



Fore! Cast

September 2008

FROM MR. & MRS. D.O.G.

Dear Member,

As you may know, there is a new law regarding smoking that will take effect in September. In compliance with this new city ordinance, Willowbend clubhouse will be a no smoking facility.

Thank you!
Rick Nuckolls
General Manager

TURF TALK

It appears that the weather may turn hot for good now. So far we have been very lucky. The rains have come and cooler temps came with them. There is almost nothing worse than a ton of rain and high temps at the same time. Around the golf course things are pretty good. We have had success with the poa again this year and the greens look as good as I have seen them since I arrived. I know there are complaints about speed and I will get to that later in this report. The fairways are doing great and holding their own so far this season and the tee boxes are looking pretty good as well. Even with all of the rain we have been able to manage the roughs with out too much of a flush of growth. Things are pretty good at Willowbend.

In addition to our normal maintenance we have begun trying to deal with our perennial bad spots in the fairways. As you know in the past we have sodded them with bluegrass from our range tees. Most of the areas in question are areas that were designed to drain water away. We have had little success keeping cool season grasses in these spots due to the increased water flow across them. This season we decided to cover these small areas with a hardier turfgrass called Patriot Bermuda grass. It is not your fathers Bermuda. Once it grows in and matures it will be finer in texture and denser than the old common stuff golfers complain about. If we didn't already have significant amounts of Bermuda in our fairways I would have been against this, however, the important thing is to keep turf cover and playability at a maximum. We feel that this was a good solution to an ongoing problem.

We also have begun trapping skunks again. This is about two months earlier than last year and hopefully it will make a difference in the amount of damage the golf course receives this fall. I have personally seen some and we have had reports from golfers and homeowners about skunks being spotted. With this we have decided it is time to begin our relocation program again.

There are three things that affect green speeds. They are height of cut, trueness, and firmness. We are cutting our greens at 0.135". That is ten thousandths above 1/8". Most courses cut lower in the spring and then raise the height once the heat arrives. What I am trying to do is maintain the same height all year long. We are cutting slightly higher in the spring than others and slightly lower in the summer than others, however if they are cut the same all year long they should be about the same speed all year long as well. This brings us to trueness. Trueness is how smooth they are. Since we have been successful managing the poa the greens have been pretty smooth or true. So, now that we have a consistent height of cut, and a true putting surface all that is left is firmness. Firmness is a constituent of moisture and thatch. We do not have a thatch problem so the only thing slowing down our greens are rain showers, and since we can't have an event out here without a major bunker washing thunder storm either the day before or the day of it is only right to expect slower greens. The good thing is at least they are healthy and true. The other thing to remember is that a fast green is only fast enough until the golfer gets used to it then it needs to be faster. This is the situation I inherited almost three years ago, greens that had been pushed to become faster and faster until the bentgrass could fight no longer and the poa was all that was growing, well that and the size of the bare spots. If any of you want to know what 0.135" looks like stop by the shop and we will be glad to show you.

The last thing I have is a big thank you to all who have vandalized the golf course this year. Someone took the big putter swipe out of the back left corner of number 15 green. We have had the same damage on numbers 2, 4,5 and 6 this spring/summer. We have also had at least eight flagsticks taken in the night and this past weekend someone smashed our clock to pieces at the putting green. I can't express fully how nice it is to walk up to a treat like that early in the morning. I realize that golfers didn't do some of this but the damage to the greens certainly was. If you are playing with someone doing this please let him or her know it's not right. Everything matters, whether it's a putter whack to a green, your dead cigar in the bunker, sunflower shells on the greens, or where you drive your cart. This is your golf club and it can only be as nice as you make it.

SIDE NOTE: Between starting and finishing this newsletter another beauty took an even bigger whack out of number 15 green about two feet from the first one. Thanks again!

As always, feel free to stop by or call 744-0400

Important Notice

Any account that is past due 90 days will be automatically sent to 14 day pre-collection and handled by our collection firm. If any accounts is 120 days delinquent, golfing privileges will be suspended until the account is satisfied.

Email

If you are not receiving emails from the pro shop we probably don't have an email address for you or we have an old address that has been changed. Please send your updated email address to "proshop@willowbendgolfclub.com". Thank you for your help.

