

**2019 Fall Newsletter**

Thank you everyone for being a part of the Nanton Golf Club this past season. The past few seasons have not been particularly easy, and the Nanton Golf Club has been faced with many challenges. We are thankful for the support of our Members and we are looking forward to making improvements that will make being a member at the Nanton Golf Club more rewarding and enjoyable.

Overall, we had a good season with the Golf Course opening April 12th and closing October 20th. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to get much golfing in at the end of the season thanks to a couple of early snow storms and although we stayed open well into October, the season ended for many of us in September.

We introduced some big changes at the Golf Course this past season. For the first time we offered Annual Memberships, bringing 26 new members to the Golf Club. There appears to be a trend in the marketplace that memberships are no longer in demand with so many deals and discounts available and a lot of golfers playing multiple courses instead of joining a club for the long term. This seems to be extremely apparent with the younger generation of golfers, which is why many golf clubs are working so hard to attract the younger golfers. Hopefully having new Annual Members enjoying the golf course will result in new future long-term members.

In the Clubhouse we decided not to hire a Clubhouse Manager and instead hired a Kitchen Manager and a Front-end Supervisor. There were significant changes to the Clubhouse Menu and many people commented on how great the food was. We added feature nights which became popular including Friday Fish and Chips and Saturday Steak Sandwich Night as well as daily features to keep things fresh. Hours of operation were limited out of necessity to save on expenses. While we realize that this caused some inconvenience the cost savings far outweighed the lost revenue, resulting in a successful year for the clubhouse.

The golf course was in excellent shape this past season. With the introduction of a new greens roller we were able to roll the greens more often, resulting in a faster, smoother putting service. We installed 2 new culverts on holes 15 and 16, removing the old rickety bridges making the areas much cleaner. Thanks to mother nature providing much needed moisture, fairways and rough were kept lush throughout the season providing an aesthetically pleasing product as well as better playing conditions.

In the Pro Shop we made the tough decision to partner with 1 vendor for most of our purchasing providing more cost saving benefits. While this resulted in a decrease in the selection offered, we were able to increase profitability and limit the amount of inventory we have left over at the end of the season.

Over the course of the winter we will continue exploring ways to improve. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2020, and we hope everyone has a good winter.

Sincerely,

Dave Henzie

Head Golf Professional

**Letter from the President**

Greetings folks,

I hope you all had a great golf season and that everyone finds themselves enjoying what seems to be an unpredictable start to winter, or planning their escape to the sunny south.

I felt like we had an interesting year in 2019. We opened on time and largely had a very successful year, albeit with some challenges from Mother Nature, and poor market conditions. We were also forced to deal with issues to our aging infrastructure, in and around the course, such as our main water line break, maintenance on our irrigation pumps, and fixing seemingly endless amounts of irrigation leaks on the course.

The board and staff at the club worked extremely hard to establish a realistic budget while taking measures to cut and manage expenses due to the financial hardships we have faced over the past few years. This was a relatively successful endeavour, and curtailed some of the financial struggles the course had coming into the season and allowed us to stave off having to increase our operating line early in the year as we thought we may have to do.

Market conditions for golf clubs around the area have been a challenge. There are a lot of courses competing for business, as well as an online environment that are testing the endurance and financial health of many courses in Southern Alberta. It seems to be a "race to the bottom" in terms of green fee pricing in order to try and capture those recreational dollars people seem to have less of, with the overall struggles of the economy. The pride of being a member at a club with the younger generation also seems to be diminishing as people are finding that online portals are giving them access to many clubs, at the rates they are finding value. As such, all of these factors coupled with inclement weather are becoming a challenge for a lot of courses to operate. We have even seen prestigious clubs such as Bearspaw close their doors and other courses that are in financial trouble. It goes without saying that we will need to continue to manage our club prudently if we are to safeguard the longevity of the club.

All of that aside, I thought as though we were treated to a particularly great year in terms of course playability and the overall conditions on the course. The maintenance crew did an amazing job maintaining and making small improvements around the course with a reduced staff, and I felt as though our new team in the clubhouse was focused on providing a superior product. The proshop had less variety in terms of clothing and clubs but worked with people to ensure they brought in great equipment and clothing at very competitive pricing while managing our hold of inventory effectively. Our overall staff was exceptionally strong and I saw a lot of "going the extra mile" to ensure that our members and guests were well looked after.

Heading into 2020 there will again be tough choices to make in terms of how the budgets are established and the level of product we are used to enjoying at NGC. I feel strongly that in order to be a really successful "club", we need to have a strong social atmosphere, have members engaged in making the club a better place to be, and be focused on attracting new potential members.

So please, do your part and be an active member in the club, shop locally, and remember to tell the folks that work here that you appreciate their efforts! Looking forward to a great year in 2020, and hope to see you on the links!

Tim Collis

**Golf Club By-Laws**

The Board of Directors asked for volunteers to form a bylaw committee to review the current bylaws and recommend any changes or updates that should be made. The Bylaw committee is comprised of 9 members and after review will present their recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

**After some discussion at the Board level and by the committee the Board has approved the following motions to be presented at the AGM:**

**Motion #1:** Bylaw 5.1 shall read

“There shall be an annual general meeting held on or before March 31st in each year …”

**Motion #2:** Bylaw 5.1 shall read

“…, notice of which shall be given to all Adult Members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting following these acceptable ways of giving notice:

* by ordinary mail to the last known address of the Members on the records of the Club,
* by notice published in a regular newsletter sent to all members individually, by electronic means such as e-mail.

