

Tuesday December 4, 2012 3:30PM

Keith wanted to get here at 11AM, early morning showers and LaGuardia don't mix.. I assume he got here around 1:30... We meet on the first tee and flirt with the idea of running the cart path up the hill from the parking lot around the right side of the Cohen Cottage, installing a small putting green up near the newly lengthened blue tees for the first hole... tree damage and other problems around the cottage call for a routing closer to the tee and the green pushed further away... another daunting tee shot from the blue tees and white tees have been lowered to ground level, that had to be 4-5 feet of soil.. it makes one very big pile... we review 8 and I see the transition from 8 green to 9 tee for the first time and I thought Keith didn't have any more surprises left.... Amazing.. you walk off the green between the 2 bunkers on grass that will be maintained at fringe height... tee and green are the same level.. women's/seniors tee pushed forward and centered... Keith fine tunes the fairway bunkers... I think the fairway is 27 yards in width between the bunkers... much bigger landing area short of that.. they keep shaving the front bunkers and surrounds and you can now see into the left side bunker on 9... I think you'll be able to see into the big front bunker....



Wednesday December 5, 2012 7:30AM

We meet to discuss change orders, pay vouchers, go over where we stand financially vs the budget... Seem to be right on... Most of the discussion centers on when we shut

down for the winter and how much will we have done... We all agree to close up everything that is open now... And tomorrow morning Rich and I will tour with TDI and figure out what else needs to be closed up... a sort of pre punch list punch list... TDI will start losing workers on 12/15, they have to get back to Mexico before the new year, and the rest will head back to Canada on 12/20... We are going to try and close up 18 green and surrounds, not work on the fairway bunkers.... Try to do 10th green expansion but not surrounds.... Best case work could resume Mid March or April 1 latest... it will be 3-4 weeks of work... 13th green and fairway bunkers, 14th tee, 11th tee, 18th fairway bunkers, 10th tee fairway and green surrounds.... Effectively 2 holes... new sod at that time of year can be ready for full play in 6-8 weeks...

Thursday December 6, 2012 9:00AM

Rich and I tour with TDI and figure out how we can best get the course ready for the winter... we agree to each pitch in, in some cases doing the other guys jobs, to make sure everything gets done.....

Looking past TDI leaving, there will be a lot of work to be done on the course as long as it is workable... I used to think we just turned off a switch and came back in the spring....

Sunday December 9, 2012 11:50AM

The rain is causing more problems... They somehow dug drains into the bunkers on 18th green and 1st tee, must have been done by shovel, I doubt the ditch digging machine would work in that soup.... Adam and Ron and a couple of greens shapers are here, everyone else stuck in their motel rooms.... Ron has just lowered the women's/senior tee on 6, but when we go back to the blue tees we can't see the 6th fairway bunker which has been pushed to the right... they will keep scalping until it's visible...there is a mound to the right of the trap on 6 and eventually we would like to move the practice putting green near the flagpole, and reshape the parking further away from the line of play... the 6th fairway in general has been moved to the right.... Keith should be here Tuesday, hope it stops raining or there is no reason for him to come...

Monday December 10, 2012 9:25PM

Keith and Adam decide there isn't enough to show Keith to warrant a trip up early this week, maybe later or probably next week.... The weather pattern hurts us again...

Tuesday December 18, 2012 9:00AM

Keith, Adam and Rich are on the 13th green.... Course really hasn't dried out in the past 3 weeks... Just as it is about to dry, we get another half day of rain... Rained real hard last night... Our crew has installed sumps in the hollow in front of the 5th tee/4th green.... We

had been taking all the water from the parking lots, out buildings, 4th/5th/6th holes, putting green etc and depositing it in a very low spot.... We are also putting sumps in up near the parking lots, trying to disperse as much water as we can, sending only the overflow down to the low spot.... We are going to lay out the first cut of the remaining work... 13th fairway goes left a bunch... right hand bunker pulled closer to pond but further from tees as we have pushed the tees back.... A left hand fairway bunker a little closer to the green.. should be great visuals from the tees... bunker 25 yards short of green will be rotated and closer to green.... Back third of green gets flipped to front... slight mound behind green, bunker and gentle slope to the road... the visual driving in should be greatly improved...

14th tee... we look at shifting it to the right of the well, Keith and Adam point out that the further right you move it, the more right the tee moves, the more your point of focus moves to the left and we will end up with many more balls in the road... Keith has never used his liability insurance and has no interest in starting now... tee will be lowered in roughly the same position as it is now.. 3 tee complexes instead of 4... blue tee pushed back towards entrance a little, white tees pushed forward slightly, ladies/srs moves left a little... we will use the soil from the tee to mound a little with native between road and tee to provide a little privacy....

10th hole, fairway bunkers on left pushed further from tee and into fairway a little, fairway moves left a little, a new bunker on right side will limit landing area for bigger hitters... currently 5 bunkers on left side, will become 3... green expansion back right and left, green shortened in front... I always thought this green was popping up, can't wait to see what happens as bunkers should push further into the air... After making 9 the interesting hole it has become, Steve pushes Keith into being aggressive with this hole as well... The tee will be lowered and moved left a little... Will be addressed in the spring... The hill between 10 and 17 has been lowered and shaped.... We'll either hydro-seed or seed it with native this fall...

18th fairway bunkers start on right side... moved left from where it is, whole fairway moves left... single bunker split into 2 separate ones, furthest bunker will be 260 carry from the whites, not really a concern from the blues... current bunker on left side of fairway will be filled in and become fairway... previously mentioned new fairway bunkers 130 from green... you will have to control recovery shots more carefully if you miss fairway, you will have to hit solid shots if you hit fairway and want to carry those bunkers....

We tour the course and find 2 bunkers are holding water, we assume the drain in one is clogged and the bunker front left of 14 is holding water, but we can see the water table is high... we may have to live with this problem.. the rest of the bunkers, including 12, are doing well and the extra expense of bigger sumps outside the bunkers has paid off...

Sod crew left yesterday, Adam leaving tomorrow, remaining crew will leave Thursday... New plan... Adam, Robert and Ron will return in mid January, weather permitting, and will rough out all the plans we have for the remaining holes... this could save us a couple of weeks in the spring... Keith will be leaving the country in early January and returning early March... He should be at Camp One on Mt Everest on March 1 or 2... 20,000 feet... He'll be there with his son... see picture below.. Is this were he gets his ideas for bunkers??

If we can break the weather pattern we will have everything roughed out by the time he comes back in mid-March... we can fine tune it and get the construction done in 2-3 weeks and then get working on doing all the cart paths, closing, clean up etc... We weren't able to get all of the 1st tee sodded, just too wet here and the farm where they grow it in southern jersey is getting too wet to cut it... Our great plans of getting the course closed up for the winter have been upset by the rain.... Our crew will continue realigning the fairways, we will be rolling, seeding, topdressing etc as long as the weather allows... Normally we have downsized our crew and are into maintenance mode, this will be a busy winter... I'll update when something big happens or when the TDI crew resumes work....



Happy New Year...