



*"Golf teaches us that life's greatest moments aren't always the ones we plan." - Unknown*

Dear Members and Friends,

This week's newsletter begins differently than most. Before we share the news of the season's final weeks, we want to take a moment to honor someone who was a part of this community in the truest sense of the word.

### **In Memory of Bill Anderson**

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of longtime member Bill Anderson. Bill left us unexpectedly last week, and the loss is felt deeply by all who knew him here at ICC.

Linda Stratton, who knew Bill well, said it best:

"Bill was a man who should have lived forever. A truly remarkable person. Whenever I received one of his waves and smiles, I immediately felt better even when I already felt good."

Editor's note: Shortly before writing this newsletter, I was archiving the latest batch of daily sign-in sheets. This is a task that typically focuses on check marks- member/guest/visitor, 9-holes/18-holes - with signatures being an afterthought. Though I have not seen Bill's name as often as others during my time at ICC, it stood out immediately to me today. September 12th. Bill Anderson. Member. 9-Holes. And when I thought back to last Saturday, I don't remember the time of day or the brief words exchanged, but I sure do remember that smile.

Our thoughts are with Bill's family and friends during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed.

### **Final Board Meeting of the Season- This Wednesday at 4pm**

Please join us this Wednesday for the final board meeting of the 2026 season, beginning at 4pm. We hope to see you there for one last gathering of the minds before we close out the year.

### **Special Meeting Recap- 2027 Golf Course Renovations**

Last week's Special Meeting brought members, staff, the ICC Board, the Long-Range Planning and Centennial Fund Committee, and the Executive Committee together for a meaningful and deliberate discussion about the future of our golf course. We are pleased to share the outcome:

After careful consideration, ICC will renovate the golf course in the Spring of 2027, beginning with the renovation of hole #3 and the replacement of the green on hole #1. Additional renovations will be addressed in the years that follow.

None of this is possible without your generosity. Every contribution to the Centennial Fund- however big or small- moves us forward. Centennial Fund bricks, benches, and plaques are available as a meaningful way to support these renovations and become a lasting part of the ICC legacy.

Please see the message from Keith at the end of this newsletter for more perspective.

### **Moonlight Madness- This Saturday, September 26th!**

Oh, what a marvelous night for some Moon Golf- at least, we hope it will be! Join us this Saturday, September 26th for Moonlight Madness. Convene at 5pm at the clubhouse and together we will wait for the moon to rise- 6:12pm, according to the moon mystics. The sign-up sheet is posted in the clubhouse. This is one you do not want to miss- a perfect way to send off the season in style!

### **Fairway Cafe Season Finale- This Weekend!**

The season has to end somewhere, and for the Fairway Cafe, that somewhere is this weekend- Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th. Come stop by for one last delicious lunch and say goodbye to Roxann until next year. She has been an absolute gem this summer and we are so grateful for everything she brought to the table- literally. Thank you, Roxann!

### **Shop Holiday and Birthday Gifts Now!**

The clubhouse is closing on Monday, October 12th- sooner than it feels! But before we close up for the season, consider stopping in to shop for holiday and birthday gifts. What better gift than a brick with a loved one's name on it, or an ICC shirt or jacket to keep them warm all winter? There are plenty of stocking stuffers too- from real golf balls to lip gloss golf balls and everything in between. Come shop now and save your treasures to give later!

### **Post Centennial Meeting Update**

A message from Grounds Superintendent Keith Hoover

#### Why is it important for golf greens to match?

All greens across a golf course should be “playable” from a golfer’s perspective, and it should be agronomically manageable from a superintendent’s perspective.

From the golfer’s perspective:

1. Fair scoring: Matching green speeds should be uniform from hole #1 to hole #9 or #18. This means that a putt hit with a specific force reacts the same way, and it can be measured with a Stimpmeter. (For those who care, our greens have been running at 10.5 lately.)

2. Predictable reactions: Uniform firmness ensures that approach shots bounce and stop reliably instead of holding on one green (like #1,3,8,9) and skipping off another.

