



From the General Manager

When the December 2020 end of year Golf Gazette was released, we discussed then the positive year that was, and that we were cautiously optimistic that golf would again thrive in 2021. Well, our optimism held true for 2021.

Golf performed well to the budgeted numbers again in 2021. Revenue did exceed budget by about 4% overall. Payroll and payroll related costs did influence the performance numbers to no one's fault. As most of you know, we struggled with finding a full compliment of seasonal staff to support Jeff and his on course operations. To that end, Jeff and his staff should be commended for the efforts they put forth in providing our members and their guests the quality course conditions that we experienced again this past season.

Unlike the 2020 season, the later half of the 2021 season (mid July through November) realized over 32" of rain. That is a lot of moisture to absorb on any golf course for an entire season let alone the last 4 months. The small experimental drainage plan we installed on the lower end of the 17th fairway did very well and gave us some confidence that extending that in the future should assist in drying out the remainder of the fairway. Once we complete the remaining drainage on that fairway, the replacement of the 17th cart path will be considered. We have not committed to a timeline yet, but it is on our list for future budget considerations.

Overall, the 2021 season was a positive one. We realized more members, we made some remarkable improvements, the course was in great shape, and we are carrying some good momentum into the 2022 season.

Membership

Our membership continued to grow this past year from the 2020 season. The fall special realized 26 members. Although this is 10 fall members short of the results realized on 2020, we also saw our junior membership grow. Membership by the numbers, end of season totals:

2019 – 158 memberships 179 members, includes 16 fall specials
2020 – 169 memberships 183 members, includes 36 fall specials
2021 – 203 memberships 218 members, includes 26 fall specials

These are good trend lines!! This past season is the first time that we were over 200 members/memberships in a very long time. That is great for golf and all of us at Pocono Farms!

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POCONO FARMS COUNTRY CLUB ASSOC., INC.

Golf Gazette

Course Updates



At the conclusion of each season, there is a lot of work that goes into putting the course to bed for the winter. The intent of all of this work is to give the golf course the best chance of minimizing any winter damage.

Tobyhanna winters can be brutal and vary greatly in precipitation and temperatures. Jeff and his team implement many processes to protect the course from the winter exposures and extremes. Although we do have a complete drainage system under each green, there are other processes that must be implemented to give our course the best opportunity to winter well. Some of those are:

- Some areas of the collars have the sod removed to allow any melting snow/ice to drain off of the green surface and not create layers of ice

- Additional drains are placed in low spots on the greens to allow any melting snow or ice to drain off of the green complex and not permit it to freeze

- As the season draws to a close, Jeff lets the greens "grow out" a little bit before he then top dresses them and then places the greens covers on them. This primarily protects the greens from the wind. The green color of the covers will also absorb sunlight and assist with melting snow and ice. In the late winter, the color will again absorb heat and start to trigger the warm up of the soil temperatures. Did you know that only 2 of our greens are not covered? #6 and #16. These are the only 2 greens at Pocono Farms that face south and are able to absorb sunlight through the winter season.

- Snow is a great insulator for the greens. However, too much snow for too long is not good. It is a delicate balance, as is all turf management, and one that Jeff and Evan will monitor throughout the winter season.

In 2021, the Board and Golf committee, with Kyle and Jeff's oversight, stayed committed to the tree removal project that was started over two years ago. The initial goal was to remove trees that impact the tee shot from the 1st hole through the 18th hole. That has been completed and now the focus becomes a little more strategic in removing trees that either impede your approach shot due to the tree becoming too mature, or removing trees that will result in more sun onto the turf.



Hole 3 Before



Hole 3 After

The large project completed in 2021 was the replacement of all of our greenside bunkers. This project was originally scheduled for three phases, over three years, primarily due to costs (over 300K) and the scope of the project. As Kyle and Jeff met with the contractors, it was discussed that “maybe” we could complete it in one year and two phases. However, once the crew was on site, the Board, on a recommendation from Kyle and Jeff, and supported by the Golf Committee, it was decided to get the project done in one phase. This worked out to our benefit as we saved some money on mobilization and material bulk pricing, and completed the project in early June.

The project had a tremendous impact on the playability and aesthetics of the golf course. Everyone who has played the course has raved about the quality of the project. The sand did take some time to settle and not be as fluffy, but it is so much better than what was there previously. Even with all of the rain we had, the bunkers held up as advertised, and required minimal touch up after any of the rain events. Jim Ribardo, one of our long term members, provided us updated photos throughout the bunker renovation process to keep our members informed of the status. A special thank you to Jim for doing this. Previous to doing this project, Jeff and his team would spend countless hours pumping out the traps with the smallest amount of rainfall. Since this project has been completed, minor raking of the edges of the traps is all that is needed. And when you are short on staff, keeping them on other areas of the course goes a long way.



