

Hillcrest Newsletter

July, 2016

Todd VanMaanen, President



As it should be, June was a busy month at Hillcrest. All of the operations were in full swing, which was noticeable as we hosted the Women's and Men's Invitational Tournaments. The volunteers and staff did a great job of coordinating and executing our signature event. Their efforts triumphed in spite of the sweltering heat on Friday during the Men's Practice Round, which was followed by a thunderstorm burst and power outage that evening. The staff did a great job of keeping the evening alive under candlelight. And by Sunday morning, Warren and his crew had the majority of the trees and branches cleaned up and the course returned to its A+ condition.

In membership news, two years ago then President James Grotenhuis did a comprehensive analysis of Hillcrest's revenue and expenses. The review highlighted the fact that our revenue is closely divided into thirds between the membership dues, pro shop sales and our food/beverage services. With that knowledge, the Board continually monitors the financial health of the club. We currently have 238 golfing memberships, which is two more than last year, and 73 social memberships, 18 more than in 2015. Sales in the pro shop and the clubhouse remain on budget and in line with last year's numbers. Having the opportunity to be on the Board has provided me the insight into what a lean operation Hillcrest actually maintains. The balance point between profit and loss is not far apart. I have learned a lot about the COGS (Cost of Goods Sold), inventory control, and other factors that affect a retail sales operation. Scott and Eric are doing a good job balancing better products and service with continued profitability as they learn what the membership is looking for from their respective department. So, be bold and try that new menu entrée or line of clothing and take part in your club's success.

After reviewing finances, the Board has decided to move forward on a few small projects. The carpet on the front steps and back patio soon will be replaced. Thanks to Stacy Schramm for volunteering her time and talents to lead the project. The Club will split the cost of concrete with the Pro-Am Committee to add a trail from the 13th green to the comfort station where the front parking area will be widened to accommodate additional carts. Thanks to Warren and his crew for providing the labor. And, last month Ron Evans donated the materials and labor to install two badly-needed new windows for the bag room. Thanks Ron.

And finally, the Board is continuing to discuss long-term planning for our pond system. We recognize that the ponds at 7 and 9 need improvements, but we are hesitating to invest too much into the landscaping without addressing the problem of siltation buildup and leaking liners. This is the primary issue in most of the ponds. The other concern that looms ahead is the emerald ash bore. This invader has reached Omaha and will make its way north soon. Hillcrest has an inventory of 1,800 trees, of which 650 are ash trees. To prepare for the inevitable, we are looking at the possibility of starting a tree bank to provide an affordable replacement option. I believe the membership will rally to support a legacy project of this nature. More information will follow.

July is upon us. So go out and make the most of what Hillcrest has to offer. It is your club to enjoy.

Eric Miller, Executive Chef

It has been quite the busy month in June and we look forward to another busy month in July with a few weddings and getting ready for the Pro Am Tournament. I will be planning another Family Pool night with the pool staff. I am also planning a 5 course wine and food tasting event for Saturday July 23rd and another tasting featuring Jessup Cellars and Handwritten wines of Yountville California. I will send out an email with those details soon. As for some features to look forward to--Halibut this week! I am also looking into some Buffalo, Elk, and Lamb from a Rapid City company. We do have new wines and a couple of whiskeys in. Baci Dolci is a new sweet pink sparkling wine and I brought in Michters American Whiskey and Bourbons, also a Colorado Whiskey called Stranahans that has been pretty popular around the country. I also brought in Prairie Organic Gin and Organic Cucumber Vodka for something new on the patio.



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Don't forget we are serving the pool with entrees, salads, sandwiches and drinks. Call it in or stop in to order. Servers will be checking on the pool often.

See you soon!

Thanks and Have Fun!!

Chef Eric

The pool will be closed July 9th from 1pm to 5pm for a private party.

Waren Muller, CGCS

The summers always seem to move along quickly and this year is no different. Fortunately, the maintenance staff has been able to stick to our planned schedule of projects and renovations as we get ready for the Pro-Am and the SDGA Stroke Play Tournaments in August. We were thrown slightly off course with the wind storm during the Invitational. The staff did a nice job of cleaning up the debris on the golf course, around the clubhouse, and at the pool.

In July we will finish the landscape overhaul behind #15 green. Sandra Hagerty-Vandewalle made a donation to revitalize the area and we are happy to help make the improvement. Very early in July we will be adding some irrigation near #1 tee and working on clearing some silted areas near cart paths to eliminate pooling on the cart paths. #5 green and behind #11 green are the two areas we plan to attack first. After that we will start on 7 pond. Keep in mind because of a number of factors we are limited to what we can do to improve these ponds. Maintenance and construction are long overdue. All the issues have been discussed and I think everyone can agree that they are not a very attractive feature of the property, but they are also very expensive to repair and at this particular point we are just trying to keep water in them and algae out of them.

Lastly, we got the final word on the new forward tee on 13. We will be grading and building that tee during this month. Because our success rate with sod, and especially seed, in July is below poor I think we will not be opening that tee until the fall.



Scott Larson, Golf Professional

Tip of the month: Having trouble with hitting a slice? Make sure you have a strong top hand, so you can get the clubface closed. Also, make sure you have completed your golf swing with your belt buckle and shoe laces pointing towards the target. Do not try and help the ball up in the air.



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Don't forget to sign up for the Pro-Am. The Pro-Am is August 4th-7th. You can make your own team as long as your total team handicap index doesn't exceed 42.

The Junior Pro-Am is Monday, August 1st. Juniors 14-18 can get signed up to play with the Dakota Tour Pros.

There are still spots open for the Ladies Pro-Am on Tuesday, August 2nd.

Congratulations to Scott Hiltunen and Mike Kahler who won the 50th Annual Men's Member-Guest: Top 15 Finishers:

+17 Scott Hiltunen/Mike Kahler

+11.5 Colby Kuchta/Mark Vig

+8 Bill Berry/Andy Dempsey

+7 Kevin Becker/Duane Siverson

+6.5 Dan Lammers/Kurt Lammers

+6 Michael Pietila/Steve Pietila

+6 Steve Sager/Tim Gilmore

+6 Dan Megard/Devin Meier

+5 John Smith/Carey Mitzel

+5 Dean Washburn/Nate Dimmer

+5 Rudy Gerstner/Chris Wiggins

+5 Mike Henderson/Martin Hill

+4.5 Steve Frick/Tyler Frick

+4 Rod Wipf/Lance Wipf

+4 Matt Gubbels/Alex McNeil

+4 Justin Dietrich/Jordan Dietrich

Play Tatanka in Nebraska on July

23rd for \$150 includes:

golf/transportation/game. Leaving

Hillcrest at 9:30 a.m. and returning

back to Yankton approximately at

7:00 p.m. that night.

Sign up with Scott. Limited to 44

people.

Congratulations to Norm Willard!



Norm made a hole in one on June 22nd during senior league on hole #16 from the gold tees. He was playing with Dan Eisenbraun, Jim Tramp, and Joe Vig.