3. Equal challenge: Identical turf conditions mean that every golfer has the same test without an unfair advantage.

From the Superintendent's perspective:

1. Uniform grass types help maintenance crews manage water usage, fight diseases, and control wear.

a. The "old" greens were seeded with a mixture of creeping bent grasses in 1928. The thought was that they would cross-pollinate to make a uniform, hybrid-type green. Instead, each of these separate grasses have been trying to outcompete each other throughout a growing season. One major problem with this stand of grass is the "velvet" creeping bent grass appears to be winning. It's beautiful, but wicked hard to maintain. It creates thick thatch, so it needs to be aerated often. You can feel the difference underfoot due to its "puffiness", and so goes the fair scoring and predictable reactions that golfers are looking for. Also, it's disease prone, so it needs to have fungicide applied more often. (precautionary vs. curative applications?)

b. The "new" greens have been seeded with a cool season creeping bent called Declaration that is disease resistant, especially against dollar spot. 20 years ago, it was the "go to" grass for putting greens in the northern climates. Now there are better, genetically modified hybrids that resist diseases and high/low temperatures, but we are looking to have all putting surfaces be alike, so my recommendation is to stick with what we've been using for the last 16 years. This turf provides smooth and uniform ball rolls. It withstands and recovers well from the foot traffic and mechanical wear (mowing, topdressing, etc.), and it does not require as many fertilizer and fungicide applications. The biggest issue with a Declaration green is the invasion of annual blue grass (aka POA Annua) which you have probably noticed on some of the new greens, like #2 or #5. I have suppressed seed production of POA in the new greens with a product called Anuew (a growth regulator), and I will continue to do so. However, POA will always be present in these greens.

2. Drainage on a green is as equally important as the turf grass.

a. The old, push up style greens are as the name implies. Rather than haul tons of sand and soil to build a green, the soil surrounding the green was simply scraped, mounded, and shaped to form the putting surface. There is virtually no drainage under the green other than what was there a million years ago.

b. The new greens have a drainage system under them which makes it much easier to control and maintain the moisture level in the green. It allows oxygen to reach plant roots so they do not suffocate. It drains away surplus moisture that causes fungal disease and plant death. Finally, it retains needed moisture while shedding harmful excess water.

3. Pros and MOSTLY cons of each "old" green replacement:

#1: Not many pinnable spots. Elevated green, so it's tough to keep it from drying out in the sun and wind. Steep back and right banks, so it's challenging and dangerous to mow and maintain.

#3: Mostly flat, but very challenging to keep appropriate moisture. It's the wettest due to the underlying ledge/poor drainage. Steep left and right banks, so it's the most challenging and dangerous to mow and maintain safely.

#8: Least amount of pinnable spots of the original greens. However, there are more pinnable spots by enlarging the green by cutting into the apron for the last several years. Easiest green to mow and maintain.

#9: Most susceptible to disease pressure. Being at the top of the hill, it dries out regularly due to sun and wind. Relatively easy to mow and maintain.

Therefore, based on these thoughts and on my experience, it is my recommendation that the original, "old" #1 and # 3 greens be replaced next year.

Thanks,  
Keith

**As the leaves begin to turn** and the air carries that unmistakable hint of autumn, we find ourselves holding two things at once this week- the weight of loss and the quiet joy of a season well lived. Bill Anderson's smile is a reminder of why this place matters. The renovations ahead are a reminder of where we are going. And Moonlight Madness, Roxann's last hurrah, and one final board meeting are reminders that there is still a little magic left in this season before we say our see-you-nexts.

Thank you for being part of this community. Thank you for showing up, season after season, with your smiles and your casseroles and your golf clubs and your good hearts. ICC will be here waiting- a little bit better than before- when spring comes around again.

Until then, take good care.

*"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity- and in the turning of the seasons, the promise of return."* -  
Albert Einstein, adapted

Best regards,  
**Island Country Club**

*Island Country Club 442 Sunset Road Deer Isle, ME 04627 [www.islandcountryclub.net](http://www.islandcountryclub.net) (207) 348-2379*

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)