

Let me start out with hoping everyone had a great holiday season and everyone is safe and well. I know I haven't written in a while, probably because I took a week off and went to South Dakota to surprise mom and dad with a visit (Brrrr.) Basically, it means mom hasn't complained about me not writing to her, which is what reminds me to write to all of you.

Speaking of going north, I have been getting a little grief about bringing the cold weather back with me. Let me just say I don't know what you guys did while I was gone, but I left this place warm when I went on my trip and it was cold here when I got back.

With this cold weather you will be seeing some subtle changes to the golf course. The greens will be a little firmer and faster as the grass goes into a bit of dormancy and stops growing. With that, some of the large areas of crabgrass in the roughs and slopes will be going off color as these weeds do not like the cold and go dormant much quicker.

The only thing that likes this cooler weather (besides my dog) is the Ryegrass over seed we put down on the tee tops. For the most part the over seeding went very well with a few exceptions where we are having some irrigation issues. This stand of cool weather grass should last us through the season and will die off in the spring when our temperatures warm up. If the weather cooperates it should last till the end of April.

With the over seed we have managed to get a good stand of grass on the driving range. Now that there is a good stand of grass we will be opening the range to hit off the grass a few days a week. We will be placing ropes out on the turf to designate hitting areas. Please stay between the ropes when hitting as we will be moving the ropes around to maintain good areas to hit from. If the ropes are out and people are practicing please do not hit from the mats for safety reasons. We will have days when it will remain mats only to give the turf time to recover and there will be signage present to designate those days. Please stay on the mats when signs are out. Oh, there will be sand buckets out on the range so please fill your divots.

Well it looks like this season is going to be a busy one with several improvements to the course. As you may have heard, plans are already in motion to refurbish the bridges out on the golf course. I believe this work is to begin in February. Along with that, the golf course is making plans to install a new permanent Bocce ball court to add to our member's amenities. At the same time we will hopefully be installing a concrete pad at the back of the driving range to place our teeing mats. This will keep the mats level and make for a better teeing surface, as well as let us gain a little more turf teeing area.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has been giving me complements on the golf course. At this time I have a good staff of people who make this happen. If I don't seem enthusiastic about the complements, believe me I do appreciate it and pass it along to my staff. Just keep in mind that when I'm out on the course I tend to only look at the bad things out there and I know we still have a long way to go.

See you out on the course, John