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President Message Larry Tokarchuk: February 2009

December and January will likely go down as the two worst months for golf at Ledgeview. In speaking with a number of people, they cannot recall the last time when the course was closed for such an extended period of time. Hopefully we will see improvement in the weather in February. In spite of the weather the board and management at the club has continued to work on the budget for 2009. Additionally the 2008 audit is underway and we anticipate early completion. We are targeting the Annual Meeting for the early part of March. We will be firming up the dates shortly and will send out information to the members as soon as it is available.

In the past several President's Messages I have encouraged members to step forward and volunteer to run for the board. There will be 4 of the 7 board position terms expiring this year and we expect one additional vacancy leaving five positions to be filled for 2009. Three members have stepped forward and volunteered to run and we anticipate that two of the current board members will seek a second term. Last year vacancies were filled by acclamation. The strength of an organization depends on the willingness of members to step up to the plate. Although acclamation works out it is still healthy for an organization to have a contested election and debate to ensure that those elected are the best that the club can put forth and represent the membership in the best possible way.

To create this healthy debate, the board encourages members to **step forward and let their name stand for election in 2009**. If you are interested in participating and helping out we encourage you to contact the office and let us know. We will then contact you to discuss the exciting challenges of being on the Ledgeview Golf and Country Club. We would like to see two or three more members running for the board.

Enjoy Ledgeview

Club Captains Report by Tom Hall

- 1) Enjoyed an invite to dinner at the Keg with all the Pro Shop Staff in attendance.
- 2) SNAG Golf update. Ran a photograph with Fraser Middle School students in the Abbotsford News to introduce the program and highlight Ledgeview Men's Night purchase. Presented SNAG to the Ladies Christmas Luncheon group. Well received.
- 3) BC High School Golf Tournament is cancelled at Ledgeview. They decided to run the whole event at Chilliwack and Royalwood.
- 4) I am bringing Kent Gilchrist from the Vancouver Province group out to have lunch with Jason Smith, Bill Lumby, Chad Burns, Ed Tougas and Ray Stewart. Kent will be doing a feature article in the Spring Golf Supplement. Proposed title is "Why does Ledgeview produce Champions?" He will do a follow up in the PNGA magazine, which comes out later in the golf season.
- 5) I am bringing up John Morrow who was the Media Resources Director with SD 34 to look at the Trophy Case and advise on how we could improve it. We have several photographs to add to the collection and some recent successes to highlight.

Men's Night Format to Change:

The first **Men's Night** will be on **Wednesday April 8th** and as in years past will be a **1:00 p.m. shotgun** start. This has been one of the best-attended nights of all the sessions.

To address some problems we have had about booking the best times for the regular Men's Nights, we are now moving to a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start for all Men's Nights. To accommodate those who cannot play a full 18 holes, a gap will be left so that they may play 9 holes by teeing off at 3:30 p.m. The price for the regular games will be \$16.00, which consists of deuce and skins pots, 18 hole net and gross, and 9 hole net and gross.

Dinner will be \$14.00 and will consist of various themed buffets throughout the season. We will *not be able to offer menu service* for those who chose *not to partake* in the buffet.

It is our hope that this format will allow us to increase our numbers, speed up the meal and awards portion of the evening and foster more camaraderie.

The committee welcomes your reaction and input to these changes. Please forward your views or suggestions to Jack Corbett at jackandlois@shaw.ca.

Ledgeview Golf Course Frost Delay Guidelines

The golf course and all turf areas will be CLOSED during frost delays.

Please do not walk across or stand in frosted turf areas NO MATTER WHAT!

The turf maintenance staff will determine and constantly monitor the temperature and conditions so that the golf course can be opened as soon as possible. Temperature, cloud cover, wind, shade and other factors play a major role in when frosty conditions will break. Not all frosts are the same. Each comes with differing circumstances. For instance, if the frost breaks and everything looks clear, the green and tee surfaces could still be frozen or have a substantial frozen layer 1-4 inches below the surface. This is a critical type of frozen condition that happens occasionally throughout the winter months and golfers will not be allowed out on the course until it is determined safe by turf maintenance staff. The following information explains other frost delay issues and problems:

How can a footprint be a killer?

