

Golf Course



Golf Shop

Aberdeen Parks, Recreation And Forestry Department · 626-7092 · Spring 2017

News from the Golf Shop

Dennis Gavin, Head Golf Professional

Winter is almost over, and we are looking forward to yet another great golfing season at Lee Park. Exciting things are happening with golf in the city, and the staff looks forward to more of the same in the upcoming months. The Men's Club saw a real increase in players during the 2016 season. If you are not trying out these activities, you are missing out on great golf fun without a serious price tag, plus all the money collected goes back into the pot for prizes. Various different events are on tap. These events are aimed at creating playing opportunities that were not available at Lee Park in years past. Additionally, how individuals finish in these activities determines who will represent Lee Park in the annual Aberdeen Cup. I think you are missing an element of fun in your golf if you sit these events out!

As usual, the upcoming season will feature golf equipment, including Titleist and Ping. Products from these terrific companies can be expensive, and we don't want you to feel your 'taking a chance' when you buy from them. Therefore, I always want to go to the driving range with you and personally fit these clubs to your game. Should we find, after a fitting, that the clubs you order aren't working, we take them back for you. We will again feature Foot Joy shoe products, Sun Mountain carts, both men's and women's apparel, and a great opportunity buys when we can find them. Generally, our prices are set below prices that we are allowed to advertise, so check us out prior to buying. We might surprise you!

Charles Kornmann and I have been at the course for five years, and we have seen terrific change in the facility. To keep these positive changes going we need the players at the course to be aware of, and follow, best practice rules and regulations. These regulations are set forth for the course by the Parks and Recreation Board of Directors. These include policies of checking in before you play golf; knowing where you are allowed, and not allowed, to drive your golf cart (both maintenance staff and golf shop staff will be monitoring this activity); playing the course holes in order and not just jumping around from one hole to another for some reason; and keeping the pace of play moving correctly on the course. We will be insisting that these regulations are followed in 2017. Unfortunately, I fear that someone will not understand how seriously we are going to take enforcement of course rules, and push the limits. Should you find yourself afool of a regulation, you will be warned before any disciplinary action will be taken. However, repeatedly ignoring the regulations could interrupt

your golf season. Please don't let this happen to you.

In regards to golf cart traffic; this is a serious issue most importantly with our season pass holders. Inappropriate cart traffic causes compaction in around the green surfaces resulting in poor turf and firmer playing conditions. The maintenance staff is also responsible for spending time and money to correct this problem. A prime example is this is the green surrounds around 4 and 5 green complex.

Pace of play is an important, and often misunderstood, issue. When we plan for the pace that we feel is appropriate for the golf course, we anticipate that the prime group we are working with is a foursome. We expect foursomes to be able to play in four hours, including a stop at the turn. If you are playing faster than that, and come upon a group that is making the correct time, you do not have special privilege to go through these groups. It would be great if we were so busy that all the groups on the course were forced to be foursomes, but we are not. If your group is not a full foursome (or a fivesome) you do not have special privilege to go through these players who are keeping the correct pace. If the pace of play at the time you are using the course is running faster than four hours, great! The staff will not, however, harass any group that are making the minimum speed required by rule on the course. In other words, some people have 'too fast' as an expectation, and we will not force others to go at your pace. That said, some groups do go too slowly on the course. As soon as it is determined that you are that group, you will be mandated to let others pass. You may also be asked to move up to a shorter course, or any number of things that would effectively get you back to the four-hour standard. We monitor the course by marking down when you tee off (that's one reason that you need to check in). We know where you should be on the course. Once we determine that your pace is negatively impacting others, and that is worse than the standard, you will be required to change pace. In fact, in the past we have actually removed players from the course, given their money back to insure they did not damage the play for all the players following them.

To insure that all golfers would potentially know these rules and regulations, new signs are posted at the first and tenth tees reminding you of them. We will assume that you have read them if we need to visit with you regarding problems.

We look forward to seeing you this summer! Help us keep the Aberdeen Cup in its new home!

Private Lessons

For more information on private golf lessons, please contact Dennis Gavin at the Lee Park Golf Course at (605) 626-7092.

Payment Plan Available

A monthly payment plan is now available for anyone interested in purchasing a season pass, seasonal cart rental or annual trail fee. Payments for the season pass, cart rental and trail fee can be spread out over a 6 month period with the first payment due on May 12. A bank debit will be made from either your checking or savings account. For more information contact the Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at 626-7015 or go to www.aberdeen.sd.us/leepark. The deadline for participating in the payment plan is April 28.

