

Hillcrest Newsletter

Business Office: 665-4522

Web: www.hillcrestyankton.com

Golf Shop: 665-4621

July 2019

From the President

With summer in full swing, I hope everyone is taking advantage of everything Hillcrest has to offer! Congratulations to the winning teams for The Invitational! The event was well attended and from what I could see everyone enjoyed themselves. A big THANK YOU to all the Hillcrest team for all their hard work to help make the event a success!

As we gear up for the Pro-Am, I would like to write about the changes to the course that will happen over the next few seasons.

A timeline showing what happens and when is below and will be posted in the clubhouse for the membership to view. Hopefully this helps answer most of your questions about this project.

Essentially, we will be killing and replanting new fairway grass.

This year we will be testing the amount of grass seed required to accomplish this task on just the Par 3 holes. This should have

minimal to no effect to the availability of the course as we go into the fall. We will start this project right after the Pro-Am to give us the time needed for the bent grass to take hold going into the fall. The next two seasons, we will do the same to the other holes (front one year, back one year).

This entire project will be completed fall of 2021. Again, weather permitting, there will be a very limited time frame where some holes will be closed off for play. Along with the fairways, several tee boxes will be adjusted/added as well to better accommodate future play. Wren and his crew will be busy with these projects. Scott also has started planning for those weeks of partial course availability to accommodate play. We are prepared and ready.

As a premier course in the region, changes like this enhance our position as a destination golf course. This project will also have cost savings after it is completed. The amount of chemicals needed to keep our current fairways weed and worm free is expensive. With the new bent variety, the fairways will be more resistant to winter kill, disease and will use less chemicals. Again, this season we will have no interruption to play and going forward it should be a minimal issue.

Also, some concerns have been raised about areas of rough that have been added. Some of these areas, specifically holes 8 and 17 have been added to prevent course damage due to the heavy rains we have had and also the pond renovation project on 8. These areas will be narrowed but will remain as rough areas going forward. Along with these additions, we have widened or added more fairway on holes 8, 13, 15 and 17. Also, you will notice around the greens, the grass has been shortened or expanded the already shortened grass on holes 2, 4-10, 14, 16 and coming this fall, hole 17. Lastly, more forward tee areas have been added on holes 6, 9, 10, 13 and 16. More forward tees and larger tee areas will be part of this fairway project as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any other board member.



Heath Larson, President

From the Course



Check out the updates and scheduled course closures for your course renovation and improvement project in this newsletter. Step 1 starts this month. Don't be afraid to ask me questions or question me about the plan.

We continue to make changes to the playing surfaces to maintain consistent playing surfaces which is one of our highest priorities. We try to maintain consistent playing surfaces by doing all sorts of things. Tree removal (I have written many times about trying to change environments to produce healthy turf), traffic control signs and rope, topdressing, overseeding, sodding, watering, drainage, aerification, and many other things. A common problem, complaint, and/or question this year is the rough on #17. I proposed this change last fall and implemented it last fall because there just wasn't enough

grass there to have even a remotely consistent playing surface because of the watershed -in the rough or on the dirt. Not to mention uncontrollable cart traffic driving through standing water and maintenance equipment making similar decisions detrimental to producing a consistent playing surface require some sort of protective action. We had a very similar problem on #8 almost a decade ago.



I am going to narrow the new rough area down before the Pro-Am so if you land short of the intended and expanded area in front of the right fairway bunker or choose to lay up short of the rough there is more room for error. I am weighing some options to make the fairway go through the rough on #8 even though that is not an intended landing area on that Par 4, but

subsurface drainage on this hole makes the probability of growing healthy turf in the area higher than the old surface drainage option. Like always this is not a "make the course harder" decision but more of a plant health and consistent playing surfaces decisions checked against if we are going to alter how the hole is supposed to be played. Hopefully this answers some of your questions about the why and if you have more questions please ask.

Hillcrest reseeding project Timeline (T1 Alpha)

2019

Now	→	Pro-Am (August 4 th , 2019)	18 Holes open
August 5 th , 2019 (Par 3's reseeded)	→	End of 2019 season	18 Holes open

2020

Beginning of 2020 season	→	August 2 nd , 2020 (Pro-Am)	18 Holes open
August 3 rd , 2020 (9 holes reseeded)	→	End of 2020 season	9 Holes open

2021

Beginning of 2021 season	→	May 15 th , 2021 (no later)	9 Holes open
May 15 th , 2021 (no later)	→	August 8 th , 2021 (Pro-Am)	18 Holes open
August 9 th , 2021 (9 holes reseeded)	→	End of 2021 season	9 Holes open

2022

Beginning of 2022 season	→	May 15 th , 2022 (no later)	9 Holes open
May 15 th , 2022	→		18 Holes open

The course renovations are ready to get under way in July so I will provide an update to the schedule. On July 29th I will kill the par 3s leaving about 10 yards in front of the greens to allow for uninterrupted play in 2019. After the conclusion of the Pro-Am on Sunday I will respray the par 3s and seed the next day. You don't need to wait but 24 hours to seed after a round up application.

The north chipping area and some target greens on the range will be included this summer too. This process will allow us to calibrate equipment, make adjustments to my growing plan, and illustrate the speed of the process for you.

The tee renovation portion of the project has many loose ends attached to it yet. Heritage Links currently is preparing a bid to redo about 3/4 of an acre of tees and that includes some adjustments to 4 and 15 tee. Proposals for more forward tees on 7 and 8 are included plus new tees at 2, 7, 9 and complete overhaul of the tee complex at 18. 18 has some size issues and directional issues and plenty of dirt to correct those things. Heritage Links is providing some options to fix 9 green during the renovation too. This work should take place either next year or the year after when one or the other 9s is closed. Tee positions and which tees are going to be affected are expected to change as we get further along in the process and the Board of Directors and Green Committee members will be involved in the final plan for renovation and make decisions based on all the information they have collected from numerous surveys.

I think the best way to see how this is going to positively impact your golf course and how long it takes to return the fairways to playable condition is to play golf this fall and watch the par 3 process. Reviewing the chart in this newsletter is a good way to identify months when only 9 holes will be open. If you have questions please call me, flag me down, or email me.

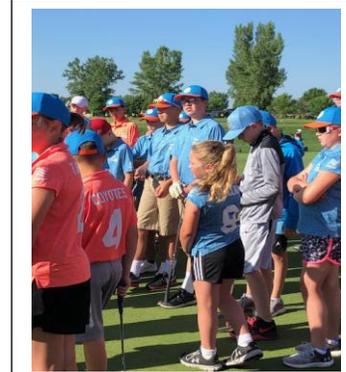
From the Golf Shop...



Scott Larson, Golf Pro
golfpro@hillcrestyankton.com
665-4621

Get signed up for the 46th Annual Hillcrest Pro/Am. Go to:
www.golfgenius.com/pages/5417985383436691541
for information.

Congratulations to Dave Ewald on making a hole in one during the SDGA State Hubby Wife Championship in Rapid City. Hole #11 on June 23rd!
Congratulations to Steve and Yavonne Slowey won the third flight in the senior division.
Congratulations to Dan and Patti Eisenbraun won the fourth flight in the senior division.



PGA Jr. League golfers ready to play a match at The Bluffs.

Million Dollar Shootout

This year the \$1,000,000 Shoot Out event will be held on Thursday, August 1st, at 7:30 p.m.! All amateur golfers who are playing in the Pro-Am will be entered into a drawing to be one of the 20 golfers selected to compete in the \$1,000,000 Shoot Out. The contestants will be drawn on Wednesday, July 31st, before the Team Calcutta. On Thursday at 7:30 p.m., the 20 contestants will each have one shot on Hole 18 from 135 yards out. Any player who puts the ball in the hole on their shot will automatically win \$1,000,000!

We want everyone to come out to cheer on the golfers and hopefully watch a historical night as someone, or maybe more than one, walks away with \$1,000,000!

If you are interested in being a VIP \$1,000,000 Shoot Out Sponsor, please contact Scott in the Hillcrest Pro Shop. Good luck golfers!



Congratulations to the Weiland's on winning the State Senior Hubby Wife Championship and the first flight in the senior division.



2019 Pee Wee golfers ready to play golf on their last night of instruction.



Congratulations to Kevin Becker and Duane Siverson on winning the 53rd Annual Member Guest Tournament.