

December 30, 2021

Dear Member,

The holiday season is upon us and as the year comes to a close it is important to take a moment to reflect back on the year and also provide you with an opportunity to share your thoughts on the season. To start the season, the on-going restrictions relating to the pandemic once again made operations difficult. You will recall that the restaurant was closed to inside dining and the club was thankful to have the patio and also a big thank you to Jesse Butler for providing the patio heaters to keep us warm. The course itself came through the winter quite well and the warm Spring helped to dry out the fairways and make the course ready for opening on Ladies' Night, April 27th. As the summer progressed the club benefited from a high number of public players and also from having strong growth in our membership numbers. This growth was important as many of our private tournaments were cancelled including the Celebrity Golf Tournament. The Men's and Ladies' Clubs continued to offer the club tournaments and did a great job of working within the restrictions to encourage participation. As this was the club's 90th anniversary, an Original 9 fun night was held to honour our humble beginnings and those that helped create the club we enjoy today. In contrast to the endless rains of 2020, this year brought a heatwave that created a different set of challenges. Murray and his crew did a great job of adapting to the conditions and the course ended the year in good condition. Unfortunately, the rain in the late fall did result in ice buildup on some of the greens and Murray will be attempting to mitigate the damage early in the new year. A tarp covering is being tested on #9 and this winter will provide a good case study on the use of specialized tarps to protect greens from winter damage.

There will be a few changes coming into the 2022 season. Dave, who did such a great job in the kitchen, has moved on to pursue opportunities in the Lower Mainland and as you know, the club will also have a new pro for next year. A hiring committee was selected to run a job competition for the position of Director of Golf Operations and Club Professional. The Board is pleased to announce that a candidate has accepted the offer pending the finalization of contract details. The candidate comes to us from Kelowna and he is looking forward to the move North with his family. The new position will not only be responsible for pro shop operations, but also for creating a framework from which our club can improve and grow. The Board will be working closely with the new kitchen manager for Noir and also the Director of Golf to help with the transition. In anticipation of continued labour shortages and also to improve service the Board is exploring ways to have retired members fill part-time roles at the course. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities please indicate your interest at the end of the survey or contact the Board directly. It should also be noted that the Board positions of Secretary and Treasurer remain vacant and we really could use some additional support. Your golf club needs your help to continue to offer the excellent golf services that we all expect. Please contact Andrew L'Orsa if you would like to contribute.

The club finished the season in a strong financial position and our early bird membership offer has been well received. A loan will not be required to cover costs over the winter and the club has once again been able to set aside money for equipment upgrades. Having this financial stability has also allowed the Board to assess future infrastructure needs and we hope to have an update for the membership in the Spring. The irrigation project continues to progress on-schedule and within budget and the Board wants to build upon this success and continue to improve our club. The Board is also happy to announce that the Celebrity Golf Tournament will be returning in August of 2022, as long as, conditions improve. The organizing committee has been hard at work planning the event and the Board is thankful that SGCC is able to host such a well-run tournament that supports our community and our club.

Finally, the Board would like to thank all the volunteers, who have put in hundreds of hours for the club's benefit. Despite the challenges over the past couple years the club continues to grow and improve.

Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday season,

The Smithers Golf & Country Club Board of Directors