

Director of Golf Report – March 2011

As the month of March comes to an end the start of the 2011 season at Ken-Wo is just around the corner! That being said, I would like to welcome everyone back to Ken-Wo for the 2011 season, a year that marks Ken-Wo's 90th Anniversary! As many of you await the opening of the course, you may be curious as to what has been happening at your club throughout the winter months. I am therefore providing you with a little "update" on various topics that you may be curious about.

WINTER MONTHS

The winter months have been very busy around the club with several renovation projects being completed such as interior painting of the clubhouse (dining room and entrance), installation of new lighting fixtures throughout the main level of the building (pro shop), various plumbing upgrades as well as a host of other minor projects.

STOP N GO – ADMINISTRATION OFFICE RELOCATION

The main focus over the winter has been the construction of a new Stop N Go and new Administration Offices, both located on the ground level of the clubhouse. We also added a new office for the Head Professional now located immediately adjacent to the pro shop counter. I am happy to report that construction of the new Stop N Go is now complete (the offices were completed in late January) with some very positive comments and feedback from those who have already viewed the completed work. The "new" Stop N Go, that will eventually be renamed via a naming contest (more info to follow), will be opening in conjunction with the first tee time of the day throughout the season as we envision this area being your regular morning coffee / tea stop. And on that note, I am also happy to report that Ken-Wo has entered into a partnership with Just Us Coffee to have their coffee served throughout the club as the "coffee of Ken-Wo" for the 2011 season. The offerings in the new Stop N Go will be very similar to what was seen (through a window) in the old Stop N Go, but there will be some minor tweaks such as the offering of toast and bagels, yogurt and berries, and the option of either a "steamed" or "grilled" hot dog, with an array of condiments, for the hot dog lovers at the club, just to name a few. Definitely an exciting upgrade to our clubhouse, but seeing as how this is a brand new endeavor for the club, we ask for your patience as the day-to-day operations are unveiled and tweaked. We also encourage you to share your thoughts, comments and ideas on this exciting new addition to the club as it is your feedback and comments that will enable us to "fine tune" the operation for the benefit of our members and guests.

DECEMBER WIND STORM DAMAGE

As I previously reported in January, the course was hit pretty hard during the December wind storm and since the snow arrived in late December not a lot of work has been done in terms of storm damage cleanup. Fortunately, the vast majority of the cleanup was completed the week following the storm. Also, the recent stretch of nice weather (and disappearance of snow) has allowed Rick and Brian to focus their efforts on the cleanup work to be done and have made great strides in doing so.

COURSE CONDITION UPDATE

I am happy to report that the course has wintered very well, especially when considering the amount of snow and cold temperatures we experienced since December. The snow has melted on pretty much all of the greens except for #5 and #16, which are traditionally the last ones for the snow to melt on. There is some snow mold in various sections of the course, but a little heat and sun will do wonders for these areas in a relatively short time frame. The course is also very dry for this time of the year which is a pleasant surprise considering the rainfall we had last fall as well as the winter we just had. The traditional “April showers” will obviously affect the dryness of the course, but for the time being the course is quite dry.

MEMBER SPRING CLEANUP DAY

The annual spring cleanup of the course is always a labor intensive and time consuming exercise so you can only imagine how much cleanup and “exercise” Rick and the crew are faced with this spring following the December windstorm. With that being said, we are inviting the members of Ken-Wo to join Rick and his crew to assist in the spring cleanup of the course, a day to be known as “Member Spring Cleanup Day”. **The cleanup day will run from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 2nd** with Sunday, April 3rd being set as a rain date if need be. The majority of the work will involve raking, (roughs and bunkers), and cleanup of twigs, smaller branches, garbage, etc. We would ask those of you who plan on attending to bring work gloves, a rake if possible and of course your “work” boots! Ha! Ha! It would also be great if you could let myself or Brandy know if you are planning on attending. And a BIG thanks in advance to those of you who can assist us in the cleanup. Hopefully, we can make this an annual event at the club as it is a great way to “lend a hand” to your golf club.

NEW GREENS - #10 & PRACTICE GREEN

I am also happy to report that the newly constructed greens - #10 and the new practice green – have wintered very well. There is still some work to be completed in these areas over the next few months, namely the bunkers and drainage, but we are hopeful that we will have these new green sites by our previously targeted date of June 1st! The weather (sun and heat) over the next few months will play a major role in meeting our targeted opening date so time will tell, but again, the current condition of these greens is very promising.

STAFFING UPDATE

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the entire 2010 Management Team is returning for the 2011 season. The Management Team will once again consist off Rick Phelan (Course Superintendent), Brian Bartkow (Assistant Superintendent), Debbie Barclay (Food & Beverage Manager), Brandy Martin (Administrative Assistant), Derek MacKinnon (Head Professional) and Daniel Fraser (Associate Professional). As is usually the case, there will be some minor personnel changes in both the food and beverage department and golf operations department, but I can say with great confidence that the new hires will be welcome additions to the Ken-Wo customer service team. Please take some time to introduce (or re-introduce) yourself to “your” service reps and welcome them to the 2011 season and the Ken-Wo family!

TEE TIME RESERVATIONS

The tee time reservation system remains exactly the same as it was in 2010. Therefore, tee times may be reserved through the online reservation system, via telephone or in person in the pro shop. The 2010 season saw the majority of tee times being reserved either via the internet or by phone, with a small number of individuals booking their tee times in person in the pro shop. Should you have any questions about tee time reservations or should you wish to have a “refresher course” on how to book online, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Brandy, or a member of the golf operations department, and we would be more than pleased to assist you.

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 2011 season marks Ken-Wo’s 90th Anniversary as the club was incorporated in 1921. To commemorate this special occasion a Gala Dinner (Club Opening) will be held on Friday, April 29th. Tickets for this semi-formal event are on sale in the business office for \$30; however, there are only a limited number available as tickets have been on sale since last fall. Please contact Brandy as soon as possible should you be interested in attending. In addition to the Gala event, there will be new pin flags on course recognizing the club’s 90th anniversary.

And last but certainly not least.....

OPENING DAY FOR 2011

At this point in time it is still too soon to predict, but we have set the date of **Friday, April 8th as the tentative opening date of the golf course for the 2011 season**. The weather over the next few weeks will be critical in finalizing our opening date – we need some sun and heat as the temperatures are still very cool! I will be sure to update you on a regular basis as the date

draws closer and the weather becomes a little more predictable. Also, the “preseason” or “spring” cleanup of the course will go a long way to determining our opening date so we encourage you to join us for the member cleanup day (info above) scheduled for Saturday, April 2nd. **PLEASE STAY TUNED.....**

I think that just about covers everything for now. In closing, I would like to once again welcome everyone to the 2011 season at Ken-Wo Golf Club! I look forward to seeing you all and welcoming you back to the club in April. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office to say hello (it is now on the main level at the main entrance) as it is always nice to have the opportunity to welcome you back in person.

See you on the links.....and Happy Golfing in 2011!!!

Thank you,
Rene MacKay