Handicap Golf Cart Usage

A new program has been established at Lee Park to accommodate golfers with physical limitations. Golfers may obtain a flag which can be attached to the golf cart authorizing them to drive closer to the greens. All golfers using a golf cart at Lee Park Golf Course must keep the private or rental cart at least 30 feet from all greens and tees. Normally there are no exceptions to this rule, however, recognizing that some players may not be able to play golf due to handicaps that can be confirmed by a physician, the following exception is allowed: If a player cannot play golf without advancing his or her cart closer than 30 feet from the green, he may apply for a Handicap Flag to be affixed to the cart allowing it to be closer to the green. To use a flag, the player must provide a doctor's letter explaining why he needs to be able to get closer to the green. If approved by management, the player would then pay a deposit of \$50 per year for a flag that connects to the cart. This flag must be on display anytime the cart is close to a green. The end of the year, the Handicap Flag must be returned to the golf shop and a \$25 refund fee will be returned. Each year it must be renewed, including the doctors certificate. These flags cannot be loaned to any other cart user. If a golfer does loan the flag to another golfer, the player's use of said flag will be suspended. Please contact the Golf Shop if you have questions or for more details on this program.

TEE TIME RESERVATIONS

Tee times are taken on weekends from April 1 through October 1. Tee times may be made up to seven days in advance by calling the Pro Shop at 626-7092. For your convenience, please make a reservation!

Sign up at 'Notify Me' on the City of Aberdeen website www.aberdeen.sd.us to receive notification of cancellations of league play, lessons and golf course closures.

Golf Course Maintenance News

Charles Kornmann, Golf Superintendent

It has certainly been an interesting start to 2017. Receiving 1.35 inches of rain on Christmas and then becoming bitterly cold thereafter is not the best recipe on turf grass. The ice that has accumulated on the golf course creates some concern. On a more positive note the ice seems to be more pocketed (permeable) versus a clear ice sheet. This was due to the fact that we had some snow cover before the rain.

In a study done by Dr. Beard from Michigan State University; Kentucky bluegrass and creeping bent grass survived 150 days under ice cover without significant injury. Annual bluegrass was killed somewhere between 75 and 90 days of ice cover. Most likely the cause of death is from toxic gas accumulation under the ice sheet. We are fortunate that the majority of our green surfaces have a large population of creeping bent grass compared to the fairway areas that are largely annual blue grass.

We will assess the ice situation in March and determine the best course of action to deal with the

issue. The problem with removing ice mid-winter is that you remove any insulation and snow cover that protects it from frigid temperatures. Mother Nature is always a factor in determining turf conditions. Not only year to year, but month to month and day to day.

This fall a new concrete cart path was built on 8 and 12 tee box. We continue to add and upgrade cart paths with agrilime when time and money allow. Tree removal and plantings will continue. We hope to work with a golf course architect from Chaska Minnesota to develop a renovation plan identifying future course improvements. The three main areas of focus will be fairway drainage, bunker restoration and tree removal.

New equipment for 2017 will be a new triplex mower for tees, approaches and collars. A set of verticut reels was also purchased. The verticut reels are typically used every Tuesday throughout the growing season to remove any grain and smooth the surface of the greens. A new greens roller will also be purchased in 2017. During the summer months we will be utilizing a needle tine attachment for our aerifier which will have minimal disruption on the surface and is also a great agronomic practice for gas and air exchange in the soil profile.

Thirty-four new golf carts have been purchased

for the rental fleet. The carts are Club Car Precedent models and are efficient fuel injected engines that will save on fuel usage as well. The carts will have sand and seed containers so we hope the public will utilize this as you play your rounds of golf. A 10-gallon container will be placed at the tee box on 1 and 10. Players can refill containers at these locations as needed. As you fill the divot simply use your foot to smooth out the sand that was added to your divot.

Again, we continue to struggle with cart traffic in regards to where golfers are driving. Not only is it inconsiderate but it is damaging to the playability of the golf course by creating compaction and wear areas that you would not normally see. The number 4, 5, 9 and 11 green complexes are prime examples. Another problem has been players jumping around from one hole to another; out of order. This creates issues for the maintenance personnel to get tasks done in an efficient and timely manner. Golfer cooperation in following the course rules and regulations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your patronage! Feel free to contact me with comments or suggestions. Our goal is to improve your golfing experience in 2017 and we would appreciate your feedback. Enjoy the course!

