



Mougins, January 2019

Dear Member,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU**

*A new year is beginning to peak through  
softly beautiful and different like new falling snow,  
each day unique and shaped just for you.  
Your life adding something as each day does grow.  
My wish for your new year is beauty  
and softness with surprises thrown in for delight.  
Love for each day bringing happiness to you,  
making your life a scene of sparkle and shining sunlight.*

The entire team wishes you a happy 2019 and moreover a healthy New Year! It is going to be an exciting year at Royal Mougins Golf Club and the team cannot wait to present you all the changes come Easter.

2018 is the past. Now, our focus and our motivations & ambitions are fired up to deliver you a great golfing season in 2019.

I will not bore you with any predictions. Will Brexit be stopped? Will France's President Macron get his reforms back on track after the gilets jaunes protests? Will the Democrats start an attempt to impeach President Donald Trump? Will there be a financial crisis? And much more!

*For some very serious predictions I recommend the following site  
[www.yearly-horoscope.org/nostradamus-predictions](http://www.yearly-horoscope.org/nostradamus-predictions)*

*"May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!"*

The only prediction I make is that we will deliver you and ourselves a golf course in way better shape than you have seen and experienced it in past years!

Here's an update of the various projects we have been working on and the ones we will be starting up this week.

**Driving Range**



*Driving range today with the slight hill on the right*

After many months where we were not allowed to order any works on the range (under penalty of criminal law) we finally forced a solution with the Mougins Administration. Works began mid-November 2018.

Due to the fact that several neighbors started legal procedures against the Mougins town officials (in particular the Mayor) opposing our initial works on the course, the officials had no choice but to refuse our application for the right permit.

Much of the soil has been evacuated and drainage has been replaced. Unfortunately, due to heavy rainfall in December we lost a few weeks.

We still have some more soil to evacuate, lower the hill and shape the range again creating some target greens. Then we will bring in new topsoil (some from the area behind the green of 17), finish the lateral drainage, level the surface, install irrigation whilst (hydro)seeding is planned for some time in February. Obviously, we will also repair the nets on the left-hand side.

At the very end of this project we will have some landscaping done on the elevated area on the right side.

After one more over-seeding the driving range awaits you from Easter 2019 on.

To further protect the grass on the driving range, once it has grown, we plan to use robots to pick up the balls as well as robots to mow, preventing the need for heavy machines on the range and thus better protect the turf than before. At the moment we are still checking out the effectiveness at other courses already using robots.



As mentioned, the range will be re-opened at Easter 2019. However, we have installed 3 cages so that you can still hit balls all winter long.

Furthermore, Royal Mougins has negotiated and even prepaid access to 2 driving ranges nearby so there cannot be any excuse for lack of training.

- Driving Range of the Golf d'Opio Valbonne - La Bégude.

Just present yourself in the ProShop, show your RM member's card as well as your FFG license and you will receive access and balls on their range.

- Driving Range of the Barbossi Golf Club in Mandelieu.

Please follow the same procedures as at the Golf d'Opio.

If you decide to play 18 holes the management of Barbossi is kind enough to offer you a package consisting of 18 holes, a buggy and a 2-course lunch menu with a soft drink and coffee for 140 euros.

### **Hole 12**

The area where the lake used to be is now reshaped, creating an obstacle again. After adding topsoil, the area has been hydroseeded. In March, some landscaping (colour) will be added.

It's my modest opinion that hole 12 looks great again.

Unfortunately, the last storm in December created some damage. Nothing major and repairs have already been performed. Let the grass grow!



*Hole 12 (before last repair works)*

#### **Lake hole 14**

We will add a fountain in the lake and create a small cascade. This will keep the water clean and the fish and turtles happy. In case of a storm the water will overflow towards hole 12 and disappear in to the Vallon thru the small emergency creek created on hole 12.

#### **Lake hole 16**

The fountain on hole 16 which has been out of order for many years will be replaced with a new one.

#### **T-boxes**

The t-boxes on holes 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 have been leveled and re-turfed. We are currently waiting for the roots to grow well into the soil before they can be used again to tee off.



