

Golf Course Summer Update

Improved Pace of Play for Men's Association Events

This summer, nearly all rounds played by Men's Association events have been completed in less than 4 hours 30 minutes. The improvement to pace of play is, in part, the result of the implementation of an official tree program, the training of play managers to act as forecaddies during tournament events, the development of standards for acceptable hole locations (except for the first outing of the year), and the reformatting of tee sheets to allow for varied intervals. We expect that the pace of play for Men's Association events will continue to improve over the next year and that the long play times of the past events will fade into history. ❖

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| #11 Tee | 2 |
| Green Speed | 2 |
| #16 Ground Under Repair | 3 |
| Cattail Creek | 4 |
| Coming Attractions? | 4 |

Official Long-Term Tree Program

An official Long-Term Tree Program was developed and implemented over the winter. The program includes the proper trimming of all course trees; the selection, for elimination, of certain trees that contribute to poor playing conditions; and the planting of new trees to improve the aesthetics of the golf course.

Below is just one example of a tree shading the #1 green; thus increasing spring and fall frost delays, and increasing leaves dropped on the playable areas. With the tree now removed, the green is very healthy, frost delays are shorter and the mowing height can be lowered. ❖

Find Answers To:

Too Fast or Too Slow

- What are the facts about green speeds. And how do they apply to The Olde Course at Loveland?
- What's coming next for The Olde Course?



#11 Tee Complete



Renovation of the usable teeing space on hole #11 is complete. Along with increasing the tee space available, the teeing ground for the white and blue tees is now level. Additionally, a new ladies tee now exists in the area in front of the white tee. The previous "ladies tee" was simply a mowed patch of rough masquerading as a tee. The new sod will take four to five weeks to fully root before the bigger, level, and the new tees are open for play. ❖

Greens~ too fast, too slow? How do you know?

As of the middle of July, the greens at The Olde Course will be mowed at their lowest height ever, .115 (115 thou-

"...Stimp meter readings above 9.5' result in unfair and non-conforming hole locations."

sandths) of an inch. The greens can remain healthy, at this low mowing height, as the small greens now enjoy an increase in sunlight due to the creation and implementation of the tree program in 2010.

Green speeds at The Olde Course are still limited, however, by the slope of the available hole locations

on the greens. Many of the possible hole locations at The Olde Course exceed a 3% slope. Stimp Meter readings above 9.5' for this grade result in unfair and non-conforming hole locations. The maximum USGA recommend slope for a green speed of 9' is 2.5%.

The target green speed for our greens is now 8.8' +/- .4'. This speed allows staff to utilize interesting hole locations with grades between 2.5% and 2.8%. If green speeds approach the speed of 9.5', golfers can begin to feel that the hole location is unfair.

Below is an actual hole

location from 7/16/2011 with a slope of 3.6%. These types of slopes are common at The Olde Course.

Other golf courses, like Mariana Butte, with more modern designs will have faster green speeds as the greens were designed for modern mowing

