

August 2020 - Did You Know A Few Facts About Our Greens

This month my DYK will be short, just a few facts about our greens (and then a question for you – please respond). Here goes:

- Most of our greens remain as designed and built in 1928 by Langford & Moreau.
- Architects would call our green complexes “push-up” greens because the ground around the green site was pushed up to create some elevation between the green and the surrounding terrain; the surrounds became bunkers or hollows.
- Five of our greens are not original. They were reconstructed over the years, for various reasons. Want to know which ones? Stay tuned; the history of these greens will be featured in future DYK’s.
- Our green with the greatest slope back to front is #16; its most severe slope is around the middle right side.
- Our flattest green is #11, with minimal slope anywhere on the green
- Our largest green is #9, now approximately 5,947 square feet (but see below)
- Our smallest green is #3, now approximately 2,255 square feet (ditto)
- Most of our 13 original greens do not have much slope. Of course, there have been some “creeping changes” over the years, reducing green size and altering the slope a little.

These creeping changes are primarily for two reasons.

First, a green can “shrink” slowly – almost imperceptibly – by mower patterns. In being careful not to scalp the fringe, a little of the green edge can be lost. Over time the green becomes somewhat smaller. One of the goals of the golf course renovation project just started this year is to return the green sizes back to where they were before they shrunk.

Second, sand can change a green. Sand top-dressing will raise a green over time. More importantly, bunker sand splashed onto the green will raise both the fringe and the part of the green near the bunker. An example of this is the left edge of #3 green. Over the years sand shots from the left greenside bunker have splashed sand onto the green. Over many years this created a downslope for several feet toward the middle of the green. There probably was no slope there when the green was built.

Finally, here is a question for you. Which one of our greens is the most interesting and challenging to putt? There are surely many opinions on this. ***Please share your thoughts with me (phone call, email, text all ok).*** If I get enough input, a future DYK will feature your thoughts on the most interesting green on our course.

Brent Rector

rectorbrent@gmail.com

616-450-3186

© Brent D. Rector, 2020