

September 10, 2018

Hobbits Glen Golf Club  
ATTN: Nicholas Mooneyhan and Golf Advisory Committee  
11130 Willow Bottom Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21044

Dear Mr. Mooneyhan and Committee Members:

The fairways at Hobbits Glen were regrassed with a cold-tolerant bermudagrass (Patriot) in 2007 to improve playability during the summer months. Bermudagrass performs best in summer whereas cool season grasses such as bentgrass, ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass often struggle. Bermudagrass also requires fewer inputs to produce high-quality playing conditions compared to cool season grasses. However, bermudagrass and other warm-season grasses are subject to winterkill during extreme winter conditions.

Conditions this past winter were ideal for winterkill of bermudagrass and unfortunately, several acres of fairway turf were damaged as a result. Varying degrees of winterkill has occurred on the bermudagrass fairways at Hobbits Glen on several occasions. This year, winterkill was widespread and as a result alternative options for fairway turf were discussed during our annual site visit this spring.

Selecting a fairway grass in your area is challenging because of the extremes in temperatures that can occur in both summer and winter. Plant breeding continues to provide bermudagrasses with improved cold tolerance, but currently there are no bermudagrasses that are immune to winterkill. Zoysiagrass is still a good long-term option but may be cost-prohibitive at this time. To improve the fairways as soon as possible and in a cost-effective manner, the fairways will be overseeded with [HGT Kentucky bluegrass](#) this fall.

Overseeding into the bermudagrass will create a two-grass system that will reduce the likelihood for significant turf loss following a harsh winter. Additionally, this two-grass system will provide good playability during spring and fall, when bermudagrass alone is typically dormant and potentially recovering from a harsh winter. Mr. Mooneyhan has tested this two-grass system for a few years at Hobbits Glen on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole and has had good results.

The combination of Kentucky bluegrass and bermudagrass can be maintained as fairway turf indefinitely, but other options should continue to be evaluated as long-term solutions. Overseeding with bluegrass leaves other grasses such as zoysiagrass and new-and-improved bermudagrasses as viable options in the long-term. I look forward to discussing these options in the future, especially as improved bermudagrass and zoysiagrass varieties are developed.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Jacobs, Agronomist  
Green Section, Northeast Region