

Druid Golf Course Report, August 2010

To begin our report we contacted Jason Pillow, the Greens Keeper of Druid Hills Golf Course and spent some time talking about the past months at Druid Hills and what is expected in the future.

Jason employs a total of 17 workers: 10 part-time and 7 full time. He feels that maintaining the course with this number is adequate for the time being. Additional workers would be nice, but the quality of the workers he has now is keeping the course in a playable condition.

The review of the 18 holes was done by actually playing the course and getting a first hand view of the condition of both the fairways and greens. The first comment made after playing the course on a 90+degree day was, "How does he do it!?"

The fairways were for the most part, green and problem free. This is not to say, however, that the areas that are not watered didn't have problems. Brown spots and burned out areas in the rough were common, but the height of the grass is being kept where a golfer can find his/her ball to keep play at the required pace.

The greens were amazing; not one green showed signs of the hot weather conditions we have had for the past month or so. The cutting height of the greens was still a challenge even in the flat areas, but they demonstrate the ability Jason and his crew have in keeping the total course in a playable condition through some very trying summer weather.

For the future Jason is planning to rework all the bunkers and re-sod some of the areas where growing grass has been a problem. I was impressed as to how he is taking advantage of mornings where frost (in the much colder months) has kept the golfers off the course, to do repairs or improve areas that would be impossible with golfers on the course. Instead of having the workers wasting time waiting for the frost to clear, he has them doing needed projects.

Over all, Jason has impressed us with his ability to maintain a golf course under even the most difficult of conditions and still keep with in the budget given to do this.

Submitted by:
John Kinnunen
Tom Rice
August 9, 2010