

I had the privilege of playing Maidstone on Long Island on Wednesday. As you probably know, Maidstone is another Wille Park Jr.-designed course that apparently went through a major upgrade about 10 years ago.

Before playing there, I was generally supportive of the plan – but was definitely not crazy about losing 9 holes for two summers. But after my round, I came back with a very different perspective of the plan. I actually wonder if it goes far ENOUGH.

You can see and feel the similarities between Maidstone and Bruno. The experience there is off the charts. Bruno is of course fabulous as a club, but one can see in Maidstone what an upgrade could do to our course.

While we can't obviously replicate the ocean views, I left there feeling like we could absolutely get Bruno to be just as interesting and breathtaking -- and what a treat it would be to have something that great in our own backyard, to enjoy with all our fellow members.

I've been told by several committee members that doing nothing is simply not an option. I would like to understand on Saturday exactly why that's true. If it is, and we will have to suffer major disruption in any event to redo the greens and more, then I am fully in favour of taking advantage of the fact that work needs to be done to bring Bruno to the next level.

Beyond that, I hope we can spend time on the difficult logistical questions that remain vague or unanswered:

- How can the work be done in the least disruptive way? Can we do it in one year vs two? (Is the reason a lack of available manpower or equipment? If not, does the lack of confidence all can be done in one year mean two years under the current plan could become 3 years?)
- What concrete steps can be locked in to address the loss of two precious years of the full Bruno experience? 2 years is a long time, especially for those of us who are getting older. Can we lock down access to other private clubs quickly? How about cutting a reciprocal deal with Royal Montreal, who will see major disruption around the President's Cup in 2024? Can/should we offer more senior members a choice of preferred access somewhere else or a lower renovation bill?

I feel that if every member had the chance to play at Maidstone, we would have a close to unanimous decision in favour of the plan - or an even bolder version. Our terrain is every bit as beautiful, and our good holes are not far from being great and 10x more interesting.

Most importantly, thank you to the Committee for all your efforts. See you on Saturday.