**The Reason for the changes are as follows:**

* Reduce administrative expenses for notices by use of electronic procedures
* Allow extra time to prepare and address concerns from the Audit, and allow time to prepare an annual budget prior to the meeting.

The Existing Bylaw 5.1 currently says:

*There shall be an annual general meeting held on or before December 31st in each year, written notice of which shall be given to all Adult Members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting by ordinary mail to the last known address of the Members on the records of the club.*

**2019 Member Dues**

Membership at the Nanton Golf Club provides excellent value and is priced very competitively. We believe that our golf course is very enjoyable to play and is well maintained providing an excellent experience for players of all levels and abilities. Being a member at the Nanton Golf Club provides many benefits

• Unlimited Golf

• Driving Range Pass

* Access to prime time tee times

• 10 Day Booking

• Member Cart Rates

• 10% Pro Shop Discount

• Member Leagues

• Member Tournaments

• Interclub Competitions

• Reciprocal Rates at partner courses

• Golf Canada Membership

With that in mind there has been a 10% increase in membership fees across the board. Over the past few years we have been faced with challenging circumstances with a poor provincial economy and increasing expenses. This has made it more and more difficult to generate revenue at the golf course. Businesses are spending less, resulting in less tournaments, individuals have less discretionary income and are playing less golf, and fewer people are joining golf courses.

For the past few seasons we have unfortunately experienced a decrease in memberships having a significant impact on the well-being of the club and the bottom line. In order to stabilize this effect we felt it necessary to increase fees.

We will continue working to attract new members. Last year we introduced a new category of Membership, the “Annual Age 19 - 39” and the “Annual 40+” which will be back for 2020. The hope is to be able to attract new members to the club by allowing them to experience our course first-hand, hopefully resulting in future long-term members. We also introduced a Membership referral program which will continue, providing an incentive to members who refer a new member. Each member that referred a new member received a $100 credit to use anywhere at the club.

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| **Nanton Golf Club 2020 Member Rates** |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Membership Category** | **Early Payment Option** | **Payment Option 2** |
| January 31, 2020 | After February 1st |
| Base Price | **Including GST** | Base Price | **Including GST** |
| **Single Dues** (Unlimited) | $1,210.00 | **$1,270.50** | $1,400.00 | **$1,470.00** |
| **Couple/Family Dues** (Unlimited) | $2,230.00 | **$2,341.50** | $2,590.00 | **$2,719.50** |
|  **Single Dues** (Weekday) | $1,100.00 | **$1,155.00** | $1,275.00 | **$1,338.75** |
| **Annual** (Age 19 - 39) | $800.00  | **$840.00** | $900.00 | **$945.00** |
| **Annual** (Age 40+) | $1,350.00 | **$1,417.50** | $1,500.00 | **$1,575.00** |
| **Intermediate** Students (Age 19 - 24) |   |  | $400.00 | **$420.00** |
| **Junior Dues** (18 Under) |   |  | $150.00 | **$157.50** |
| **Annual Power Cart** |   |  | $550.00 | **$577.50** |
| **Power Cart Storage**  |   |  | $385.00 | **$423.50** |

Dues can be paid by cash, cheque, credit card, and E-Transfer. Please contact the office to pay by phone or E-Transfer.

Payment plans are available for after February 1st. Please contact Val Robinson at ngcadmin@telus.net or 403-646-2050

***Annual General Meeting***

*Sunday December 15th*

*Nanton Community Center Basement*

*Starting at 2pm*

*BOARD ELECTIONS*

We have 4 positions up for election on the board of directors. 3 of these positions must be filled by residents of Nanton, and there is 1 spot available for an out of town member.

Board positions require a 2 year time commitment. Your role as a board member is to attend the monthly board meeting to discuss items affecting the club, assist in setting budgets, club improvements, and future planning. We are looking for members in good standing that are passionate about the club, and looking to help the club progress and improve in the future.

If you would like to volunteer some time, or if you know another active member that you feel would help our Club going forward, please email Dave Henzie (davehenzieprogolf@telus.net) or Val Robinson (ngcadmin@telus.net) at the course and we’ll make sure that you’re up for nomination at the upcoming AGM.

*A special thanks to all of our directors who have served their terms:*

Shannen Saint-Cyr, Tim Collis and Neil Waters

*Directors who will be seeking re-election:*

Tim Collis (out of town), Neil Waters

*Directors who will remain on the board:*

Don McRae, Grant Ball, Wayne Bateman,

***2019 Member Hole in 1’s***

**Hole # 3**

John Ruben

**Hole # 8**

Steve Penman

**Hole # 13**

Ben Michalko

Chris Cleary

***Congratulations 2019 Club Champions***

**Men’s Club Champion –** Matt Nienaber

**Ladies Club Champion –** Deb Eld

**Sr Men’s Champion –** Gary Winslade

**Christmas Shopping**

While the golf course is closed the Pro Shop is open during the winter for shopping and we still have inventory in the Pro Shop that is available for sale. Please call the office at (403) 646-2050 before you come to check our hours of availability or you can email Dave Henzie davehenzieprogolf@telus.net

All Clothing & Headwear 40% off

Golf Shoes & Golf Bags 25% off

Demo Clubs and Clearance clubs priced to move