



December 2014
(UPDATED: February 1, 2015)

From the Superintendents desk:

2015 is right around the corner and I wanted to share some thoughts and plans for the New Year with each of you. As an update, the new greens on holes No.5 and No.14 continue to perform as expected and I believe you will be very pleased with them after next year's spring transition. I have reported to you previously that there are plans to make more changes to the golf course and they will take place over the next 8 to 9 months.

At the end of May 2015, we will start work on renovating the remainder of the old greens. They will be converted to Tifeagle bermudagrass just like the two that were done this year. This process will take six to eight weeks depending on the weather and growth of the new sprigs. As previously stated, the Tifdwarf greens we have now have mutated or changed form. This is common for Tifdwarf greens that are over 20 years old. The Tifeagle bermudagrass has not shown to have these types of characteristics and will provide a much better putting surface for a longer period of time. If you would like to research Tifeagle more in your spare time, please visit www.tifeagle.com.

Some of you may ask why this should be done in the summer months when we all enjoy playing golf on the longest days of the year. Well, it is also the best time of the year for growth of bermudagrass. The long hot days give us the most sunlight and the highest soil temperatures of the season. With this in mind, it will allow us the quickest time frame to get you back on the course.

We will also be rebuilding the tee boxes on No.7 and No.13 while the greens are growing in. The plan is to enlarge the tee areas and remove a few more trees to give more sunlight for better growth.

We completed a substantial amount of cart path repair work this spring and there are plans to repair more paths during the time that the new greens are growing in.

As you can see, the summer of 2015 will be very busy for the golf course. These are all positive moves that we feel are much needed. Over the past 26 years, we have tried to work on projects around the course by doing small areas at a time; thus allowing you to continue to play while work was on going.* The improvements planned for next year are much larger and will mean you will not be able to play your course during the projected time frame of June – August 2015. (*see updated information regarding plans to remain open on page 2) We have talked to other clubs in our region and will be able to have you play their course during any down time for a reciprocal fee. Our golf staff will continue to oversee the golf shop and be available to assist you during this time. A list of courses and their reciprocal fees will be provided to you once all the agreements have been finalized. Look for more information on this and other arrangements that are being made to assist you and the play of our dogfight, MGA, SMGA and LGA at the first of next year.

Your support of improvements, such as planned, is vital in allowing us the opportunity to continue to provide you with one of the best courses in the midlands. Everyone experiences some pain when an effort for improvement is the job at hand. However, I am confident that you will understand what a much better product we will all have after this work is complete.

There is one other project I want to update each of you on as well. Before even opening for play in 1988, Golden Hills has fought a sewer line project that the town of Lexington has wanted to put through the golf course in order to send sewer to West Columbia. We were served with condemnation pleadings in August of 2008 where the Town was

condemning a sewer line easement through the golf course. This year that battle came to an end. We had to either settle with them or face going to court over the condemnation. As part of the settlement, we have worked with them on a route through the golf course that will cause the least amount of disturbance. This is a major undertaking for the town and Golden Hills. Nevertheless, with the plan that is now in place, we believe the golf course will be allowed to remain open for business during construction. The town's plan calls for construction to begin in January 2015 and its completion to be within six months.

After the work is complete, you should not know that the sewer line is there. Everything will be underground and all manholes will be set at ground level. With all that we do at the club, we try to find a positive side. This work isn't any different. Although the construction will be disturbing at times, once complete it will be an asset to the town.

Again we are so grateful for each of you and what you mean to Golden Hills. 2015 will bring changes for the course but by next August you will experience a much improved club and playing experience. Thanks in advance for your understanding and we look forward to continuing to serve you for the next 26 years.

Happy Holidays,

Chad Berry

Golden Hills Golf & C. C.
Superintendent, GCSAA

***** **UPDATED PLANS TO REMAIN OPEN** *****

February 2015

The Link



You Spoke, We've Listened

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from you to keep the course open during our greens renovation project, we've reconsidered our original plans. In order to allow you to play *your* course throughout the summer, we will set up temporary greens on holes being renovated and modify yardages and par respectively. Reciprocal arrangements will still be available for use at local clubs during the renovation period as well. We want to make the work being done as seamless as possible for you. This is going to be a great year for the club, as your playing experience will be greatly enhanced by the improvements being made and your overall enjoyment of Golden Hills will follow accordingly.