

This course is fit for a King

IMPROVEMENTS: New owner wants to attract Canadian Tour



Kent Gilchrist

SPORTS COMMENT

Apparently, the King of Floors knows something about golf course surfaces, too.

Members of the old Links at Boundary Bay — now Kings Links By the Sea — are raving about the condition of the greens and lots of other aesthetic improvements undertaken by the new owner, Brad Newell, who purchased the course from Bob Ahoy along with his father and brother just over a year ago.

Since then they have invested in better drainage on eight holes, they have sanded and seeded all of the fairways twice. They added a new tee box to the eighth hole to make it a more muscled 395-yard par four. They re-added a pond on the 15th.

The next thing in the improvement plan is to cut the aprons around the greens down so they're like Augusta National and some of the links courses in Great Britain.

They've also opened up some of the narrower fairways to make for bigger landing areas off the tee and make it easier for the high handicapper.

"I'm really impressed with what they have done to make it more playable," said Don Brandt, one of the 200 or so members. "All the members are raving about what they've done. They just punched the greens, but they'll be spectacular when they recover."

The IGA MarketPlace Vancouver Golf Tour played Kings Links a few weeks ago on a windy day and the best score was 70, so it isn't that much easier.

"We're still hoping to attract better golfers here," said Newell, who says he used to be "a pretty good player."

"We haven't sat down with anyone yet, but we're interested in getting the Canadian Tour here."

The Greater Vancouver Charity Classic will have its third Canadian Tour event at Hazelmere in June. The Canadian Tour is on the final year of the contract with the West Coast Golf Group, owners of Hazelmere.

One of the things the new ownership group has discovered is



Members of the Kings Links Golf Course are raving about the greens and other course improvements since Brad Newell took over ownership just over a year ago.

that many people think the course which is by Boundary Bay Airport is private, because the original owner seemed to prefer it that way. Consequently, it's still sort of a well-kept secret.

"When I first drove down 72nd Ave. in 2002 and saw the course, I was blown away," said Newell. "I think it's one of the best courses in Canada."

And he'd like to see if everyone else in the Lower Mainland, or any where else for that matter, shares his opinion. But they have to come out and play it.

WHITTLING THE MATCH PLAY

Led by Nationwide Tour player Bryn Parry of North Vancouver and his partner Kendal Yonemoto, only four teams remain alive

in the annual Canada Bread B.C. match play championship.

Parry/Yonemoto beat Mark Kitts and Jeremy Paradis 4 and 3 while Matt Palsenbarg and John Shin beat Murray Poje and James Harper in 24 holes last Saturday.

Sunday, Charlie Hughes and Justin Shin beat Dave Zibrik and James Legault 2 and 1, while Ryan Williams and Clark MacPherson beat Billy Noon and Dan Warburton 4 and 3.

Semifinals go Sunday at Capilano and the 36-hole championship the following Sunday at Northview.

JONAS VICTORIOUS

Hazelmere/McCleery teaching pro Phil Jonas fired a one-under 71 to beat Ryan Williams of Sey-

mour Creek driving range and Mark Strong of the host club by a shot in the first Srixon pro series for PGA of B.C. members at Richmond Country Club.

MASSE PROMOTED

Longtime Westwood Plateau pro Scott Masse has been promoted to general manager by Wesbild president Randy Zien.

Wesbild owns the mountainside course in Coquitlam and Predator Ridge in Vernon.

Masse began his pro career at Westwood Golf Academy in 1996 and has worked his way through the ranks.

In 2001 he was named golf operations manager at the Country Club under James Cronk.

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Tiger Woods aims to return for the U.S. Open in June. — REUTERS

Tiger sidelined by knee surgery

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods, who is fresh off a second-place finish at the 2008 Masters, will miss at least four weeks of the PGA Tour after undergoing surgery on his left knee.

"I made the decision to deal with the pain and schedule the surgery for after the Masters," said Woods.

"The upside is that I have been through this process before and know how to handle it. I look forward to working through the rehabilitation process and getting back to action as quickly as I can."

Woods, who has had problems with his left knee previously, underwent arthroscopic surgery on Tuesday in Park City, Utah.

This marks the third time Woods has had surgery on the knee. The first surgery was 14 years ago when he had a benign tumour and the second in December, 2002, where doctors performed the first arthroscopic surgery.

Woods hopes to recover in time to compete in the U.S. Open at San Diego from June 12 to 15.

Doctors said Tuesday they found the problem, were able to repair it and the recovery will take four to six weeks.

Woods has claimed 13 major championships in his career, the last of which came when he successfully defended his title at the 2007 PGA Championship.

— Agence France-Presse

Golf on TV this week

PGA TOUR — Verizon Heritage
Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head, S.C. Thursday and Friday, 12 p.m., Golf Channel; Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m., CBS

LPGA TOUR — Ginn Open
Ginn Reunion Resort, Reunion, Fla. Thursday and Friday, 3:30 p.m., Golf Channel; Saturday, 10:30 a.m., CBS; Sunday, 10 a.m., CBS.

CHAMPIONS TOUR — Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am
TPC Tampa Bay, Lutz, Fla. Friday, 10 a.m., Golf Channel; Saturday, 1 p.m., NBC; Sunday, 10 a.m., NBC.

— Canwest News Service