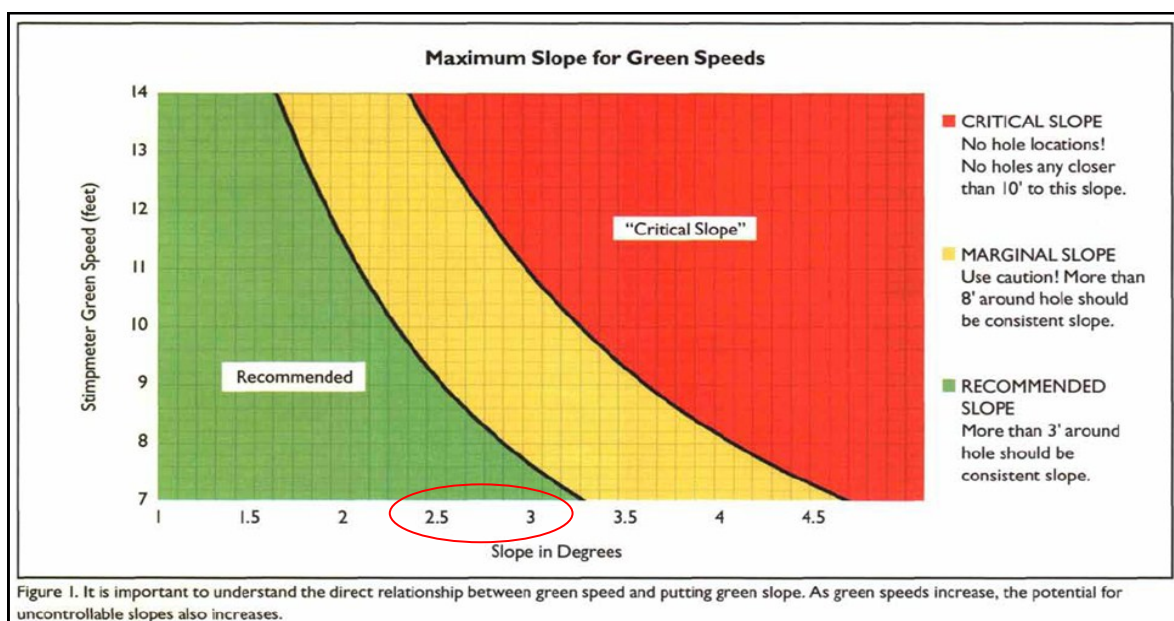


Actual hole location at The Olde Course on 7/16/11 with a 3.6% slope

Greens Cont. (from page 2)

heights. The slope of the hole locations areas on modern greens range from 1% - 2%.

The July/August 2008 issue of the *USGA Greens Section Record* offered the following chart as a visual aid for specific USGA recommendations for green speeds. The slope in degrees is across the bottom with Stimpmeter Green speed on the vertical axis. Remembering that most of the slopes of the greens at The Olde Course are in excess of 2.5%, the 8.8' +/- .4' fits perfectly within the USGA recommended green speed.



The traditional design of The Olde Course at Loveland should be viewed as a strength and not a weakness; thus, rebuilding the greens to modern architectural specifications that will allow slightly higher green speed readings is not a planned priority at this time. Golfers who long for green speeds that exceed 9.5' may, at times, visit other courses with flatter greens. We are confident golfers will return, though, as few courses combine to offer the affordability, walkability, playing conditions, and interesting small undulating greens that are available at The Olde Course.❖

#16 Ground Under Repair—Repaired

The area to the front and left of #16 green should no longer need to be painted as ground under repair. All water draining from west and north of the green is now captured by existing drain lines. Repurposed sod from the #11 tee project is now in place to complete this project for the mere cost of topsoil.❖



Irrigation Improvements Sprinkle Consistent Conditions

Distribution Uniformity test on #4 fairway.



Improvements were made to the irrigation system in April and May. The results are far more consistent playing conditions, fewer wet and dry areas, and a reduction in daytime watering during the hot periods, and less winter desiccation in the future.

Testing of the irrigation system on the fairways showed that even though a new irrigation system was installed in 2002, the efficiency, or referred to in the golf industry as Distribution Uniformity (DU), was not... well ...uniform.

The below average DU resulted in medium to severe winter desicca-

tion on the fairways during the winter of 2010/2011. (If you remember, in 2010, very little natural rainfall occurred after the first of July). The pressure (psi) on every fairway irrigation head has been adjusted to achieve a DU rating of 94%. This improvement should be very noticeable. Especially, in the lack of wet/dry areas in the fairways.❖

Cattail Creek Improvements ~ Dramatic

During the Fall of 2010 and the Spring of 2011, staff identified many areas of improvement needed at Cattail Creek. Starting with the basics, the entire irrigation system was updated and more efficient nozzles were installed; the location of many irrigation heads were moved to provide a new level of DU; the drainage system was improved on holes 2, 3, 8. & 9; and finally all bunkers were completely re-edged. Among the results from the improvements is a reduction in wet and dry areas, and improved and more consistent playing conditions.❖

Sign Up to receive course updates
via your email at
www.GolfLoveland.com

Coming Attraction

#5 Lake at The Olde Course at Loveland

Improvements are scheduled during the 2011/12 winter for #5 Lake. The lake will be lowered to improve playability and conditions of the hole. Many problems exist with the current elevated lake including drainage problems, a lack of vision to the green and in-course out of bounds areas caused by the design of the hole. As always, this project hinges on acceptable weather conditions, as well as, acceptable water storage conditions.

Watch FORE more information...