

Cottonwood / Palo Verde Golf

Golf Committee

Items of Interest

Posted on Cottonwood Palo Verde website under GOLF

(Cottonwoodpaloverde.com)

September 2013

Golf Committee Goals for 2013

- 1) Create better communications between the Golfing Community and the Golf Committee. Utilize the Cottonwood Palo Verde home page under *recreation*, install the Golf Committee Charter and list the committee members. The committee members should solicit ideas and suggested improvements from the golfing community and bring suggestions back to the committee for discussion. The monthly meeting (excluding July - August) is open to the golfing community. Committee decision of a suggestion brought by a committee member will be communicated by the committee member to the golfer initiating the suggestion.
- 2) Encourage more interfacing of the Gender Clubs between both course Golf Pro's as well as the Golf Course Maintenance Manager. Suggest that Golf Pro's play at least once each week with different members of the Golfing Community and invite the Golf Course Maintenance Manager to speak at monthly Club meetings discussing course management and Q & A. The respective Club President will control member conduct.
- 3) Gather ideas from the Golfing Community to possibly incorporate into the "Five Year Plan". Submit suggestions by March 15 to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.

Fairways

In addition to continuing to create better playing surfaces by aerating and top dressing all fairways, heavy work this late spring & summer of 2013 will be on fairways of #12 & #17. To review for those not familiar or new to C/PV, golf turf conditions for much of Cottonwood was poor when taken over by the community in 1993. Poor and compacted soil (lots of clay) was used when constructing CW. The result was and is poor drainage and root growth necessary to the type grasses for golf and compounded by some of the poorest water quality that contain huge amounts of sodium. During warm dry season 1.5 to 2 million gallons of water are applied to 200 acres of turf. When irrigating at this rate, some 10 to 12 **tons** of total salts are applied per day. During this summer's fairway renovation, approximately 800 tons of sand was applied of which 500 tons were used on fairways #12 and #17. Additional fairway sanding will continue on CW back nine and #1,3, 6, 7 fairways of PV. Topdressing will continue over the next couple of years. Greens at both courses will be aggressively aerified late spring, late summer and topdressed.

Add six months of golf cart traffic from eight shotgun starts each week and the challenge is on for Bill Todd, Director of Golf Maintenance, and his staff. Frankly, Bill has done amazing work.

Hole #12: was reduced to a Par3 from June 4 through much of July while 15,000 sq ft of soil is removed, new drainage and a 6 inch base of sand were added, and turf sod was laid. Impact of carts will be closely monitored by Bill Todd for remainder of the year.

Hole #17: was played with a temporary green beginning July 1. Sod was removed, new drainage installed, a 6 inch sand base and turf sod was laid to the green approach. Hole was reopened for full length play in mid- August without cart traffic on the new approach.

Hole #14: The landing area soil of about 8000 sq ft, seeded last year, was removed. Bill admitted that the reseeding done last year as a quick fix did not "take" as planned. A new sand base and turf sod as on #12 & #17 was completed. Still, there is some "patching" that will be done through overseeding.

The new turf on the fairways above will only be lightly overseeded during the upcoming season so as to allow the new turf grass roots to become established and not compete with the overseed.

Regrassing Cottonwood Greens

Many of Cottonwood greens experience poor playing conditions at times throughout the year. Like the fairways, playing conditions revolve around very poor water quality over which the community has no control as well as the soil condition with which the course was constructed. Playing conditions have immensely improved after the community took over the course and the course has had excellent care by the current maintenance staff making it one of the premier facilities of the area. Certain investment and foresight are required to keep greens (and fairways) in good playing condition.

Consideration is under review to replace Cottonwood greens. This is a very complex decision and includes varieties of grass, soil type, drainage, amount of play, etc.

During the March 2013 golf committee meeting, a presentation was made to the committee by the local USGA Agronomist and a local well known turf company. "Regrassing" is NOT a cosmetic approach rather it is a 20 year (and more) long term approach for the course and community. Conditions, in detail of the Cottonwood greens were reviewed but did not include lab analysis of a few soil samples. Without lab analysis, some core samples taken showed "pleasant surprise" of soil quality which helps to indicate that major soil rework (\$\$\$) is not required. At the same time, it is not inexpensive and, again, a long term solution is the goal. More details are included on the March 7 committee minutes.

Why "regrass"? Over the past few years, agronomy research has developed new grasses for various climate, weather, soil and playing conditions. What works at one course may not be the best for another course, even one in the same local area.. Cottonwood greens contain different grasses as well as contamination of undesired grass. And, just as there are different grasses, there are different methods to accomplish the task. Basic to the process, not including architectural change and lab analysis, is to kill existing grass, strip the top section of turf, add irrigation and sand, sow or lay sod to replace with the hybrid chosen. The process would take two years. Nine greens would be completed one year and the remaining nine in the following year. The process for each nine would begin in June and reopen after fall overseeding. Arrangement of play during the time of "downtime" would be made available with Palo Verde. Other course improvements (e.g., tee box leveling, fairway sanding, etc) would be done on each "nine" during the renovation.

To get an idea of one method, committee members experienced this past March playing condition of "regrassing" used at Saddlebrooke near Tucson during the winter - summer transition period. Other courses in progress in our vicinity will be visited and watched for results.

The estimated expense has been submitted into the five year plan though no firm decision or dates has been made to complete or when the process would begin.

Leveling of Driving Range

Submitted to the Facilities & Grounds Committee is a request for and an estimate of work to level the driving range in the "five year plan". The cost is estimated of \$22,000 - \$25,000. The existing sod of the driving range will be stripped and dumped, the range will be sand filled, laser leveled, "in-house" irrigation work, including pipe, plumbing and wiring to be completed by Maint Staff of Bill Todd. Sod is estimated to be \$11,000 @ 46 cents /sq'. Services is estimated at \$7,700 and parts required at about \$4000. Work could be completed as early as summer of 2014.

Leveling Tees

Leveling of tees will be accomplished "in-house" as time permits.

New Chipping Greens

A new chipping green for Palo Verde has been deferred.

A study to fit a chipping green for Cottonwood between #1 and #9 has been deferred.

Recent Changes to CW Course

Bunkers on #1, #8, #9 have had greenside "lips" modified (cut) to original course design.

Trees beside #12 green were removed due to roots invading the green. Tree on backside of #16 green removed to provide additional size of green.

Periodically, items will be updated with most recent information and/or new items.

In order to be a conduit of information, questions and concerns are encouraged to the committee.