

## Dorchester Course Review

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Dean Creech and Deni Selvig

Dean and I met with Michael Wilson at 7 am on the July 22. We both agreed that the overall condition of the course that day was very good, and, considering the weather conditions we've had, it was excellent. Mike gave us a great overview of course conditions and, ongoing and planned projects. We, of course, bombarded him with questions which he seemed happy to answer. The following is a compilation of notes we took during our tour:

- The new practice range teeing area is almost complete – it is still in need of leveling in some areas.
- The irrigation system has had many problems and is in need of replacement. (Signal reception is an ongoing problem with the old system which is hydraulic and can be set from a central system, when it's working properly.)
- A fountain is planned for the first hole, possibly within the next 2 years, to aerate and circulate the water in the pond.
- Bunker refurbishment is still ongoing and, at the time of our review, there were 8 bunkers left to be re-done. (Bunkers are being scraped, lined with gravel and a porous fabric, then topped with 6 inches of sand.)
- Narrow placement of tee markers are used to help reduce maintenance on the teeing grounds.
- Greens are lightly top dressed once a week. (Mike referred to the greens on holes #1, 13,14, and 15 as "troublesome greens" in need of extra aeration.)
- To help save the fairways during the drought, starters and rangers are trying to push a "true" 90 degree rule – out to ball and return to cart path.
- This fall/winter will see the bent grass cut out of the rough and those areas being reseeded with tall fescue.
- Most of the flower beds were in rough shape as a result of the drought, and a few are in need of being completely replaced as they contain more weeds than wildflowers.
- The lower tee box on hole #14 burned up from the heat and wear and was closed – it is healing and should re-open soon. The upper white tee was closed after a water pipe broke and destroyed the sod – it has been reseeded and is healing. (Mike also mentioned that this hole is the hardest watering problem because the signal doesn't reach the control box.)
- There will be several trees removed from the right side of the pond in front of the #14 green. Also, Mike would like to push the dam back to make the pond larger.
- Part of the rock wall fell from the white tee box on #15 – it has been repaired. The steps on this hole will be replaced/repared this winter. The "hump" on 15<sup>th</sup> green burned but has been repaired and is healing.

- A bad spot on the cart path between 16 and 17 is being maintained as well as possible until it can be repaved.
- A 6" water line broke in front of the red tee box on hole #18 and had to be repaired.
- Mike has a crew of 5 full time and 11 part timers. He and his full time crew use the fall/winter months to address large projects.