spend a little time on the chipping green. While we haven’t been able to give it as much attention as I would have liked with the other work going on, I think it is a good example of what to expect once the new greens mature.

Tees - The work to level and enlarge several tees has gone well. They only issue is that some were sodded later than we would have liked. In addition, with all of the winterkill that occurred in North Carolina, Tifway bermuda sod has been in high demand and some loads have been less than perfect. Therefore, a number of tee boxes will not be ready for use when we open. This will necessitate tee markers being moved forward to other tees until the turf matures. Some forward tee markers will be moved to the beginning of the fairway. I project that most if not all tees will be usable by the first week of September.

Membership by the Numbers
Individuals: 111  Family: 116
Non-Resident: 30
Young Alumni: 12
Inactive: 15  Life: 27
Total Membership: 311
Superintendent’s Report Continued:

**Fairways**-Lots of drainage work has been done in fairways. Again, some will not be completed until right before we open. This will mean ground under repair in some spots and keeping carts off these areas until they mature. Otherwise, the fairways should be in good shape as we were able to complete two aerifications and a verticutting on them this summer.

**Bunkers**-Significant bunker work was performed on eight bunkers. Some of the sod on the bunkers faces will still be rooting and maturing and will not be ready for traffic. Expect to see “Please Keep Off” sign in these areas. Also, the new sand in some of these bunkers may still be a little fluffy and will need more time to firm up. Overall I am very pleased with this work.

**Cart Paths**- Some of the worst areas of cart path have been repaired providing a much smoother ride that I know you will enjoy. However, many areas still need to be tied in where the new path doesn’t match the existing grade. This work is slow and tedious and will be ongoing into the fall and early winter most likely. In the meantime, watch your step when exiting your cart near tees and greens where repairs have been made.

**Other**- This summer has been relatively dry with below normal rain. This has been a good thing for getting work accomplished. In addition, irrigation has been turned off in some areas to allow them to dry out for cart path work to be completed. Therefore, you will see numerous dry spots around the course, unless we get some significant rain over the next few days. Also, other areas may be wet as we have pushed new sod with extra water and experienced runoff into lower areas.

In summary, I guess it’s like I told someone the other day…that the work will be “done” on the 15th, but things won’t be “finished”. Some areas that look harsh will soften with time. I would just ask that you be patient with us as the construction scars heal and the turf and work matures. As someone with very little patience myself, I know this can be difficult. But before long, everything will be healed up and you can enjoy the many improvements that were made.
Member Appreciation Cookout

On Friday evening, August 14th, we will be hosting a “Member Appreciation Cookout” to help celebrate the return of your Walker Golf Course and to say “thank you” for allowing us to make these massive improvements to your golf course.

The evening will begin at 5pm with a tour of the new / improved golf course conditions. Following the tour, we will gather on the Seasons outside patio terrace for a cookout. The fare for the evening is Burgers & Birds. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. You may purchase alcoholic drinks in Joe’s for the event.

In order to prepare the correct amount of food, please RSVP to the golf shop (656-0236) by Wednesday, August 12th.

Practice Range: Open for Business

After the eight weeks of renovation work, the practice range opens today, Saturday, August 1st for normal use. We will be open for the next two weeks (until August 15) from 10am until 7pm. The practice putting green will remain CLOSED until August 15th. You are welcome to chip and PUTT on the Diamond Zoysia chipping green next to the clubhouse at any time. Once we reopen the golf course on the 15th, we will return to normal hours of operation for the range and golf course. It’s time to come on out and get ready for the grand reopening.

Super Saturday # 5

After the break, our next competition round is scheduled for August 22nd. Including this date, there are three competition dates remaining in the season. If you have not played in any Super Saturday events this year, you can still START and post the required three scores for the season. This is the “last call” for new starts for this season.

Here are the current division leaders going into August:

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<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Cheryl Meadows</td>
<td>259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Cheryl Meadows</td>
<td>194</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mike Wallace</td>
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<td>Purple</td>
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<td>Purple</td>
<td>Jim Kenworthy</td>
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Match Play Reminder

It’s also time to get back to the match play brackets and finish those flight championships. Please call your opponent and schedule your final match before August 31st. We will award trophies to the winners beginning on August 15th.

Couples Twilight

On Friday, August 28th we will host our monthly couple’s twilight 9-hole competition. This will be our last 9-hole event of the season due to the coming shorter evenings and football season conflicts. We will however, host an 18-hole couples scramble/ cookout in September to close out the couples season.

Our Friday night twilight this month will be the regular format of 2 couples paired together to form ONE team, captain’s choice. Sign up by couples and we will pair you together to form your team. Following play, we will head over to our local watering hole for refreshment. Deadline for entry is Thursday at 5pm. Entry fee is $40 per couple for golf, cart, and prize fund.

Member Guest Pass Card

Normally, we provide you with a “Member Guest Pass Card” with your July statement, but since the golf course was closed, we are sending this along with your current (August) statement. This card allows you to bring three (3) guests along to play with you at some point between now and June 30, 2016. Your guests only have to pay for a cart fee, if they choose to ride.

Please note there are time restrictions noted on the reverse side of the card as to when the card may be used. Your cooperation is appreciated on this “benefit” of membership. IF you do not receive your card in the mail by the end of August, please let us know so we can replace it immediately. Never received, lost, or misplaced cards after September 1st will not be replaced. Please remember the value of this card.

Range Club Reminder

If you did not join the “Range Club” for 2015, you have one more opportunity to join for the remainder of 2015 for only $100. Each year, we offer this pro-rated price beginning on August 1st through the end of December 2015. If you are interested, call the golf shop or drop by and join for the last quarter of the year.
**Member Golf Excursions**

All in all, we have had pretty good success with our golf excursions for the membership during our renovation closing. Hopefully, you have been able to participate in one or more of those trips. A big thank you to our friends at the following area clubs for allowing us to invade their space and play their fine golf courses:


If you have not been able to make a trip yet, it is not too late. We still have the following clubs yet to visit in early August before we re-open: **Southern Oaks Golf Club, Barnsley Garden Golf Club & The Farm Club in Georgia, Mimosa Hills Golf Club & Catawba Country Club in North Carolina, Currarhee Golf Club in Toccoa, and Kingwood Golf Resort in Clayton, Georgia.** Call the golf shop for details and dates for these events. We would love to have you travel with us!

**Pool News**

Pool manager, **Brandon Cloer**, reports the water has warmed up a bit this month but it remains clear, clean, refreshing and safe. If you haven’t taken advantage of the Walker Course pool, this is the last full month of operation. The pool will close on Monday, Labor Day, September 7th at the end of the day. Stay safe everyone.

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**Member Resignations**

W.H. “Ham” Hudson  
Alphonso Norris  
John Plank

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**August 2015**

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Practice Range Re-Opens</td>
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<td>15 Course Re-Opens</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17 Closed</td>
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<td>22 Super Saturday #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Closed</td>
<td>25 Junior Club Championship</td>
<td>26 Junior Club Championship</td>
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<td>28 Couples Twilight</td>
<td>29 Kappa Sig Tournament (PM)</td>
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<td>31 Closed</td>
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