*T-box on hole 10*



*T-box on hole 5 (letting it grow for now)*

#### **Bunkers**

A special pre-mix sand has been delivered and the team has started to fill bunkers with necessary quantity of sand over the winter months. This is part of the normal winter jobs and will be dealt with as daily golf maintenance.

#### **Fences 9 - 13**

Emergency repairs were done to keep out the wild boar. We have also cleaned up the area behind the fences (on the Vallon side) from the green of hole 9 to the tee of hole 13.



*Fences mended and area behind all cleaned up*

**Repairing the scars from the irrigation phase 1**

A team will be flown in to repair the visible effects from the new irrigation system (scars).

At the same time another team will add sprinkler heads where necessary. After having used the new system for a season we can now see where water is needed. Only then can we program each individual sprinkler preventing too much water in certain places and dry spots in other.

All visible scars will be repaired. Meaning taking off the turf, replacing the soil underneath and re-turf with new grass.

This project will be finished before mid-March (Mipim).

*<https://turfmate.com.au/the-life-of-a-greenkeeper>*

**Course furniture and signage**

New course furniture and signage has been ordered to replace all existing signs, etc. We will remove the old ones and install the new ones in March.

We have decided to keep the same routing of holes for many reasons. I thank every member who has given us their input regarding this. The Mi-House will therefore continue to deliver service on hole 7.



**Landscaping**

I have ordered a professional landscaper to draw up a plan to add colour to our course

creating a little bit more the feeling of a garden course. We will add vegetation behind the tee of 5 and a bit alongside the hole, around the green of 10, the tee of 13, the area between 13 and 14, behind 14, near the tee of 18 and to the right of the green of 18.

These works are all foreseen to be executed in January, February and March. All a bit depending on the weather like all other projects of course.

The sign at the bottom of the Chemin de Burel has been completed and provides a taste of the other landscaping planned. This project was designed and executed by Robin PAUL via his company "Au fil des Jardins" who are based in Mougins.



*Entrance Road to Royal Mougins Golf Club*

### **Management of projects**

Hans Rieter is doing a great job in helping me to manage the various projects on the course. Our priorities are to make sure that all works will be finished well before Easter and that in the meantime you experience as little disturbance as possible while playing our course.

#### *How greenkeeping has changed in the last 40 years*

*[www.thegolfbusiness.co.uk/2018/04/how-greenkeeping-has-changed-in-the-last-40-years](http://www.thegolfbusiness.co.uk/2018/04/how-greenkeeping-has-changed-in-the-last-40-years)*

### **Car Paths**

Starting mid-January major repair works will take place on the car paths. All damaged areas will be re-done, parking areas will be created, useless barriers will be taken out, curbs will be taken out and safety will be increased by using new anti-slip materials (especially on holes 2 and 12). On 2 we will go back to the original path.

This is a major project which, under the supervision of our member Stéphane Hansen (via his company CTH Ingenierie), should be finished towards the end of February 2019 (weather permitting obviously).

At the same we will be looking at curbs, barriers and some tree management on various holes.

Unfortunately, we will have to close some holes from time to time. Starting with holes 11, 12, 13 and 14 during weekdays for 2 weeks from January 14th on.



*Beginning of path work on hole 14*

We will, of course, limit these periods as much as possible. I thank you beforehand for your understanding and co-operation.



*Red and purple areas to be repaired and replaced.*

The goal is to get the course ready to host a major golf event in 2020. But up till then we are much focused on working with you on organizing fun golf events throughout the year.

*"Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated."*

### **Double Graden**

The annual 'double graden' is planned to start on March 18th.



The Graden sand injection machine outfitted with 2mm carbide blades affects nearly 7% surface area. The sand injected into the slits firms the surface and expedites turfgrass recovery.

The quality of the putting surface will be reduced for a period of maximum 3 weeks, depending on how aggressive the cultivation and the health of the turfgrass. However, the benefits of these works provide for the long-term quality of the playing surface.