Hole 6 Before



Hole 6 After

The next phase of the plan is to look at the same type of replacement for the fairway bunkers. This project, along with leveling some tees, is on the list for future funding. We are not committed to a date as of yet as the Association has a few other large community based projects (the outdoor pool liner replacement – 300k and the replacement of our children’s playground at the beach area – 125k) scheduled for 2022. If golf and other community sources of income can continue on the pace experienced the past two years, these projects “could” be considered for the spring of 2023.



A Letter From The Golf Chairman

First off I’d like to wish everyone happy holidays and I hope you are doing well! Looking back on the 2021 golf season I am happy to say we have made a lot of progress in reaching some of our major goals here at PFCC. Our bunker project kicked off in early spring and what a difference it has made! We have gotten a lot of positive feedback and the bunkers have turned out great so far. Looking forward, our professional staff, golf committee, and board of directors will meet and develop a plan to have the remainder of the bunkers completed in the near future.

Our membership was another highlight for this year. We added new members consistently throughout the year and ended up with a number we haven't seen in years. On behalf of the golf committee we hope everyone enjoyed our tournaments throughout the year. I personally think they were some of the more exciting rounds of golf we have had in recent years. Our club championships showcased some outstanding talent for both men and women and some great matches were played. Also, member/member and member/guest ended with some impressive golf played in both shootouts. One other highlight I’d like to mention is the success of our team of players that competed in the BMW Gap matches: Bob Drygas, Jeff Bunker, Mark Bartkowski, Mike Brynzia, Tom Sirolly, Don Cain, Paul Spiska, Tommy Gaudette, Timmy Gaudette, Bill Rizzo, John Basile, Dean Barone, Tim Holland, Mikey Gaudette, and team captain Pat Mitchell. These guys won our division and brought home the trophy that we will be defending next year.

Lastly, if anyone has or knows a youngster that has any interest in golf, please bring them by and encourage them to give golf a try. We have a great junior program here at the farms and we are always looking for more kids to keep that going. I hope everyone has a good winter and I will see you in the spring!

Jeff Jones
Golf Committee Chairman

Member Rounds

Thanks to an opening date of April 10th, we came out of the gate strong. We realized 404 member rounds in April of 2021. In 2020, due to COVID, we did not open the course until May 1st.

Through mid-July, we were really moving along on the member rounds line, exceeding member rounds played through the same period the year before. In doing a comparison of member rounds, basically splitting the season in half (April – July 2020 vs. same period for 2021), we were 349 member rounds ahead when compared to the same period last year. Unfortunately, when we compared August through the end of season 2020 vs. 2021, we fell behind 619 member rounds due to the amount of rain that fell. Total member rounds played in 2020 was 7,121 versus 6,851 in 2021, for a difference of 270 member rounds.



2021 Tournament & Event Winners

Senior Club Championship – Mark Barkowski & Laurie Holland

Parent/Child – Scott & Krista Kissell

Member/Guest – Quintin Leonard & Trevor McQuillen

Handicap Tournament – Frank Milano

Memorial Member/Member – Jim Lodovici & Ed Munely

Club Championship – Mark Bartkowski & Natalie Spiska

Fall Fling – Tony Russo & Carl Pugliese, Steve Hubbs & Mike Bassett and
Chris Ednie & Pat Ednie

Couples Championship – Jeff Jones & Kristen Jones

Turkey Bash – Jake Holeva, Ed Murphy & Jim McLaughlin

Congratulations to all of our flight winners throughout the entire season!
For a complete list of all flight winners, please visit – poconofarms.com/golf

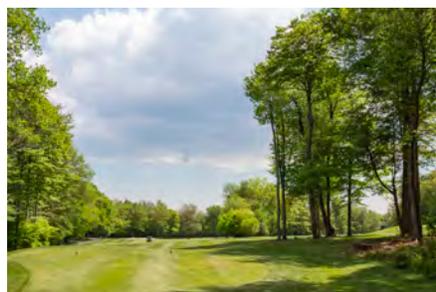
From The Superintendent's Perspective

Another golf season in the books! The 2021 season started off strange, much like the previous year due to Covid 19 and everything associated with it. There were some restrictions, social distancing, and removal of items on the golf course that were related to high risk/high touch areas. However, as the season progressed restrictions decreased, and we were under way for the start of another great season!

Starting the season off with a big bang was our bunker renovation project. The bunker project included complete renovation of 30 greenside bunkers (2 removed and 3 added). This process involved removing old sand and soil from the bunkers, reshaping the bunkers, adding new drainage, adding a new liner, resodding the bunker surrounds, and finally adding new sand. While this project was a huge undertaking, it went surprisingly fast and well considering all the work involved. Kyle Monahan (our PGA Professional) and I worked hand and hand with the renovation company as the project progressed. Evan Freach (the Assistant Superintendent) and I also had to put in countless hours of hand watering and push mowing during the grow in stage. After a short period of time the bunkers were completely playable. Wow...what a difference! I am so pleased with the results of the renovation. Not only is the course more playable, but it also looks great aesthetically. Also, the new drainage and liners in the bunkers works amazing. Shortly after the project was complete, the golf course was hit with a thunderstorm that dropped almost 4" of rain. This would have caused the old bunkers edges to be washed out and left the rest of bunker full of water. However, the newly renovated bunkers needed no repairs and had no standing water in them. What a relief! It was almost immediate proof that the bunker project was a complete success.

