

From: Dominique DeSerres <dominique.deserres@gmail.com>
Subject: Essence of the Course Renovation Plan
Date: October 26, 2022 at 12:36:28 EDT
To: coursemasterplan@golymbcc.com
Resent-From: <coursemasterplan@golymbcc.com>

(Please publish this alongside the others on the website.)

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Here are my thoughts regarding the course renovation plan, for your consideration and entertainment, after reviewing all the information published and available (plan document, video presentation, member feedback emails, etc.) as of 2022-10-24.

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Oftentimes I can figure out how I feel about an issue simply by looking at the line drawn and at the people standing on each side of that line. Unfortunately, in this case people I would normally align with can be found on both sides and make valid points.

The scope of the project is large, details are plenty and naturally everything comes at a cost (monetary or otherwise). As Members, we care deeply about our club and spend quite a bit of time there so it's normal that passions run hot. That being said, we are not the first club to be faced with options like these and "we can do this", whatever it is we decide to do.

I think it's important that we remain focused on the essence of the project, which I view thusly:

Fact: Our bunkers are sub-par (to put it nicely).

That's it, as far as I'm concerned. While other facts may exist, this is the boiling point for me. Everything starts from that fact and from that starting point we are afforded different options going forward.

Option 0: We do nothing.

Option 1: We redo the bunkers as they are (again...).

Option 2: We take the opportunity given here to try and address other issues with the course.

Option 2 is clearly the path the Course Planning Committee chose.

What fundamental issues does the plan fix?

#1 The slopes of our greens (beloved) are such that few fair pin placements exist (not beloved) because of our fast green speeds (beloved).

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#2 The size of our greens is now much smaller than originally envisioned by Willie Park Jr (our beloved course architect).

Proposed Plan:

By restoring the size of our greens to that of the original course design we can keep our interesting green slopes WHILE keeping our fast green speeds AND gaining new interesting pin placements in the process. I salivate at the mere thought... Yes, this is an expensive proposition

(again, monetary and otherwise) but this is not us trading "quatre trente sous pour une piasse". **This will massively increase our enjoyment playing our course and greens, the very greens we pride ourselves with.**

Now, if we increase the size of our greens then it means we must change the location of the greenside bunkers. Perfect!, as this gives us the opportunity to completely rebuild them in a way that makes more sense going forward (i.e., flat sand with grassy slopes) and to position them more in line with the original Willie Park Jr. vision. Again, I salivate at the thought!

Of course the project is more complex than that but I feel the overwhelming amount of details and scope drowns out its essence. And yes, each of us would probably want to make tweaks here or there with the rest of the plan but essentially, our bunkers are broken and a window of opportunity opens up. What do we do?

I vote option 2, I wish very many would too and that we can rally around what I feel is the core of the project, i.e., expanded greens and new greenside feature complexes. I warmly thank the Committees, the Board, Trevor, and Andy Staples for the outstanding work that went into this and for the beautiful vision presented to us.

Kind regards,

Dominique DeSerres

P.S.

While I have your attention, here are the few tweaks I would suggest, for your consideration.

Fescue

While beautiful through its contrasting blond colour, the fescue that grows at Bruno is very thick, penalizing and as such negatively impacts pace of play. Instead of creating large and deep sections of new fescue (#2, #4, #5, #6, #14NEW, #18NEW) we could consider placing narrow strips no more than a few yards wide (or deep). These would give us the contrast in colour we desire, a "pensez-y bien" for those looking at cutting through on purpose all the while giving us a chance to quickly find wayward balls and keep up with our brisk pace of play.

Blue Tees and Trees

There are far too few members who would play the proposed new back teeing grounds for the cost in capital, maintenance and in trees cut required. To me, these tees will be underused, an eyesore and might quickly earn a "back tee folly" nickname.