When it's a footprint made on a putting surface that's covered with frost.

It is hard to believe that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage. However, the proof will be there in a few days as the turf grass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That is why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. It is also, why golfers who appreciate a quality-putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

Why does frost cause problems? Greens are fragile. The putting surface, or green, is an *extremely* fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained at 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This "stress" makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold – and **frost.**

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It is not much different than cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, *you* cannot put it back together.

The Proof is in the Prints. Although you will not see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge in 48 – 72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. In addition, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive. Thanks for your patience and understanding. The damage is not just unsightly -- putting quality will also be reduced until repairs are made. Those repairs are expensive and in some cases may take the green out of play. A short delay while the frost melts can preserve the quality of greens, prevent needless repairs and may even save you a few strokes in your next round, as well as keep the greens in excellent year-round condition.

Green and Grounds Committee

Clubhouse/Restaurant:

Spring is almost here and with that comes people returning from the far reaches of the province / country / city for the new season. Here are some updates that you should be aware of.

- Hours for the clubhouse for the month of February and up to mid March are Monday – Friday 11am to 5pm Saturday, Sunday & Holiday's 9am to 5pm.
- You have until March 31 to use up the balance on your food and beverage cards. We will be notifying those who have outstanding balances by mail.**
- Invoices for the 2009 golf season will be sent out shortly. If you have a change in your membership, type or you have a change in e-mail or mailing address please let the office know as soon as possible.
- The clubhouse is offering every member a 10% discount off the clubhouse menu beginning April 1.
- The concession will be open from April 1st with an expanded food selection
- As of today the pro shop will be offering coffee / tea , muffins, cookies etc. for sale as soon as the pro shop opens in the morning before the clubhouse opens for business
- The men's locker room has a new color and coat of paint
- We have built a new recycling shed beside the side concession door in order to keep us more eco-friendly.

We hope to see you very soon.

Kevin Poland
Ledgerview Golf & Country Club – Operations Manager

Hello all by Jason Smith

This January was not a good one for golf with only one playing day all month. Hopefully the weather will improve so we can get out and golf!

This year we have looked into a new tee time booking system. This system will be more efficient letting the members book tee times online (with the option of still phoning in) and switching to a lottery system on the weekends, whereby the system chooses the times as close as possible to your requests and accumulates points. We will know more information in the coming weeks and will let you know as the information comes.

This year to get the lockers sorted out once and for all we will be cutting off all locks as of April 15th so we can assign new lockers and numbers to the members. If you do not want your locks cut, then you **MUST** please come and tell me your locker number. So remember to pay for a locker when you pay your dues! We will also be moving a few full-length lockers into the Ladies locker room.

Speeding up Slow Play

A message from your Professional

You are an experienced golfer and you know the “Rules and Etiquette” of the game. But perhaps you have developed some habits that you are not aware of? A review may be in order. Following are some basics that should become second nature.

As you know, if you are holding up the golfers behind you, you are also holding up the whole course. Always be aware of keeping up with the golfers in front of you!

At the Tee Box

- ❖ Play ‘ready golf’ at the tee – whoever is ready tees off, don’t create a delay in deciding who will tee off next.
- ❖ Let the shorter hitters hit first off the tee, if the golfers ahead are too close for the longer hitters to proceed.
- ❖ Limit your practice swings, as they are very time-consuming.

On the Fairway

- ❖ Be in position and ready when it is your turn to hit – decide which club you will use while you are walking to your ball.
- ❖ Pull your clubs right up beside your ball, you don’t want to backtrack at all to return to your clubs after hitting your ball.
- ❖ Drive your cart close to your ball (unless the course has a restriction to drive only on the cart path)
- ❖ Take several clubs to your ball if you are not sure which one to use (When you must keep your cart on the cart path)
- ❖ Don’t waste time looking for lost balls.
- ❖ Let players behind you play through if you are causing a delay.

