

Hillcrest Newsletter

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May 2021

From the President

The best time of the year is upon us! We are inching closer to warmer weather and have most of the golf season to look forward to! This is the time of year where I usually set some pretty lofty golf goals such as practice more, take a lesson, keep the profanity to a minimum and most importantly remember to plug in the golf cart or turn off the headlights when I return home from golf (doing both is nearly impossible). I have set my aspirations extremely high again this spring and I can't wait to get started on another great season of golf!

One of my favorite things when playing a round with people who have been loyal members at Hillcrest over the years is hearing all the stories from years past. What a remarkable accomplishment for those original members who had the vision and dedication to see the Hillcrest project come to life. Below is a monumental picture of some of those individuals who played the first competitive round at Hillcrest on July 5, 1953. The group consisted of



Photo courtesy of Colleen Chase

Maynard Mogek, Laddie Cimpl, Milford Vanderhule and H.A. Shoemaker. Imagine how exciting it was for them to experience the dream of Hillcrest Golf and Country Club coming into completion for the first time! We experienced our own historical moment this fall when our members had the opportunity to play on the new and improved fairways – any guess on the first group to “officially” play on them? Jason Nelson and Justin Dietrich had the first tee time on October 8! Reflecting on times of the past reminds me how much progress has been made at Hillcrest over the years. It is apparent to me that the drive and commitment to making Hillcrest the best

Golf and Country Club continues to run strong. For the upcoming season, a new pool pergola has been built, another two Funbrellas have been ordered to add more shade to the pool, necessary updated equipment has been ordered to maintain the course, the bridge on 13 is repaired, Chef Kasey concocted another new menu, an exploratory Clubhouse Committee has been formed, and work has begun on an addition to our maintenance shop.

Some information regarding the addition to the shop - the recommended maintenance facility size for an 18-hole golf course is 18,000 square feet. At Hillcrest, we currently have a 4000-foot facility, and this addition will get us to less than half the recommended size. However, our staff feels this addition will be adequate and improve the logistics of everyday operations. In the past, at least 20 pieces of equipment were housed in the cart barn, which is not efficient for our grounds crew to do their jobs. Not to mention, the door heights of our current shop are too short for fertilizer deliveries, as well as our updated golf course equipment. The Board decided that now is the time to tackle these issues with the shop so that we can focus on the potential of addressing the clubhouse in the near future.

The staff at Hillcrest have been busy planning and gearing up for the season and all the events that come with it. I encourage you all to get out and utilize our club as much as possible as that makes the exciting, new improvements to our club possible! Looking forward to seeing you on the course!



Tracey Grotenhuis, President

From the Course



I am only going to talk about two things this month. The first is how I decided to manage the new tees this season and the second is the ongoing problems in the pumphouse.

The new tees have some good tees, some medium quality tees, and some low quality tees. I think crabgrass is going to be an issue if we don't apply a preemergent herbicide on dirt full of weed seeds which is turfgrass 101. And I would like to reseed the medium and low quality tees to help them fill in but the herbicide and the seed don't work well together.

So I decided to put down the herbicide and forgo aerification and seeding until the fall (aerification and pre emergent herbicide don't work well together if you don't do it in the right order either).

What I hope happens, hope and fertilizer is what Superintendents use a lot of, is the bentgrass will aggressively fill in the voids. And if it doesn't, the voids will be better than battling crabgrass at the same time we are trying to overseed tees. We can all check how good this plan is later this summer.

The pumphouse didn't start very well this spring and now a month later I am still waiting on parts I can install and parts a technician has to install. We are replacing a busted heat exchanger, 2 butterfly valves, 1 check valve, and a small 10 horsepower pressure maintenance pump. These things won't add up to a major expense, and to me the system has been so trouble free that it was due for some breakdowns. So far the course has endured the lack of either rain or irrigation water just fine.

During these good times we didn't have a dedicated service technician in our territory so a number of things that a tech would have suggested to be replaced didn't get replaced. Normally I would take their punch list and replace the items by priority over time.

Now we have a technician in our territory and I should be able to better control the necessary upkeep. In the near future the panel is going to go out (separate from the current broken parts) and Hillcrest will have to replace it because our panel is no longer a serviceable system. I don't plan on replacing it until it breaks, but when it does it will be 100 degrees outside and it will cost \$45,000.

That's it. That's the news.

Dining Hours

Tuesday-Friday 11am-Close
Saturday 5pm-Close

Lounge Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 11am-Close
Sunday 12pm-6pm

From the Golf Shop...



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

May Golf Shop Hours: Monday 12:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The pro shop and cart sheds will close early if the weather is inclement.

All the events are listed under the calendar section at hillcrestyankton.com

Men's Day Mixer for May 13th. Please, sign up on the bulletin board for the Mixer or sign up on Golf Genius App. GGID:HILLCRESTMEN21. 2:00 shotgun start.

Senior League starts on May 19th.

Please, post your score on the USGA Ghin app or let the pro shop know and we can post your score for you.

Please, post your hole by hole score, it will adjust the ESC score for you.

The drawing for the Men's Invitational Member Guest tee times will be held on May 13th after the Thursday draw of tee times.

May 7th: YHS Girls Invitational 10:00 a.m. shotgun start.

May 15th: Chopper Johnson Foundation 12:00 shotgun start

May 19th: Mount Marty University Classic. 10:00 tee time start

May 21st: USD Howling Pack. 1:00 shotgun start.

Callaway Demo Day will be held on Thursday, May 27th from 1:00-5:00.

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PERFORMANCE INNOVATION DEMAND
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