



winter score

Winter Score 2007

Superintendents Corner

Quite a few members enjoyed an extended fall golf and tennis season. For most however, the calendar rather than the thermometer determine the end of the sporting season. The greens remained open until December 1st and the courts were in service even longer. The past season, much like 2005, started out dry, became ridiculously wet in May and June, and then settled into a somewhat normal summer followed by an extended mild fall. In fact, the average temperature for December was a whopping 8 degrees above normal and the first half of January 2007 an astounding 14 degrees above normal. Since mid January the course has been covered with an inch or so of ice, a very light snow cover, and subjected to bouts of sub-zero temperatures.

What are the implications of these unprecedented weather extremes on winter putting green survival? A pessimist would predict that the freakish warmth of the first half of January pulled the turf out of dormancy making it highly susceptible to low temperature and ice related winter-kill. An optimist would predict that we simply had an extended autumn and a short winter. A realistic view is that the unseasonable weather has most likely resulted in less winter hardiness. It is the cold to come, the persistence of the current ice, the depth of insulating snow, and the critical month of March that will determine spring conditions.

Probably the most memorable aspect of the 2006 golf season is the swamp-like conditions that persisted across fairways 3, 4, and 13 for much of the season. A cart path has been constructed from the third tee to the top of the fairway on the right side to partly address the situation. A new drainage network was also started. Funding was approved to enlist a drainage contractor to correct the situation in 2007. Work will proceed as conditions and the tournament schedule permit.

The other significant course improvement in progress is the second phase of the Green Committee's tree plan. The overall reasoning behind the plan was eloquently addressed by Chairman Brent Mohr in the last issue of *Score* and will not be re-hashed here. Briefly stated, the evergreen backdrop to the 12th green will be replaced by a less invasive planting, less detrimental to turf health and the game. Ellen Mitchel of Wits End Growers is working with Green Committee and Country Club officials to finalize the plan. An indigenous shrubbery planting will replace the firs to the right of the 13th tee. Also, firs have been removed between 13 fairway and green four, to be replaced with a pair of hardwoods. A pair of unthrifty firs has been removed between holes 18 and 1. Other tree

removals around the clubhouse and course pose hazards and have been removed for your safety.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy winter!

Handicap Committee

Happy New Year 2007!!!! With the mild fall and extremely mild winter (people were playing in shirt sleeves the first week of January) you would think we should be submitting golf scores for rounds played in Maine.....but no, we are 'off-season' from the last week of October until about the 3rd week of April 2007. Please be reminded, however, that if you play golf over the winter at 'in-season' courses (down south or out west), you must post those scores. Remember too, you can post all scores on the Internet by going to <http://www.ghin.com/> and clicking on the 'Post On-line' icon. Have your GHIN #, score and the course rating and slope to post on-line.

Respectfully submitted by the Handicap Committee:

Brian Andrews
Linda Moore

Dick Flanagan
Donna Rennie

Bentley Herbert

Tennis

Winter greetings from the Tennis Committee! A few quick 'bullet points' to bring you up to speed...

New Tennis Committee Members: Kate Ford and Ed Colleran

Alicen Brown and Brian Rodonets resigned from the Tennis Committee last fall, and we would like to thank them for their many creative ideas and their years of service to the Committee. Kate Ford and Ed Colleran were elected as new members to fill their positions. Thanks again to Brian and Alicen, and welcome and congratulations to Kate and Ed!

Web-Master / Martin Zombeck: Martin Zombeck has volunteered to serve in the (non-voting) position of Tennis Committee Web-Master. In this capacity he will bring us (kicking and screaming) into the 21st Century, not only in terms of communicating the Committee's meeting minutes via the web, but also developing the Tennis aspect of the YGT website, exploring on-line reservation systems for implementation, etc. He has even suggested the installation of a Web-cam on the tennis building so that members can view the condition and status of the courts via their computer without having to call in to learn whether the courts are open or closed! He will also try to keep an updated calendar posted on the website to keep everyone apprised of any scheduling additions or changes over the course of the summer. Thanks to Martin for volunteering both his time and his considerable expertise to our 'cause.'

2007 Calendar: There will be many exciting events on the 2007 Calendar. Among them...

Season-Opening Tennis Party on the deck of the new Tennis Building (date TBD)

Marguerita Mixer

Spring Calcutta

Summer Calcutta

Member-Guest Tournament (2nd Annual.)

7.5+ Combined Events

Inter-Club Matches

Club Championships

Season Finale/Awards Banquet

Please note that some of these events, such as the inter-club matches and the rating clinics, won't be on the calendar by the time it is published, so watch for them via email-alert, on the bulletin board, and on the YGT website calendar.

Other news...

Rating Clinics: There will be two USTA rating clinics held next summer for those who haven't been rated - either at the previous YGT rating clinic, or by another USTA source. You will note a number of 'minimum combined rating' events on the 2007 calendar. Participation in these events will require that both players be rated. Combined ratings will be used to assure even and competitive matches, both during designated events at YGT, and for inter-club play. Please be sure to sign up for one of the clinics if you haven't been rated.

Online Reservation System: As mentioned above, we are exploring the costs and feasibility of implementing an online court booking system. This would be a major improvement over the current 'call-in' method – not only in terms of convenience, but also for measuring and analyzing court use. Of course it would still be possible to book a court by phone simply by calling the Club and asking the tennis desk personnel to book your court online via the Club's computer. An online system would allow both staff and members to see who will be playing at any time, what courts are available, if someone in their group has already booked a court, etc. – all without having to call or drive to the Club.

7:00 & 8:30 Court Lottery System: We are exploring a lottery system (as opposed to 'ready, set, dial!') for the 7:00 & 8:30 a.m. court times. The tee-time lottery has worked extremely well for golf, and there is no reason a similar system wouldn't work for tennis. It is 'transparent', impartial, and it would alleviate the current practice of having eight sets of people all speed-dialing the Club at the same moment in hopes of securing a court two days hence.

Email Updates: Many of you have commented on and appreciated the email updates provided by Fern Phillips last year. We plan to continue to build and improve upon this practice in 2007. If your email address has changed, or if you would like to have your email address added to the Tennis Update distribution list, please email Fern Phillips at lbiconsulting@aol.com

Tennis Building: The new Tennis Building is going up fast, and it looks great. Thanks to Bob Todd, Doug Hawkins and Bill Robinson for all their time and effort in making sure it is a structure that we can all enjoy and be proud of for years to come.

These are just a few of the things that we are working on. As always, your comments and/or suggestions are welcome. Simply contact any member of the Tennis Committee, or submit them in writing to tennis@yg&t.com. We are looking forward to seeing you on and around the courts!

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Kate Ford – (krmford@aol.com)

Martin Zombeck (non-voting) – (mvz@alum.mit.edu)

MANAGERS NOTE

To All Members: The BUSINESS OFFICE is now in the Clubhouse year round. Winter hours are Monday thru Thursday 8-12. Fridays call the office before driving over. 363-0130 or 363-0131.

The Winter Score is being E-Mailed to some members for their reactions. If you receive the Score by E-Mail, please E-Mail back if this works for you. Members without E-Mail will still receive the paper Score.