- If core cultivation and thatch reduction tactics are forgone or are significantly reduced, the putting surfaces will be slow, spongy and not roll true.
- Soft, spongy greens resulting from inadequate cultivation efforts are more susceptible to deep pitch marks, further reducing putting quality.
- If cultivation efforts fall short of organic matter and thatch production year after year, greens may need resurfacing in 10 years or less, resulting in course closure.

Core cultivation is disruptive, but an absolute necessity.

The same, by the way, goes for topdressing of fairways which we have planned for 2019 as well.

For more information about these very important works, I refer to this article:

<http://gsrpdf.lib.msu.edu/ticpdf.py?file=/article/moeller-lowe-managing-11-4-16.pdf>

### **Other winter works**

#### **Locker rooms and Shop**

Carpets will be replaced in early February and any leakage will be repaired this month. New look for a new year.

#### **Golf & Restaurant Software**

Besides the many 'hardware' projects under way and planned for we are also changing the software which we are currently using throughout the Clubhouse. The goal obviously is to improve service to members and guests whether it be in the ProShop or restaurant.

We have investigated many different PMS (Property Management System) solutions and are convinced we have selected the right one for Royal Mougins. The coming period a lot of time will be spent on programming and getting the new software ready for use.

We have chosen software from a company with a proven track record in many golf clubs around France. We have visited some of those Clubs and have interviewed the people using the software so as to be sure to have made the best choice available. We are confident to have done just so.

Once we have changed from one to the other and proper training has taken place, we'll be in a position to better serve you.

*Any sufficiently advanced technology is equivalent to magic.*

#### **Spa & Fitness**

The floor in the fitness will be replaced and repair work is planned within the next 2 weeks for the floor all throughout the Spa. The Spa will be closed starting the 14th of January for two weeks as obviously we will have noise during the work to create the new offices underneath.

Please check out the Spa's website for future treatments and packages: [www.spa-royalmougins.com](http://www.spa-royalmougins.com)



*Royal Mougins Spa Cinq Mondes*

### **Business Center**

As reported earlier we have chosen to push the project of building a completely new Business Center well into 2020 in order to fully concentrate on the quality of our course.

Obviously, we'll invest a little on furniture, etc.

Very important is the necessity to take down the sick palm trees. They will be replaced by some nice landscaping.

The wall on the right-hand side edge of the garden will be repaired and heightened so as to secure and increase safety.



*Palm trees and wall in front of RM Business Center before they were cut down.*

### **Hotel**

Repainting of the suites is ongoing. The area behind the second-floor rooms, the guard rails on the balconies and any other areas need of refreshing.

Furthermore, we will replace most of the sofa beds, the living room tables as well as the terrace tables. Decorations will be added in March to each suite as much of it has disappeared over the years.

Major parts of the hotel gardens will be redone in February

### **Restaurant du 18**

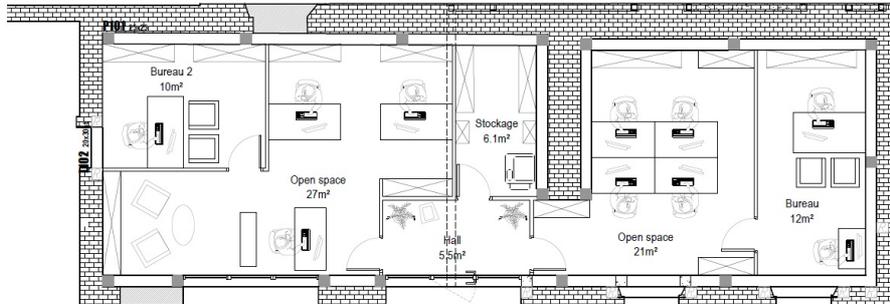
Please note that you can still deposit money into your RMGC account to be used for future spending in our restaurant (or ProShop). Any amount equal or above 2.000 euros will be raised by us with 10% additional funds. You have till January the 31st to benefit from this deal!

### **New Offices**

In January, we'll start to transfer the storage areas just below the Spa into new office space.

We need these extra offices in order to free up the Business Center for commercial reasons.

