



**February 2025**



## ***New look on Nos. 7, 8 and 9 . . .***

We're sure you've noticed that the vegetation around the lake near Holes No. 7, 8 and 9 has been removed, following an extensive two-day effort last month.

The project involved the use of heavy equipment -- including a dump truck -- to move the debris to a spot on the dirt race track where it can dry out, and as a result there was some relatively minor damage to the turf adjacent to these holes.

Superintendent **Jason Cavanaugh** and crew have been working on bringing affected areas back to where they need to be, although this could take a while. We had to temporarily close the three holes, but were able to re-open them in a few days.

We hope you like the changes, which affects what you see from the short tee on No. 9, and a few other spots. We appreciate you dealing with the temporary turf issues.

## ***If you want to play golf and it's cold . . .***

We have experienced some heavy frost on recent mornings, so if you want to play a round of golf and the temperature is in the mid-30s or lower, you may have to wait until 8:30 or 9 a.m. until our superintendent says it's OK,

When we have frost, the course as well as the putting and practice greens are also closed, so call the Pro Shop (707-284-3520 and we will let you know. But other than most Tuesday mornings – when we mow the range – you can still hit balls.



## ***Should you play 9 or 18 holes ???***

As golf boomed late in the 20th century and especially when real estate golf course developments started popping up everywhere, the great majority of new courses were 18 holes. Since golf was going through a boom era at the time, the 18-hole round was granted an unofficial status as “real” golf. As courses got bigger and longer, the 5-hour round started to become the norm.

Since golf went through a decline, a lot of attitudes have changed. With time and expense being the two biggest complaints about golf, it has started to sink in that returning to the 9-hole round might be a reasonable alternative.

The USGA even made a change in the rules governing handicaps making 9-hole handicaps legal. Prior to that, two 9-hole rounds were combined for an 18-hole score.

There are advantages to playing 9 holes . . . for one, it can be snuck in after work or during a long lunch. Playing 9 holes may be a better alternative for older golfers, it allows players to exert their energy over 9 holes rather than 18.

An argument for 18 holes is that the 9-hole round is over too quickly . . . the fun is shortened, particularly for those who have mostly played 18 hole..

For those who take some time to get into a groove, the longer game may be a better fit. Warming up may take a while for some players. For some, the more golf, the better.

One other thing to keep in mind is when it comes to time utilization. A 9-hole practice round will help you learn to play golf better and faster than two hours hitting balls on the range. Even if you master a technique on the range, how many dead flat lies do you get on the course? Range experience can't duplicate real course conditions.

One of the main arguments for nine-hole courses is that they are much quicker to navigate your way around. A nine-hole round should take around an hour-and-a-half to 2 hours, meaning it's much easier to fit into your day. In the summer months, a nine-hole round can be scheduled either before or after your work day which can be a great way to juggle golf with other commitments.

It's the same story if you have kids. Your partner is probably not going to be too keen on the idea of you disappearing for four or five hours and leaving them holding the baby. A nine-hole round can be the perfect compromise for everyone.

When it comes to picking the right course, it depends solely on personal choice. For some, the lure of the traditional 18 holes may be too hard to ignore: the leisurely pace, the chance to grow into the game, the 19<sup>th</sup> hole cocktails. For others, nine holes will work better for their lifestyles.

Our course at Fairgrounds also gives you some options. We are a 9-hole course – seven par-3s and two par-4s --but you can always decide to play nine more for a minimal fee. What makes playing 18 holes at Fairgrounds interesting is that we have alternate tees on every hole . . . some spaced surprisingly far apart. For instance, No. 1 can be played from 110 yards or 155. On No. 9, you can play your tee shot over the lake from 75 yards or go to the alternate tee which is 180 yards.

