

Chester Golf Club

Green Committee Report – Annual General Meeting August 31, 2022

Committee Members: BJ Dainard, Allison Chandler, Darrin Lantz, Blake Chandler, Alex Egan, Matt Blackburn, Dan Fraser, Michael Spencer, Dave Hilchey, David Harvey - chair

General - The golf course opened on April 28th and I'm sure you will agree, the golf course has never looked better. This was due to the hard work our new superintendent, Matt Blackburn, and his team. Please feel free to express your appreciation to Matt or his team members, they love to hear how you are enjoying the course. Below is an itemized list of both completed and current issues that the maintenance team have been working on this season:

Irrigation - Extensive repairs have been completed to the irrigation system and we are pleased to announce that all sprinkler heads are operational. Chris Danby has continued to fine tune the irrigation system and it is working well. To optimize water usage, the team is fine tuning run times on stations to put the right amount of water on all areas of the golf course.

Pond - As a result of a hot and dry summer, the pond water level is significantly down. We are therefore being more cautious with water use on the fairways and rough. The pond continues to leak along #9 fairway as well as along the south side near hole #8 particularly when it is full. This issue must be repaired and we are working with the Long Range Planning Committee to determine a strategy for financing and scheduling the repair.

Turf Health – The maintenance team is focused on agronomy practices including mini solid tining greens (pencil sized solid tines), verticutting and brushing greens. The solid tining will let the root zone breath, letting fresh oxygen in and any toxic gases that have built up out. The verticutting and brushing will remove any grain building up in the grass and stand it up for a better cut. Of note, Rick Vassallo, our mechanic built a set of mower brushes for this purpose.

Trees - The maintenance team has spent considerable time cleaning up fallen trees and debris in the spring as well as completing much needed trimming. When trimming, the following criteria are considered: improving site lines, playability, turf growth and safety for both golfers and the maintenance team.

Geese - The use of the “Bird Banger” in the spring was successful in scaring the geese away from the golf course and thus eliminating our geese feces problem. The geese have now returned as expected however the team is optimistic we can have continued to have success using the “Bird Banger”.

Tees - The new forward tee box on hole #3 was opened for play in July. We are currently looking at formulating a plan to repair some of the other tee boxes as well as building additional ones as per our architects' (Les Furber) guidance.

Cart Paths - Crusher dust has now been applied to the majority of the cart paths and is performing well under use.

If you have any further questions or comments on this report, feel free to email me at davidharvey902@gmail.com.