Men's Club Results

Club Championship

Championship Flight - Gross

1st - Jeff Bell
2nd - Jay Wyckoff
3rd - Craig Rauvolabouta

First Flight - Gross

1st - Dave Thomas
2nd - Mark Huenergardt
3rd - Donovan Blanks

Second Flight - Gross

1st - Scott Mackey
2nd - Mike Pottorf

Third Flight - Gross

1st - Tom Eddy
2nd - Bill Higinbotham

Net

1st - Ben York
2nd - Bill Quattlebaum

Net

1st - Bob Shaver
2nd - Cy Wiggins

Net

1st - Mark Eby
2nd - Bill Jones
3rd - Mark Chamberlin

Net

1st - Dan Reiners
2nd - Chuck Miller
3rd - Dale Packham

Match Play Championship

Championship Flight

1st - Jeff Bell
2nd - Jim Ewart

First Flight

1st - Bob Shaver
2nd - Tom Simon

Second Flight

1st - Mark Eby
2nd - Mike Pottorf

Third Flight - Gross

1st - Ben Burgess
2nd - Dan Sinnett

Consolation

1st - Ben York

Consolation

1st - Robert Abell

Consolation

1st - Bill Jones

Consolation

1st - Chuck Miller

6-6-6 Tournament

Championship Flight - Gross

1st - Bell & Wyckoff
2nd - Soyez & Anderson

First Flight - Gross

1st - Shaver & Plumlee
2nd - Thurwanger & Eby

Second Flight - Gross

1st - Topliff & Deckert
2nd - Quincy & Mackey

Third Flight - Gross

1st - Miller & Rosenberg
2nd - Reiners & Hawkins

Net

1st - York & Quattlebaum
2nd - Abell & DuPerier

Net

1st - Siemens & Ellison
2nd - Hatcher & Pottorf

Net

1st - Clay & Chamberlin
2nd - Burgess & Salmans

Net

1st - Martin & Brewster
2nd - Gile & Barranger

Ladies Club Results

Club Championship - 18 Holes

Overall Champions - Gross

1st - Debbie Christianson

Championship Flight - Gross

1st - Jan Manion

First Flight - Gross

1st - Margo Shepler

Third Flight - Gross

1st - Lynn Eby

Net

1st - Jo Reiners

Net

1st - Jo Reiners

Net

1st - Marsha Hatcher

Net

1st - Sherry Hawkins

Club Championship - 9 Holes

Overall Champions - Gross

1st - Judy Carlson

Flight Winners - Gross

1st - Tamara Mosier

Net

1st - Janet Ast

Net

1st - Fleeta Jennings



*Specializing
in
Willowbend!*

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janast@willowbend.net

When you call
at the golf course!



Coming Events - September 2008

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2 Aerification	3 Aerification Ladies Scramble	4 Aerification	5	6
7	8	9 Half Price Guest Day	10 Men's 2nd League Play	11	12	13
14	15 Scotch and Sirloin	16	17 Schofield	18	19	20
21 Couples Tournament	22 K for Life	23	24	25	26	27 Closing Event
28	29	30				

Coming Events - October 2008

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4 Ryder Cup
5 Ryder Cup	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Half Price Guest Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Ladies Last Blast
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Richard Price and Mal Elliott to be Honored by Kansas Golf Hall of Fame

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11 – on that date, the late Richard Price will be inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame. Also being inducted that evening will be Wichita golf writer Mal Elliott.

The banquet and induction ceremony will be at Wichita Country Club so that WCC members may join Dick, Jr. and family when his father is recognized for his many accomplishments. Dick, Sr. will enter the Hall of Fame in the category of Amateur Player, joining fellow Wichita golfers Natasha Fife, Johnny Stevens and Jim Vickers.

Mal Elliott will be the first golf writer inducted into the Hall of Fame, in the category of Contributor to the Game. Other notable Wichitans in this category include Judy Bell, Nadine Harrison, Marge Page and Virgil Parker.

The event will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Tom Devlin (Flint Hills National GC) is slated to serve as Inductor for Dick Price, and Paul Savage (Wichita Sports Hall of Fame) will induct Mal Elliott.

The cost of the event is \$75 and reservations may be made through the WCC office.

Our Staff

Rick Nuckolls	General Manager
Rod Nuckolls	Director of Golf
Gene Abernathy	Head Golf Professional
Brad Kipper	Asst. Golf Professional
Vince McAlister	Golf Course Superint.
Brian Anderson	Asst. Golf Course Superint.
Jan Nuckolls	Office Manager

Club Phone Numbers

Office: 636-5555 | Bar and Grill: 858-3287
Golf Shop: 636-4653 | Maintenance: 744-0400
(GOLF)

Hours of Operation

November 1 to March 31: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
April 1 to April 30: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
May 1 to September 16: 7:30 am – 8:00 pm
September 16 to October 31: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Mondays begin at 12:00 noon
Weekend tee times start at 6:30 am, Memorial Day
to Labor Day

Tee Time Reservations

Members may make reservations 1 week in advance for weekday tee times. Weekend and holiday times may be made 3 days in advance. (Example: Call Wed. for Sat. & Thurs. for Sun.) Tee times for weekends and holidays must be made by telephone. Reservations for all tee times may be made 30 minutes prior to the first tee time. Weekend and holiday tee times from Memorial Day to Labor Day will be taken at 7:00 am.