

Out of Bounds – February 2023

February saw Mother Nature bungee jumping and, evidently, enjoying it! We saw temperatures bouncing from low teens to almost 70 degrees. Stagg Hill benefited as many of the better days fell on weekends. People who love golf got rounds in during February... even the “fair weather” golfers!!

Lots of good news was heard in meetings of both the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. Every aspect of our early financial picture is better than it was at this time in 2022! And, 2022 was a banner year for Stagg Hill Golf Club. Let’s continue this upward trend!

By the time you read this, the new cold room should be completed and in use. Our resident “Board Carpenters” have done a fantastic job. Steve Lundeen and Tom Chaput put in lots of hours to make this happen. Topping off the good news, the costs were minimal! Home Depot donated all the materials in-kind for advertising! A big “Thanks!” goes to the Manhattan Home Depot!

Chad has been busy working on tournament schedules, along with so much more. We’re close to a major change in our POS system. Soon, you will be able to use “Apple Pay”, “Venmo”, etc. at Stagg Hill. During events, if you want refreshments at the triple tee you can use those methods or your credit/debit card to make your purchase.

Justin has stayed busy. Fairways have seen Roundup applied. Roundup kills out the unwanted plant growth, while not harming the Zoysia. Brush along a number of holes has been mulched, mainly to get more air movement to greens and tees. Due to operating errors by the previous superintendent, we saw our irrigation allotments greatly exceeded. Not too many years ago, Stagg Hill paid a significant penalty for exceeding an allotment. Justin was well versed in the allotment regulations set forth by Kansas Department of Agriculture. He had worked with KDA while at Prairie Dunes. Justin was able to prove our case with solid numbers and our over-pumping for 2022 will be forgiven! Good job, Justin!!!

For those unfamiliar with our irrigation system, there are lots of moving parts. We have four irrigation wells in various locations on site. Each of those wells is metered and the acre feet of groundwater we pump is regulated by Kansas Department of Agriculture. Those four wells pump into our presedimentation basin. (I know! Most of us refer to that as the pond on #14.) The water pumped from the strata below us is loaded with iron and manganese. There is also a quantity of silica sand found in the water. If we pumped that water directly on the course, our fairways and greens would become black as the iron in the water oxidized. Moving the water to the presed basin allows the iron and silica to settle out. The pump house behind #14 pulls water from the basin and sends it to our hundreds of sprinkler heads on tees, fairways, and greens. Those pumps and how much they pump, where they pump, when they pump, etc. is controlled by a software system on Justin’s laptop in the maintenance facility. Early each year, we fill out a pumping report for KDA. That report tells KDA if we have utilized more water than our allotment allows. Overages can be expensive if KDA feels exceeding the allotment has been negligent or intentional. If any members of Stagg Hill would like a quick tour of the irrigation system and the extent of the basin, give me a call. We’ll find a time we can make it happen.

Board of Director committee assignments for the next year are made each December. Often, we look to some non-Board members to serve in at-large positions on these committees. This year we tapped three to help. Mike Wells and Jason Walker are at-large members of the Grounds & Greens

Committee. Del Brooks is an at-large member of the Buildings Committee. The year is barely begun and these three have already given time and talent to keep Stagg Hill moving forward!! Thanks, guys!!

Last month I had promised some news re the new maintenance facility. We answered many of our questions this past month, but some are still outstanding. We get more optimistic each day, but just do not have quite enough to make an announcement at this time. I ask for your patience. I'll need yours as mine is running thin!!

The March newsletter will have a link to a survey for the Stagg Hill members. PLEASE take the survey and be honest with your answers! Again, the Board of Directors is not only wanting to be transparent with the membership, but we want to solicit and welcome your input. Talk to us through that survey.

Been both a calm and an exciting start to 2023. Good golf weather is on its way! Make time to enjoy golf and enjoy the experience at Stagg Hill Golf Club.

Chad, Justin, and I stand ready to answer your questions and concerns. Never hesitate to contact me. My phone is 785 633-1126. If I don't answer, leave a voice mail or text.

Larry Williams
President – Board of Directors