

SOUTH MUSKOKA NEWS

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Summer 2008

From the Pro Shop

The 2008 Hole in One Club

Wendy Reid # 8

Jeff Whittle #17

Jack Taylor #17

Tournaments and Results

We had great turn-outs for the Early Bird and Porky&Rocket's Revenge, but then a disappointing field for the Tennessee Scramble. That event is usually very popular, so we don't know what happened this year. Were you all away on the 12th??

The results of all of our member tournaments are posted on the Club website, so go to www.southmuskoka.com/news to see all the latest news.

The 2008 Greavette is fast approaching and we expect another great weekend of golf at South Muskoka. Thanks to Bill, Glenn, