

# Mountainview Golf Course Newsletter

## Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

April, 2008

### Golf Course Improvements

#### Greens 4 & 6

Mick Nychka, Course Superintendent, announced that the project to complete greens 4 & 6 has the highest priority this season. Once frost is out of the ground and the irrigation system fully charged, sod will be laid. If the weather cooperates we should be putting on the greens by Saturday July 26th.

#### Driving Range and Chipping Area

The Yukon Golf Association has obtained a \$75,000.00 grant from the Community Development Fund to build in co-operation with the Mountainview Golf club and with the support of all other golf courses in the Yukon a Junior Golf training facility .

The Driving Range tee area currently consists of 14 tee boxes where participants hit off of artificial mats placed on a cement

slab.

The proposed plan will add 6 more of these tees in a secluded spot designated for uninterrupted lessons.

To allow for longer periods of practice during our short summers, a cover will be constructed over the tee area extending use in spring and fall .

As well the plan will include a new grass tee area directly in front of the existing tees to allow proper practice from real grass replicating true golf conditions.

The landing Area currently has abrupt undulations on a sand base and is void of vegetation - this makes it difficult to see where the balls land after being hit, creates rapid deterioration of range balls meaning only old balls are used which affects transferable results, and causes major wear and maintenance costs on ball picking equipment.

The project includes removing the

sprinklers installed years ago, grading the site to enhance vision and support ball picking equipment, incorporating a fibrous organic material into the existing sand base, installing a new irrigation system, fertilizing and seeding the area.

#### Chipping Facility (at the old tent site)

The landing area sub grade will be landscaped, irrigation will be installed, a new growing medium will be added and the area will be prepped with an organic material before fertilizing and seeding.

Practice Bunkers - two practice bunkers will be strategically located to offer varying situations to practice hitting from out of the sand and to practice chipping over.



**Mick Nychka**  
**Course**  
**Superintendent**

these areas will be by the end of August.

In the meantime, a net will be erected to allow for warm-ups on the existing driving range.

A huge acknowledgement goes out to our dedicated maintenance crew from 2007 who put much pride into their jobs. Because of their efforts, course conditions last year and turf health going into winter were excellent.

So far the weather has been very good and we are ready for spring to arrive.

## Meet Your New Golf Pro



**Jeff Wiggins**

Jeff Wiggins' love of golf began early. His first job at age 14 was "range boy" at a Saskatoon golf club where he grew up. He became club pro at the Moon Lake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon at age 19. This was followed by 2 years at the Christina Lake Golf Club in British Columbia, 4 years at the Creston Golf Club and 4 1/2 years at the Prince George Golf and Curling club.

Now at age 30 and a CPGA Class A Professional Jeff has come to Whitehorse as Head Professional.

Jeff is currently structuring programs to fit individuals of all ages and levels of expertise as well as designing various clinics for groups. Rates and information will be posted on the Mountainview golf web page as soon as they are available.

### Report of Wayne McLennan Past Treasurer

In the spring of 2006 the board decided to put up the new tent in an attempt to increase banquet and tournament revenue. This required an additional \$100,000 of debt which, based on past history, would be serviceable. At the time, this was a well thought out and logically based decision. Unfortunately, the weather in 2006 was awful and the course did not have a good year so the additional cash flow strain caused by the increased debt servicing costs really hurt and we finished the year in a much weaker cash position than the previous year. This meant that we had to increase our operating line of credit to get things going in 2007. We brought in a highly recommended new GM who initially appeared to be just what we needed to improve our service levels and capitalize on the new tent facility. Unfortunately, in his zeal to improve service levels, he dramatically increased operating costs to the point of offsetting the good weather and increased revenues that would otherwise have given us a good year financially. The

result.....we did not have enough cash on hand to pay all of our creditors at the end of the year so we went to the bank who were reluctant to provide more money and, even if they had, would only have been able to extend our loans out to 7 years. From a cash flow perspective, this would not really have helped us as we would not likely have been able to make the payments. Consequently we approached BDC who agreed to payout our previous banker, provide enough additional funds to pay our creditors, AND amortize the debt over 20 years.....which was exactly what we required.

All of our creditors have been paid and we are actually sitting in a slightly better cash position now than we were at the same time last year. The refinancing has been a big part of this, however, we also owe a huge thank you to all of those members who came forward and prepaid their 2008 memberships. The board has put a series of new controls in place to ensure that expenses are better

controlled and we are hopeful that the weather is good to us so that we can generate the same sort of revenues as last year.

We have a loan for \$450,000 repayable over 20 years.

b. Interest (slightly higher than the banks) is payable monthly and the principal is repayable \$7500 June, July and August of each year.

We can prepay up to 15% of the loan each year without penalty, however, will hold off on this until we can build up some cash reserves.

The Executive and Board, acting on the resolution passed at our Special Meeting of November 3, 2007, negotiated the new loan with BDC.

### Mountainview Golf Club Board of Directors

Tom Amson— President

Duff Felker— Past President

Ron Gorrel— Treasurer

John Spicer— Secretary

Rebecca Duncan— Director

Dan Hogberg— Director

Birgitte Hunter— Director

Patrick Michael— Director

Gord Zealand— Director

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The club requires volunteers for course work projects. Mick will need specific help from members when he lays the new surround sod on Greens #4 and 6. As well, he could use some help on the training academy/driving range. Interested volunteers can contact Mick at the club. They can also leave their name and contact numbers at the pro shop OR they can email John Spicer at John.Spicer@gov.yk.ca.

Here is an actual sign posted at a men's golf club in Scottsdale, Arizona :

1. BACK STRAIGHT, KNEES BENT, FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART.
2. FORM A LOOSE GRIP.
3. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
4. AVOID A QUICK BACK SWING.
5. STAY OUT OF THE WATER.
6. TRY NOT TO HIT ANYONE.
7. IF YOU ARE TAKING TOO LONG, LET OTHERS GO AHEAD OF YOU.
8. DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
9. QUIET PLEASE...WHILE OTHERS ARE PREPARING.
10. DON'T TAKE EXTRA STROKES.

WELL DONE. NOW, FLUSH THE URINAL, GO OUTSIDE, & TEE OFF.

## Golf Tip of the Month

Hitting out of a deeper bunker costs weekend golfers more strokes than probably any other shot. Many weekend players have trouble just getting out of a normal sand trap. Adding a high front to the bunker makes the shot almost impossible for some weekend golfers, especially if there isn't much green to work with.

What you need with this type of bunker is a shot that goes almost straight up and down. Making that depends on getting the right "bounce" from the club. Bounce refers to the angle from the front edge of a club's sole to the point that actually rests on the ground at address, measured in degrees. The term is usually applied to wedges.

Here are five tips on hitting it high from the sand:

1. Take a slightly open stance
2. Position the ball forward in your stance
3. Bend your knees more than usual
4. Open the clubface wide
5. Set hands lower than normal

The secret to hitting a good sand shot starts with your setup. Take a stance slightly open to the target, position the ball forward in the stance, and flex your knees. Now open your clubface so that the back is almost flat above the sand. These adjustments add loft to the club. They also help get the club's bounce to slide through the sand instead of digging into it.

To get the ball higher than normal, bend your knees more in order to lower your center of gravity. Then, lower your hands. Good bunker players can get the ball to go almost straight up and down with this setup. With practice, so will you.