

## ***Greens Committee Newsletter – AUGUST 2017***

Dear Member

The Greens Committee welcomed John Robson onto the committee at the August meeting and we look forward to his ideas and input for the next 3 years or longer. Our thanks also go to Joan and Laurie for agreeing to stand as co-opted members for another year.

Spring is almost upon us, with the Greens Staff getting ready for the spring and summer treatment programs. During the past couple of weeks, light verti-cut treatments were applied to the greens to aerate the soil, loosen up and extract some of the thatch.

We expect the refurbished spray rig to be commissioned by Wednesday this week; this will enable us to start applying the first round of fertilizer and mineral treatments on Thursday and Friday.

On Monday and Tuesday of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September, more aggressive verti-cut and verti-drain treatments will take place on the greens, coupled with silica sand dusting. During weeks 3 and 4 in September, we should see major improvements in the greens.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>, Gary Whitaker will have a crew of about 30 people assisting in the removal of weeds on the Tee Boxes and fairways. Once again, a big thanks to Gary for his generous contribution and all the assistance he gives the Greens Committee. Brian Anderson has offered to get involved in this project, so why not join him. Any members wishing to assist in this project should please contact Peter.

Crickets, Crickets and more Crickets! Yes, it is a big problem and concern for all of us. Once Peter has completed the fertilizer and mineral treatments on the greens, he will start spraying for the crickets. Thanks to Patrick and Jackie Robson for supplying the spray treatment. We will need to apply this treatment at least twice over a 14-day period, which hopefully will do the trick. Should concerned members wish to help eradicate the plague of crickets on the golf course, we would welcome your help. All it takes is a mixture of soapy water, which gets poured down the many holes. The mix comprises about 50 grams soap powder per 2 litres of water. Please contact Peter should you wish to tackle an area on the golf course, as he needs to manage this process.

Drainage on the left hand side of green number 12 has been completed. We have cordoned off the entire area between the pathway and 12<sup>th</sup> green so that we can re-establish it. Some sprinklers in this area will shortly be moved, so that we can irrigate the area more effectively.

The swale along the left hand side of hole 13 has been marked with GUR signs whilst we wait for this area to self-rehabilitate. Please apply the free drop rule accordingly.

Work on the men's 14<sup>th</sup> Tee Box will commence as soon as Alan Urmson has a TLB available. Our apologies for this unsightly area but a shortage of rain and instant lawn last year held up this project.

With much improved greens, the focus is now on bunker drainage and bunker sand quality. We would have loved to tackle this project right now, but with no funds available, we have our hands tied to some extent. We are however not disheartened by this, as we plan to start fund raising events in order to get this project off the ground. We plan to build a Trommel Sand Sifting Machine so that we can sift the current bunker sand to an acceptable sand grading specification, i.e. removing all sand particles larger than 2,0mm and smaller than 0,25mm. Thereafter, as funds become available, we will construct drainage systems for selected problematic bunkers and move from there onwards. If you are interested in this project, please contact Dalton or John Robson.

Once again we can only apologize for the lack of service from our local municipality and the unacceptable discharge of sewage onto the golf course and into our rivers. It appears that the larger sewage pumps installed at the 10<sup>th</sup> will be in operation in the next few weeks. More trenching across the golf course and along Pebble Beach Close will commence this week in order to install a higher capacity cable for the new larger pumps. Once again, GREAT PLANNING, guys!

Before closing off, your Greens and Golf Committees are appealing to all golfers, to proactively protect and preserve our golf course in every possible way. For those using golf carts, please do your utmost to apply the scatter rule when exiting the cart paths. In dry conditions, continuous traffic along the same route will compact the soil and kill off the grass. We are trying to rehabilitate all badly worn areas around the greens, tee boxes and certain areas of the rough. So, please stay as far away from the greens as possible and do not drive onto the tee boxes!

Let us all use a bit of common sense when behind that steering wheel! Thank You!

Yours in Sport,

Tommy Rogers