



From the Superintendents desk:

After a very cold and wet winter, I hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful days we are experiencing now. I know the golf course is glad to see the warm and sunny conditions.

Over the past two years you have seen a few different construction phases on the golf course taking place for various improvements. Hole # 17 green was reconstructed, sodding of several tees were completed, trees have either been removed or pruned to add more sunlight, upgrades have been made to the irrigation system and cart path replacement is currently underway. We are now planning for our next phase.

Over the next two months, construction will begin on two of the greens complexes. The bunker in front of the green on hole # 5 will be removed in order for the size of the green to almost be doubled. The current putting surface will be re-contoured and will include a new front level where the old bunker was located. Your approach to the green on hole # 14 will see an entirely different look. A new complex will be constructed to the left of where the current green is now. This complex will bring the stream that crosses the fairway into play and more importantly, it will allow full sunlight on the green for 7 to 10 hours a day. The distance of the hole may change some but by only 10 yards, at the most.

The most exciting change that you will notice to the new greens will be the grass that will be used. The turf that is on all the greens now is tiffdwarf bermudagrass. In its time, this turf was proven to be a popular putting surface for bermudagrass greens. As time has evolved, so has turfgrass used for golf course greens. Ultradwarfs have become the turf of choice. We have chosen to go with tifeagle ultradwarf. This variety provides a smooth, fast surface and will not have to be overseeded in the winter months. Over the past 10 to 15 years this variety has been used by several courses throughout the midlands area and has given quality results. Some of the other courses that you will find tifeagle on are: Trump National, TPC Scottsdale, Doral Country Club, Long Cove, Kiawah Island and Harbor Town Golf Links.

We have been doing this work in phases in an effort to keep both cost and interruption of play to a minimum. Work on the greens complexes will mean that hole # 5 will have to play to a temporary green until the new grass is grown in, while hole # 14 will remain open until its new green is finished growing in. Throughout the time that the club has been open, these two greens have given us the most trouble in growing grass. With the changes that are planned, we anticipate major improvement in these areas.

Along with holes # 5 and # 14, there are plans to convert the remaining greens to the new tifeagle ultradwarf and several tees will be enlarged and new sod will be installed. The time table for the complete conversion and other projects has not been set currently. As soon as these dates are in place, we will update you.

I would again like to thank you for your patience and understanding with the work that is being done and I know that you will really enjoy the finished product. We have been blessed with a beautiful piece of property here in downtown Lexington and by making small changes; we are working to insure that it will always be that way.

Sincerely,

Chad Berry

Golden Hills Golf & C. C.

Superintendent, GCSAA