

Let's all make an effort to speed up play:

1. Ready golf - this means proceed to hit your ball without waiting for each player in your group to proceed. Etiquette dictates that you wait for players further away from the hole before proceeding to your own ball. However, if your ball is far enough from the next to hit so that you are not disturbing that player, go ahead and get ready for your shot.
2. While your partner is setting up for his shot, you should be on your way to your own ball to assess your own shot.
3. Repair your ball marks on the green so that the following players don't need to do the repairs. I have witnessed the need for players to repair several neglected ball marks in their putting lines only to add minutes to their play time per hole. Three minutes for repairs on one green times 10 greens adds a half hour to your round.
4. Avoid 'pack' play or 'swarming'. As a foursome you don't need to pack together to each individual's ball as a group. Go to your own ball and be ready to hit when the opportunity arises. Packing is especially time consuming when each player is in his own cart.
5. If you can hit 225 yards, why are you waiting for the group ahead to be on the green on a 370 yard par 4 hole?
6. Avoid long, leisurely conversations that keep you idle on the course. Converse while walking or riding to your next shot.

Just a reminder that the deadline for signing up for the Club Championship is this Tuesday the 19th at 6PM. The entry fee is \$60,00 and you must have played in 3 events, either Wednesday league and monthly tournaments in the past 12 months. You may request playing partners for Saturday, but Sunday pairings will be based on flights and scores. Questions ??? Contact Bob [archer19541@gmail.com](mailto:archer19541@gmail.com) (505) 264-5384

## Colby's corner

### Range ball availability:

Purchase of range balls is not available at the machine, the purchase must be made in the pro shop. People will no longer have to carry their buckets of balls across the parking lot anymore though. The standard range ball purchase will give customers a pin number which can be used at the machine to acquire their balls. The pin number is valid until the expiration time on the chit. As well, discounts are available for larger quantity purchases. Customers will be able to purchase a range card that has \$100 in value for the price of \$80, or \$200 in value for the price of \$150. These cards will be able to be used directly at the machine.

David Salas  
Golf Superintendent

## **Why do greens have to be aerated in the first place?**

Aeration provides a host of benefits for our hard-working putting surfaces. It helps to relieve the compaction that comes with intense golfer and maintenance traffic. Aeration also improves air and water movement through the soil, which yields healthier grass and more consistent playing conditions. Breaking up the layer of organic material that accumulates just below the putting surface – commonly referred to as thatch – is another important benefit. The end result is firmer, smoother and healthier greens.

## **Why do we always aerate when the greens are perfect?**

It can be frustrating to see thousands of holes punched into perfectly good greens, but there are good reasons why aeration usually occurs when greens are at their best. Aeration is stressful for putting green turf. The more favorable the growing conditions are, the quicker the greens will recover. While aerating very late or very early in the year might seem less disruptive to the golf schedule, the longer recovery time and risk of added turf damage can actually lead to more disruption. Aeration timing may also depend on seasonal changes in staffing. Performing aeration when the staff is at full strength helps expedite the process and subsequent recovery, which means normal playing conditions return sooner.

## **Why can't we skip it?**

Skipping aeration "just this once" may seem appealing when the weather is good and golf season is in full swing, but missing aeration events can allow unseen problems to develop, causing greater disruption in the future. If the thatch layer is allowed to build without periodically being broken up and diluted with sand, it can turn into a dense sponge that traps water near the surface. This leads to soft, bumpy playing conditions and greens that are increasingly vulnerable to damage from disease and traffic. Staying on top of aeration requirements means a less-disruptive aeration schedule and less risk of poor playing conditions.

Without aeration, a dense thatch layer can accumulate below the putting surface. Excessive thatch can make greens vulnerable to damage.