Free Golf Lessons/Clinics

DO YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT GOLF IS ALL ABOUT? ARE YOU JUST STARTING OUT? DO YOU JUST WANT TO PLAY A LITTLE BETTER? Beginning in May, Lee Park will hold FREE weekly lesson/clinics open to anyone hoping to improve their own game! Each week will be on a different golf topic, from chipping to woods, from putting to irons. The lesson schedule will be posted in the golf course lobby and web site www.aberdeen.sd.us/leepark or you can contact the golf shop to get more information. All ages welcome, from 5 to 95! Bring your own clubs, or we can provide some for you!

Lesson Schedule:

Wednesday, May 24 Chipping
Wednesday, May 31 . . . Short Shots (pitching)
Wednesday, June 7 Irons
Wednesday, June 14 Fairway Woods
Wednesday, June 21 Drivers overview
Wednesday, June 28 Putting

Times: 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Rain out replacement dates will be determined if necessary.

The First Tee Golf Lesson Program

The First Tee, a worldwide initiative of the World Golf Foundation, has its' mission "to impact the lives of young people by providing facilities and educational programs that promote character-development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf." This program is designed for any Junior Golfer.

Where: Lee Park Golf Course

Beginns: Wednesdays, May 24 – July 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Age: 8-17 years of age

Registration: Register online at

www.thefirstteesouthdakota.org anytime before first class. For more information call 226-0989 or go to the "Junior Golf" page at www.mocasinccreekcc.com

Fee: \$40 per person, \$99 per family maximum, financial assistance is available.

Women's Senior Golf League

A morning league for adult women 55 years of age and older will be held at Lee Park. League play will be held on Thursday mornings. Watch for more information!

Ladies' Golf League

The Lee Park Ladies' Club will be conducting league on Thursday evenings. The league competition is a two woman competition which is handicapped. One does not have to be a Lee Park member to participate in the league. All interested individuals should contact the Lee Park Pro Shop (626-7092) for more information.

Youth Golf - Free

On Monday mornings through the summer golf season, Lee park offers a free 9 Hole Greens fee for all players 18 years of age and under. Golfers must tee off before 10 AM. Parents may play with juniors, but will be charged a greens fees with a 25% discount. No golf available on days where events close the course to golfers. Children under 9 years of age must either play with an adult, or must pass playing ability test administered by golf shop. For more information, call the golf shop at 626-7092.

Junior Golf Lessons

Beginner Junior Golf Instruction Program will include group golf instruction by PGA Golf Professional Dennis Gavin, Range balls will be furnished and participants will play some golf.

Dates: Mondays, June 5 - July 10

Time: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Ages: 7 years of age and older

Fees: \$40 per student. Parents will also need to volunteer to walk with groups of children on the course at least once during the program.

Instructor: Dennis Gavin

Registration: Beginning May 1

Maximum class size: 25

Senior Golf League

A morning league for adults over 55 years of age will be held at Lee Park. The first day of league will be on Tuesday, April 11, at 10 a.m. There will also be an organizational meeting at this time. All interested individuals should call the Lee Park Pro Shop at 626-7092 or attend the organizational meeting.

Events Fore 2017

Tuesday, April 11 Senior League Begins, 10 am
Monday, May 1 Roncalli Girls Invitational, 10 am
Tuesday, May 2 1st Night Tuesday Men's League
Wednesday, May 3 1st Night Wednesday Men's League
Thursday, May 4 1st Night Thursday Ladies League
Monday, June 5 Lee Park Junior Golf Program begins
Saturday, June 9 NSU Football Fundraiser
Monday, June 20 SDGA Junior Tour Event, AM Tee Times
Sunday, July 16 CC Lee Championship
Tuesday, August 8 2nd Round of City Junior Tournament
Saturday & Sunday, August 26-27 Dakota Open
Tuesday, September 5 Hub City Boys Invitational, 10 am
Thursday, September 7 Aberdeen Central Cross Country Meet
Saturday & Sunday, September 9-10 SDGA Two-Man Mid/Am Senior Tournament
Thursday, September 14 Roncalli HS Cross Country Meet
Sunday, September 17 Aberdeen Cup
Monday, September 18 Course closed for Aeriation

For Additional information, contact Lee Park Golf Course at 626-7092.



For additional information, contact
Lee Park Golf Course
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