The left side of the offices are reserved for the Royal Mougins Real Estate Team under guidance of Myriam ABECASSIS. The right side is reserved for our Financial Department under guidance of Jean-Francois STEFANI.



### **Royal Mougins Real Estate**

The Royal Mougins Real Estate Office will, starting in March, continue as an independent entity within the RM structure. Myriam ABECASSIS will take over the RE business from the current shareholder. Her interests and ambitions are, even more then before, to secure a healthy future for her company and thus also for RMGC.

Myriam and her team will ensure professional assistance if and when a resident wants to sell or rent. At the same time the team will find buyers who would like to enjoy the specific Royal Mougins Club life. We wish the entire RE team nothing but huge success. The purpose is to maintain a high standard service to the properties Owners.

The former Real Estate Office at the fountain garden will become THE place for corporate meetings and social gatherings. Nowhere else can one find the peace, quiet and marvelous views so needed to discuss serious business decisions. And then some.

### **More news**

#### **Buggies**

E-Z-Go has sent technicians to commence the installation of cabling for the GPS. We hope that in January we can have GPS on all buggies as this is of huge importance as many members are driving on fairways even though, we clearly mark 'Buggies on car Paths Only'.

Please note that we will be way more strict controlling this as you are ruining your own course. We just cannot tolerate this and I am counting on your proper behavior on the course at all times.

*The object of golf is not just to win. It is to play like a gentleman, and win.*

As we are in winter, we occasionally deal with frost on the course. Please respect when the greenkeepers put out winter greens or when we request a frost delay. This is only done to protect YOUR course and prevent problems later on in the season.

Frost is frozen dew that crystalizes on the grass, making it hard and brittle to touch. Blades of grass consist of 90 percent water, which is why it freezes so easily. If someone or something was to walk on the frozen grass this would cause the plant to break and the grass cell walls to rupture thereby hindering the grass to grow normally.

Did you know that the average foursome will take approximately 300 steps on each putting green? And with the effects of walking on the grass not being seen immediately the average golfer may not understand the importance of a frost delay. On average the effects of frost damage are not seen until 48 to 72 hours after the membrane damage has occurred, causing the grass to turn brown and die.

#### **Rakes**

New rakes have been ordered and should be delivered sometime in January. They feature bent handles so they are easier to use and easier to find! I know you'll love them so you will use them ☺.



### **Royal Mougins Application**

If you have not yet downloaded our Royal Mougins Phone Application please do so as of Easter 2019, we will only accept T-time reservations made thru the App or our website. Furthermore, it is a great facility to be able to connect with us at all times. Did you, for instance, know that you can pre-order at the Mi-house with the app?



### **RMGC website**

The Royal Mougins website has been replaced by a brand new one in December of last year. Another proof that our team follows the latest technical innovations. Please do check it out. The address is the same [www.royalmougins.fr](http://www.royalmougins.fr)

### **Uniforms**

We are currently working on new uniforms for the entire team working in departments including the greenkeepers, Marshalls, etc. One team, one uniform, one dream!

*"Fashions fade, style is eternal"*

### **Rattan Chadha Cup**

Please note that we will celebrate the improved golf course and the beginning of the new season with you during the yearly Rattan Chadha Cup. The date of the competitions is April the 20th 2019. The festive Gala Dinner will be organized by Julie, Olivier, Philippe and their teams on the evening of that same date. Don't miss it!

For all other competitions the AS and members have planned for you throughout the 2019 season I refer you to the Sport's calendar on our website or the AS website.

[www.golfdigest.com/story/who-has-already-earned-invitations-into-the-field-for-the-2019-masters/amp](http://www.golfdigest.com/story/who-has-already-earned-invitations-into-the-field-for-the-2019-masters/amp)

### **Memberships**

One of the consequences of trying to create a wonderful golf course for you is also to make it more difficult to join our Club. The coming months we will be developing new types of memberships. Rates will go up. We will also create a membership (welcoming) committee which will meet with anyone seriously interested in becoming a member. The committee will assure us that all new members to join will be truly 'Royal' and ready to join the family! Details will follow soon.

