

Course Review and Tour  
Heatherhurst BRAE and CRAG

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Highlights and discussion points:

-Drainage on the BRAE continues to plague the operation and detracts from the course's real potential. Continued development on the perimeters will further complicate the situation.

-A trial drainage project could be attempted (holes #1, #4) to see how the situation can be improved through perimeter and fairway drainage. Results have been encouraging based on the "in house" efforts completed on BRAE #18.

-Greens are 80-90 percent recovered from aeration and are being mowed daily at .140 inches.

-Mole damage on hole #8 green (BRAE) has apparently been arrested by injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into the tunnel. Other trapping mechanisms had no results. Green damage is substantial but recoverable.

-Electric fences will remain on holes #15 and #16 of the BRAE as a deterrent to wild hogs venturing onto the property. They are appropriately marked as OB.

-Herbicides  
-Fungicides  
-Fertilizers  
-Pesticides

Our use of these materials is unrestricted and we are very lucky. There is major industry development efforts underway to develop biological solutions for those areas where there are restrictions on chemical usage.

-New rockwork has been completed around tee stations to improve appearance and maintenance.

-"If it is green put it back" policy regarding divots. Sand bottles may be introduced as well. The Zoysia strain of turf used on the BRAE presents a particularly troublesome situation since the divots when "damp" explode and leave a large crater in some cases that will remain until sanded or the turf regrows.

-Budget impacts

-Part times (6) deferred. Bunker maintenance done as a last resort.

Overall Observations:

Mark Knaeble is a talented and very capable leader and manager and the most senior (since 1992) greens superintendent on our staff.

His position is truly a “Rodney Dangerfield” of sorts – his efforts are largely unnoticed when successful but when problems arise (mostly not of his decisions) his exposure is substantial.

Spending a morning with Mark is a rewarding experience for anyone – but we also should realize that we still have no understanding of the topics of agronomy and turf management!

Relative to the golf courses we studied:

-Damage from last year is substantial and bare spots in roughs and fairways should be expected this year. Another year of dry conditions will not help this situation.

-Crag drains much better and is not built with “thatchie” grass like bent or zoysia which is a big reason why in the winter the CRAG does much better business than the BRAE.

-The area surrounding the rest rooms adjacent to BRAE #13 Green and #14 Tee has been resodded and cleaned up and the appearance is very much improved.

-The area adjacent to the cart path exit from #10 green on the BRAE and the homeowner’s property has been completed with rock work, plantings and sodwork – the look is very much improved and a great example of how the golf course and the community can work together.

-The area next to the fairway on the right of #11 is developing into a nice “orchard like area” of planted dogwoods and red buds.

-The foot bridge on #1 of the CRAG has been commemorated to Dan Hawker --.

Mark should be commended for this effort.

Chet Weeks

Fred Boyer