Summer went well with good weather. Course conditions were great and there were lots of people golfing. It's always nice to see the returning members out there along with many new faces! As summer pressed into fall, we did have to deal with some hurdles (to be expected). From the middle of August pretty much until the end of the season, the golf course was hit with a ton of rain (over 30" from mid-August to the seasons end). While the golf course had to remain cart path only from mid-August on (except for 5 days), we kept pressing on. With the golf season now over, we'll have to deal with the long, cold winter of Tobyhanna! I'm already looking forward to next golf season. We'll have some more projects on the course next season trying to continually improve conditions and playability for everyone.

I hope everyone has a great winter! I already miss seeing the familiar faces of our members and hopefully we'll see some more new ones. Stay safe, happy holidays and a happy New Year!



Jeffrey Lesoine
Golf Course Superintendent

A Look Ahead to 2022

After mentioning the community based projects earlier, there are a few smaller items that will be completed in 2022, although not specifically on the golf course, but in areas in and around the golf facilities. Some of them are:

- Removing, leveling, and replacing the pavers near the scoreboard area
- Purchasing and installing memorial plaques that will be placed near the scoreboard

area. This was a recommendation from the golf committee, which the Board approved. These memorial plaques will replace the "on course memorials" going forward such as the benches. All current benches will be maintained and stay.

- Repair and overlay the parking lot adjacent to the Pro Shop.
- Remove and expand the grill cover structure at the halfway house.
- On the golf operations side, our 5 year lease with Toro, for our course maintenance

equipment, has been renewed. Every 5 years, we lease new equipment to maintain our golf course. The new lease includes a new enclosed cab sprayer along with a new sand pro that can be used in our new bunker complexes so that the machine does not damage the liner placed in the sand traps. The lease also includes a new fairway, rough, and greens units, and multiple work carts. Our operating cost for this new lease did increase about \$18,000.00

In keeping up with these additional operating costs, and other inflationary costs, it was apparent that the membership fees needed to be adjusted for 2022. On a recommendation to the golf committee, and approved by the Board, the golf membership rates were increased, equal to the COLA released by the Social Security Administration, or about 5.9%. Junior rates for those 25 years and under were not increased.

- Guest fees were adjusted to: 9 holes weekday = \$25.00 9 holes weekend = \$35.00
18 holes weekday = \$45.00 18 holes weekend = \$55.00

- Cart fees will remain the same for 2022
- Guest books will stay the same at \$240.00 per book

Kyle is currently working on the tentative outing schedule and will be sending it out along with your 2022 member application. Both will be mailed out to you once they are complete.



What another great year of golf in the books! As a son of a retired PGA Director of Golf, GCSAA Head Superintendent, General Manager and Golf Course owner, I have been around this wonderful game my entire life. Ten years ago, when golf was at an all time low, I started to really wonder if it would ever come back to life and now it has come back better than ever. Although its comeback is mainly influenced from Covid-19, we are starting to see more challenges than before as well.

With more golfers playing, more equipment is needed. However, getting your hands on the equipment has been very difficult. Every year, I stock our Pro Shop with hard and soft goods, but no matter which company I tried to get my orders from I always ran into issues. Golf bags that were supposed to arrive in April 2021 finally made an appearance in October 2021, any custom club orders were delayed, golf shoes, and don't even get me started on grips. Even our golf cart delivery was delayed because of unavailability of batteries.

No matter the company or the business – we are all having issues. We just need to hang in there, be patient, and be thankful that the game we all love is back. So, get out there and work on our own game! Keep the momentum going to teach your friends and family about golf, practice as often as you can and help grow this game for more generations to come.



Kyle Monahan
PGA Head Golf Professional

In Closing

In closing, we, the PFCCA Management team and staff, would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Golf Committee, and the Golf Membership, for all of your continued support as we strive to provide all of our members and their guests, the BEST golf experience in the Northeast.

Just because the golf season is over does not mean that you have to wait until the course re-opens in the Spring to visit the Grill Room & Pub or attend any one of the many events that we have planned. As a golf member of Pocono Farms, feel free to stop by the Grill Room for lunch, dinner, or attend any event that may interest you.

Katrina and her staff put together many themed events and dinner specials in the off season. Even though the hours are scaled back a little, we are still open 4 to 5 days a week. Please check our website or give us a call for more information. We would love to see you!!

We look forward to having everyone back for the 2022 season. On behalf of all of us at Pocono Farms, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and a safe, healthy Holiday Season, and a prosperous New Year!!

Dave Timko
General Manager

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Asst. General Manager

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Jeff Lesoine
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