Royal Mougins Golf Club features a private course where a limited number of non-members are permitted to become 'Member for a Day' in order to discover and enjoy our course.

### **In summary**

We thank the members of the Board of the Royal Mougins Association Sportive for pointing out several issues to improve on the course. Most projects will be finished

before mid-March (weather permitting). All projects and works will be finished before Easter 2019 so as to offer you, again, a great course to play on. For my part, I am so looking forward to the Spring; the entire team is excited about the upcoming season!

[www.golfdigest.com/story/the-10-greatest-things-that-could-happen-in-golf-in-2019/amp](http://www.golfdigest.com/story/the-10-greatest-things-that-could-happen-in-golf-in-2019/amp)

2018 has not been an easy year for you nor for the team. But we refuse to let up and we will all fight to make things better. The course, you and the team deserve this. Back into it, head high and walk the talk; that's what you expect of us. I guarantee you that we are more motivated than ever before!



A great Team always finds a way to win!

Please note the new golf rules for 2019. We have booklets and brochures available at the ProShop explaining these new rules more in detail. Here's a link to help you understand the changes better:

[www.todaysgolfer.co.uk/news-and-events/general-news/2019/january/2019-rules-of-golf-your-guide-to-the-new-rules](http://www.todaysgolfer.co.uk/news-and-events/general-news/2019/january/2019-rules-of-golf-your-guide-to-the-new-rules)

as well as:

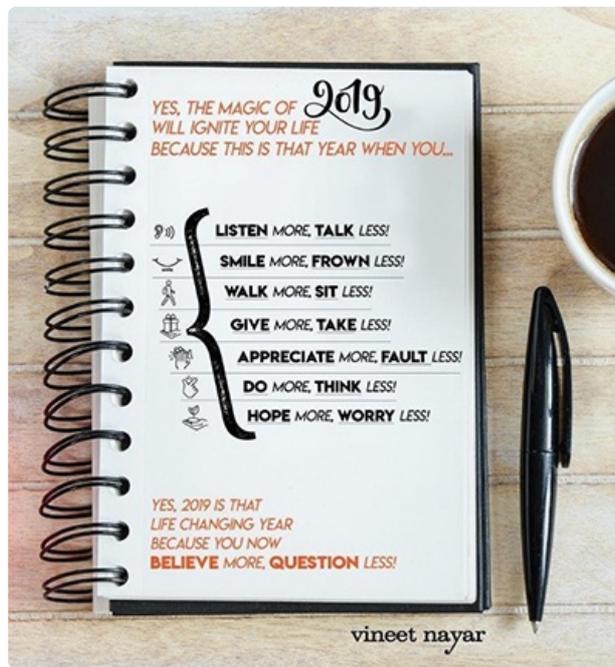
[www.golfdigest.com/story/14-ways-your-game-can-benefit-from-the-new-rules-of-golf/amp](http://www.golfdigest.com/story/14-ways-your-game-can-benefit-from-the-new-rules-of-golf/amp)

Thank you for being member of our great Club.

With truly motivated regards on behalf of the Royal Mougins Team, I remain,

Yours sincerely & always at your service,

Jurgen Wondergem



PS : Can Tiger Woods become number 1 again.....

[www.espn.com/golf/story/\\_/id/25572769/can-tiger-woods-get-no-1-again?platform=amp](http://www.espn.com/golf/story/_/id/25572769/can-tiger-woods-get-no-1-again?platform=amp)

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#### #NEXT EVENTS

- **Saturday Février 16:** Coupe St Valentin (tournament reserved for members and their guests)

#### #INFO

Privatization of the golf course and the restaurant on **Tuesday March 12.**

Reminder: please note that the restaurant is closed for dinners during the low season.

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SPA  
ROYAL BOUGINS

**VALENTINE'S DAY  
OFFER**

**Spa Access 1h00  
+  
Private Jacuzzi 30  
minutes  
+  
Bespoke Massage  
1h00 in double room**

**179€** Instead of 330€

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GOLF - HOTEL\*\*\*\* - RESTAURANT - SPA - EVENTS

