

Happenings on The Haig - Golf Maintenance Newsletter 03/10

The golf maintenance department is excited about the 2010 Honda Classic and look forward to another successful event. Continued unseasonably cold temperatures and other environmental conditions have kept The Haig on Mother Nature's roller coaster. It is our hope that true spring temperatures will arrive and stay for the duration of and following the tournament. Winter has been unseasonable cold with lows in the forties in excess of thirty days and more than a dozen days at or above freezing. The month of February alone had half its mornings in the forties. With a staff dedicated to the details, I am confident The Haig will emerge from winter in a position of stability and continue to improve into our growing season.

- Status Report: The majority of the palm trees on The Haig have been trimmed with the exception of trees on holes three, four, and five. Due to the significant rainfall with each frontal boundary, contributing to ground saturation, some trees on holes already visited also have not been accessible with the equipment being used. As the ground continues to dry and The Honda concludes, the remaining trees will be addressed. In the February newsletter, sod work was discussed. While continued abnormally low temperatures were unknown at the time of implementing the plan, the sod farms have been unable to cut sod.
- Tree trimming on The Haig will commence in the latter part of this month and continue through April. The majority of the work will be handled by PGA National staff with a portion of the work to be subcontracted. The effort will entail the completion of the palm trimming, shaping the ficus hedge at The Haig driving range, as well as corrective pruning, canopy thinning, reductions, and elevating select trees throughout the course. Not only will this process enhance aesthetics, in many cases, the quality of turf will improve due to increased sun light.
- The sod work will be accomplished when the temperatures allow for the sod farms to cut sod that retains its integrity. The initial focus will be on the areas that are currently prepped, which are beds on #'s 4, 8, 9, and 10 as well as the lake bank on #14 just beyond the ladies' tee. The sod work in #8 fairway will not be repaired until we encounter extended periods of warmer temperatures. It is best to allow for the sod to green up while at the sod farm which will prevent it from sticking out "like a sore thumb" once installed on the course.
- As The Honda Classic concludes, we will continue to pencil tine aerify high traffic areas in the rough to promote a rapid recovery from the abnormally cold conditions. Bulk fertilizer was applied to the course in February which will cause some of the weeds (especially the nutsedges) to turn off color in response to the pre emergent herbicide attached to the fertilizer application. Post emergent control of the affected weeds, along with many of the broadleaves will began when the weather becomes consistently warmer.

The Haig Maintenance Department would like to thank you for your interest in the maintenance of the course. I personally look forward to receiving your feedback, with a strong desire to exceed membership expectations. It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy The Honda Classic and take the opportunity to play the course prior to the tournament or soon after its conclusion.

Dale Knefely
Superintendent of The Haig
PGA National Resort & Spa