

## **Cottonwood/Palo Verde Golf Committee Minutes May 3, 2012**

Members attending were: Ed Frees, Chairman, Richard Hair, Nancy Howell, Judy Onken, Paul Brauer, Dick Johnson Jack Hill, Liz Hall (for Pat Andersen and Gwen Curtis. Dave Florence was absent

Board Liaison - Don Hicks  
General Manager – Steve Nolan was absent

Guests – Peggy and Gary Hoff

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.  
A motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting was made by Dick Johnson and seconded by Paul Brauer. They were unanimously approved..

### **BILL TODD – Director of Golf Course Maintenance**

The USGA Southwest Region Agronomist was here on April 11, 2012. They spent 5 hours at Cottonwood taking meter readings, salt readings, soil probes, etc., and then played golf after completing his paid visit to check our greens and fairways. He covers Arizona, Nevada, Southern and Central California and New Mexico. He prepared an 11 page report for Bill Todd which Steve Nolin and Don Hicks have copies of. A revised copy of the report has been received by Bill Todd. The bottom line is the soil structure and sodium levels in the water at Cottonwood are ridiculous. For the greens the EC readings (salt readings) are all over the charts. We have poor drainage on Cottonwood greens. We made the mistake of putting poa tribialis as an over seeding mix with the rye grass, thought we could control it and have a better putting surface, but we got hit with rapid blight after Christmas when it warmed up. Over all, the greens are okay. We've done spot aerification where we did get thin with poa tribialis.

Bill calls Palo Verde easy acres, it was built well and drains well.

They are going to drill and aerify the greens the middle of June, top dress heavily, and hopes to do another aerification in August, if he can keep the course closed for a couple of days He wants to do this twice..

Bill would like to expand the greens, as they have shrunk through the years with cutting. Wherever the sprinklers are is supposed to be the end of the green. He needs to go out and probe the as they have shrunk three or four feet. Greens look pretty good.

Clean up was tough this year. We had this compaction ring. We are a month early on transition, have had some hot weather and have a lot of bermuda grass.

We are top dressing fairways on Cottonwood. The soil that was brought in in 2001, is the worst of the worst, and we will have to live with it. He is happy with 11 and 12 and 14 will not be touched for another month. The 10 fairway is tough and for the past 20 years hasn't had grass on the right side. Brian, the agronomist, said to move the fairway to the left about 20 feet. We have done that by moving the fairway over towards the cart path. The grass from the fairway to the cart path is in good shape. We are

doing a lot of with the deep tine with the Wedimann and doing flushing to get rid of the salts. The sodium is the main problem, but the water is the worst of the worst in the southeast valley in this report. It is the aquifer that we have in well 32. Across the street they have effluent water and it is about 1/3 the sodium content that we have. Bear Creek and Ironwood have City of Chandler effluent water, so they have good water. Bottom line is, it is all about water and flushing. It will take approximately 3 years to get our fairways in shape.

On some of the fairways on the Cottonwood back nine, we have about 2" of sand and we need to get to about 5". We have \$20,000 approved, and we have started lightly top dressing.

16 and 17 greens have a lot of shade and that causes a lot of problems. It will take approximately 3 years to get our fairways in shape.

They will be closing Cottonwood for 3 days in June starting on Father's Day to aerify the greens.

Another item will be obtaining board approval for additional cart path replacement.

The irrigation for the driving range tee box will be done next summer. They will need some material to build up the front right end. It will need to be stripped, lazared and sodded. He will have to look into costs for this project and get some numbers.

### **DESMOND DAKIN – Head Pro at Cottonwood CMGA**

There were four men's tournaments in April. They also had their appreciation dinner in April that went very well.

### **Upcoming Events**

There are no major events coming up in May. The CMGA and the CLGA will be playing together on May 10 and 12.

### **CLGA**

The Ladies Cottonwood/Ironwood Crossover Tournament on April 19 and 26 was well organized and went well.

### **Upcoming Events**

Same as above.

### **CW9ers**

May is the last month of their season.

### **Sunday Couples**

The Sunday couples have been very quiet this month.

### **Demo Days**

The last Demo Day of the season will be on Monday, May 7 from 9:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M. with Taylor Made.

## **Beverage, Range and Rental Carts**

The service schedule for the carts will be the first Friday of each month. Tires have been changed where necessary on all carts.

In answer to a question raised at the last Golf Committee meeting, the revenue from the beverage carts from January through April showed a profit of \$3,000. The beverage carts provide a very necessary service for the golfers.

## **25 Play Card**

Play card members were asked if the 25 play card was not available, would they buy an annual membership. Most said they would not buy an annual membership.

## **GREG TOKASH – Head Pro at Palo Verde**

### **PVLGA**

The PVLGA had a wonderful Member/Guest Tournament on May 1 with 132 players.

## **Upcoming Events**

There will be regular play during the summer.

## **LADY 9'ERS**

They finished their season with a patio party for about 25 ladies.

## **Friday Couples**

Couples will be morning only during the summer.

## **PVMGA.**

A Home & Home with Sunbird was played on April 19 and 21.

The CottonVerde was played on April 28 with a 128 players participating.

## **Upcoming Events**

May 5 is the annual Fun Day Charity Event with all proceeds going to the Sheriff's Posse.

Match Play begins on May 19.

Greg presented a Cottonwood/Palo Verde rounds sheet for the month showing Palo Verde was down 234 rounds for April and Cottonwood was up 394 rounds for the same period.

Cottonwood received \$32,000 in green fees and was budgeted for \$38,000 which is down \$6,000. Palo Verde received \$13,150 and was budgeted for \$15,350, which is down \$2,200.

There was a great deal of discussion by the committee on what green fees are at other courses.

## ***UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

### ***Status of the Chelsea System***

Chelsea Systems server is being changed from here to Florida. They have received the contract and 16 page update of services from us, so we are on track to

change over on May 15. Home Owner Services will be sending all emails with Chelsea information beginning May 15.

Linking of groups is also an update that will be included in the Chelsea System updates. Linking will have no effect on groups that are not linking. The cost will remain the same.

### **New Business**

#### **Arrows on cart path between Cottonwood 16<sup>th</sup> green and 17<sup>th</sup> tee.**

The arrows will be removed.

A motion was made by Paul Brauer and seconded by Dick Johnson that the Golf Committee recommends that the back nine of Cottonwood be closed for two (2) weeks this summer at Bill Todd's discretion, for maintenance. Bill will provide a one week notice prior to the closing. The motion passed.

There were several suggestions by the committee to increase revenue for golf. One suggestion was to raise the cost of a bucket of range balls to \$2.00. Another suggestion was to offer a special rate to play gender days to Oakwood, Ironwood, and Sun Lakes residents. These are suggestions for Greg and Desmond to consider in the budgeting process.

### **Additional comments**

One of our guests stated that he appreciated listening to Bill Todd's report on the condition of the courses and what was being done to correct the problems.

A motion was made by Liz Hall and seconded by Nancy Howell that we request that the Facilities Grounds Committee check into the possibility of obtaining water from Chandler for our golf courses and common areas. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.  
The next meeting will be June 7, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Curtis  
Secretary

### **THERE IS ONE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BOARD.**

**It is recommended that the back nine of Cottonwood be closed for two (2) weeks this summer at Bill Todd's discretion, for maintenance. Bill will provide a one week notice prior to closing.**

### **THERE IS ONE RECOMMENDATION FOR FACILITIES AND GROUNDS.**

**It is recommended that the feasibility of obtaining effluent water from Chandler for our golf courses and common areas be looked into.**