

## Hobbit's Glen Superintendent's Report November 2022

Looking back on the season, I would say that we were successful in providing great playability for the membership. Stress from the summer heat was mitigated by raising the heights of cut up to allow the grass to 'breathe'. Additionally, we increased the frequency of rolling to provide a more consistent putting surface. While 11 green still saw damage similar to past seasons, it came through in better shape this year. The fall overseeding yielded the best catch that we have seen yet. The weeks leading up to the overseed saw us aerifying all of the fairways in order to loosen up the soil and allow for better seed catch. Following the overseed, we used a starter fertilizer to promote greater seed establishment.

The chipping green again suffered summer damage after being sodded to bentgrass from bermudagrass in the spring. We are scheduling a winter project that consists of rebuilding the green from the soil profile up.

Various soil samples have been taken over time and it has been determined that the sand layer is too deep for a healthy stand of greens height turfgrass. USGA recommends a rootzone profile depth of roughly 12 inches, and the chipping green overall is double that, causing unnecessary stress on the turfgrass and not allowing water to be perched near the rootzone.

This renovation process will consist of removing all of the old profile down to a depth of 24", backfilling 12" of subgrade soil that matches the existing soil type (a heavier 'topsoil') followed by 4" of pea gravel and a proper drainage system. As of now, we have been unable to locate an existing drainage system and feel that this is the cause for some of the issues that we have been seeing. After the pea gravel layer, we will put down a 12" layer of rootzone mix that will bring the green back up to level. With this rebuild, we will be adjusting the slope of the green to make it less severe and allow for better drainage. If we are successful with this Chipping Green renovation, we will look into the potential of renovating 11 green in house.

Other projects coming into the winter consist of a heavier greens topdress before the big freeze of the winter to protect the canopy of the turf (realistically sometime in December, all based on the temperatures). A tree trimming truck will also be brought onto property to continue the work that we started two winters ago and clean up along the fairway lines and other areas that we are typically unable to clear in season.

This season also saw more damage to tees. At the start of the season, after suffering winter kill to a fair number of tees, Patrick and I made the decision to sod with HGT bluegrass. Unfortunately, this sod struggled to establish and the replacement sod was not delivered at the correct height. Instead of returning the sod, we attempted to train the sod down in house, which is difficult to do with sod that has been growing at rough height all season. Ultimately, the sod

failed to take, and we are forced to resod again. On the bright side, we came up with an inhouse method for sodding bermuda that yielded good results on holes 1 and 7. This winter, we will be trenching in drainage of the tee boxes on holes 2, 3, and 15 and dormant sodding bermudagrass.

Overall, I feel that the season was a success. While we battled through staffing issues, we accomplished the goals that we set ahead of ourselves, and plan on providing a great course for the membership in the year to come. As always, I can be reached by email at [christopher.mackenzie@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:christopher.mackenzie@columbiaassociation.org).

Sincerely,

Tyler MacKenzie  
Golf Course Superintendent  
*Hobbit's Glen Golf Course*