

Golf Club Q&A – April 2010

Q. What's the setup for the May 8 Men's Section tournament--tees, ground rules?

Currently the plan is to play the 3-stone "competitive" tees as we did in April, but this month, barring a lot of rainfall over the next week or so, we'll play 'em down--at least in the closely mown areas. Some concessions re: playing out of the Hernia Grass (un-mown areas) will still be in order until these areas are properly shorn and the grass begins to thin and dry. *Until such time, we'll continue treating these areas as "water hazards" and allow players the option of playing the ball as it lies or dropping out of the tall stuff, no nearer to the hole, in accordance with Rule 26. One stroke penalty, rather than the two stroke penalty for lost ball.*

As for tee selection, as the course gets dryer and faster most of us mid- to high handicappers should be less concerned about playing the "Competitive" tees than we were earlier. Still a grunt for some, but as we used to say, "If we're going to pay these prices we might as well play the whole course."

Let us know how you stand on these issues, please!

Our main concern these days is working with the powers that be to cut back the unshorn "naturalized" areas where extremely high, dense grass is slowing play, ballooning scores, and costing golfers a lot of Pro-Vs. Course Supervisor John Rader's weed whackers are making progress, despite the recent rains and the lushness of the greenery. When the rainy season ends, the situation should improve dramatically.

Green conditions, post-aeration, have also been a problem, but a second sanding of aerated turf and recent rains have helped.

Comments welcome. Hope to see you out there on May 8--or sooner.

Q. Any news regarding the Club's financial and legal affairs since your March letter?

Club CEO Jack Rose reports: "Subject to the bankruptcy court's approval we have negotiated a loan of approximately \$1.5 million--mainly to cover clean-up and facelift improvements up to the clubhouse, redesign and reconstruction of several greens, plus taxes, and legal fees. We're expecting the bankruptcy court to rule on our petition and our plan of reorganization within the next sixty to ninety days. Nara Bank, our primary secured creditor, has proposed to forego litigation in favor of mediation as a means of resolving our dispute. We are in agreement, subject to finding a suitable mediator. Successful mediation would accelerate the timetable and reduce the costs we projected last January for emerging from bankruptcy. So the outlook is now upbeat, compared to three months ago. I'm

also happy to report that the Club's revenues since the reorganization are up quite substantially, and we are beginning to show a profit from operations for the first time in two years. (Thank you, Gappers!). Assuming we can sustain this favorable trend through the prime spring, summer and fall golfing seasons, we expect to be in a position, from mid-summer on, to fund essential clubhouse and course improvements from operating profits, without the need to submit every proposed expenditure for court approval and every cash requirement to our banker. I can't tell you how good that feels!"