When putting

- ❖ Walk to your ball on the green and line up right away, so you will be ready to putt when it is your turn.
- ❖ Ensure that someone is putting at all time.
- ❖ Leave the green and the green area immediately after the flag is replaced in the hole – golfers behind you will not be able to proceed until you have left the area.
- ❖ Don’t count or write down your score until you arrive at the next tee box. Discussion should take place after you leave the green area.

Ask your club professional for a rules book or a clarification of any rule.

General Etiquette;

- ❖ Quiet must be maintained when someone is hitting
- ❖ For safety' sake, always stand behind a person who is hitting
- ❖ Generally, the player farthest away from the hole hits next
- ❖ Ensure that the golfers in front of you are out of your range before hitting
- ❖ Replace and press down any turf which you displace when hitting and utilize seed and sand bottles whenever possible
- ❖ Rake sand traps after use
- ❖ Pull your clubs (or drive cart) to the cart path on the side when approaching the green. Do not pull carts between greens and greenside traps.
- ❖ When on the green do not step on the line of play between any ball and the hole
- ❖ Stand still and do not distract other players while they are putting
- ❖ Score honestly and count your penalty strokes
- ❖ Observe the better players and learn from them

Remember, keeping up the pace of play is an essential element of good golf.

Ledgeview Ladies' Association

It has been a quiet time since the Fall Meeting. Many of the ladies have packed their clubs and followed the 'birdies' to warmer places. Those of us that stayed behind had a wonderful Christmas Lunch Party. Thank you so much to Social Chair Andrea Hall and her team for arranging such a lovely day. Everything was beautiful from the décor, to the turkey dinner, to the staff. It seemed everyone really went all out. Because we did not have to have, a meeting this year there was a bit of entertainment.

First off, Tom Hall demonstrated the new SNAG golf program for beginning golfers. One young lady who had just finished a lesson with Jason could not take her eyes off it...mind you some of the ladies like the Velcro target balls. It's really something to check out and we wish the junior development team all the best in promoting this project.

Following lunch we were led in song by Mary Sweeney accompanied by Ellen Davis on guitar (when was the last time you did that?) and then we divided into groups with each group required to think of new words to the Twelve Days of Christmas. As each group's line came up, they had to stand and sing their new words. Prize goes to Andrea Hall for being the loudest and to group eleven for the most original. After having the official Party Portrait taken, we sang the traditional We Wish You a Merry Christmas to close the lunch.

On a sadder note, we said a final farewell to Val Nesbitt. She passed away just before Christmas. We will all miss her wonderful smile and friendly greeting every Tuesday morning.

A quick note for your calendar – The Spring Meeting will be April 4th at 9:00am with Tuesday play beginning April 7th 8:30am.

Here's hoping the sun turns warm!

Leslie Howard Ladies' Association Captain

From Around the Course



Name the turtle and Duck contest

If you are interested in being a member of the selection committee to pick the name for the turtle and duck let me know. You can reach me at the e/mail address found at the bottom of the page.

Green and Grounds Committee Report

- 1) The work on the eleventh tee is completed on budget and looks to have seeded quite well.
- 2) The work on the #2 bunker and drainage sump, right and short of the green has been completed on budget.
We will probably need to establish a Drop Area for balls, which end up on the bark mulched work path adjacent to the wall of the #3 tee box. The nearest point of relief no closer to the hole for a ball in this position would be up on the tee box. Since we don't want people to drop and hit from the tee box surface establishing a drop area would alleviate the problem.
The area within the loop of the blacktop cart path would probably be a good area to choose. We will look at the problem.
- 3) The committee has decided to establish a Hole Inventory. We will walk down each hole noting possible improvements that could be made. These will be categorized and an order established for priority of completion. A record will be kept and updated on a regular basis.

Thank you, to all who have provided articles for this newsletter. If you have an article, a comment, a suggestion you wish to share with your fellow members send it to me and I will include it in the section Around the Course in the upcoming newsletter. s_lamont@telus.n