



# February 2018

Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course is owned by the City of Goldsboro and Operated by the Parks and Recreation Department—Scott Barnard, Director



Greetings Fellow Golfers,

Just can't believe the bad luck we have been having concerning the weather. Starting on December 27<sup>th</sup>, we have been closed for 25 days due to extreme cold and having to protect our greens by 'Icing'. Just to inform folks in what that does, the easiest way is to visualize a peach crop. When peach blossoms are forming and severe cold is forecast, the farmer sprays water on the trees to form a layer of ice that covers the buds. This acts like an 'electric blanket' to protect the buds from freezing, thus protecting the plant and the subsequent peaches that will form later. Golf greens are no different. Dormant (brown) greens in the Winter have most people assuming the grass is not green because it is not growing or dead. This is not the case. Actually the grass is not green because of photosynthesis (sunlight). Many things are still happening beneath the surface. Because of this, it must be protected. It doesn't take but one night of neglect to totally kill a green. University of Mount Olive has started their practice. Also this month the High School boy's will begin their season on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. High School matches will be posted in the 'Calendar'. Don't forget that the Golf Course Committee meets on February 21 at 2:00 in the Golf Course Dining Room. This is probably as good a time as any to reprint my article on playing in the cold. In cold weather, although not essential, a hand warmer certainly is a useful and welcomed addition. But don't put your golf ball in the same pocket with your warmer. That is a penalty. Dress for the occasion. Staying warm is the objective. Don't wear such bulky clothing so as to greatly restrict your swing. Layers of clothing are much more effective, especially if the weather warms during your round. An example might be thermal underwear, turtleneck shirt and a loose fitting sweater or sweater vest. For the lower torso you might include a heavy pair of pants (not made from wool) and two layers of socks. Your hands, feet and head are the most critical to keep warm. So don't forget a toboggan (or head scarf) for your head and gloves for your hands between shots. Playing in cold weather also calls for some adjustment in technique and strategy. Cold causes muscles to contract. Before and during the round you will have to pay more attention to warming up and stretching. Particularly stretch the back muscles so a full turn can be made. When wearing extra layers of clothing, the backswing will also tend to be shortened. This coupled with playing a cold golf ball will require you to add more club to reach the desired distance. Most people know that cold affects the distance a golf ball travels, but how many know how much? Just a little food for thought. With the air temperature at 95 degrees, a ball that will travel 262 yards will travel 250 yards at 68 degrees and 244 yards at 41 degrees. This means that if we play golf when its 50 degrees outside, we will lose at least a club to a club and a half in distance from our normal summer play. 150 yards to the hole? Instead of hitting a 7 iron, you might rethink and go with a 6 or an easy 5. See ya next month.

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# GMGCG NEWS

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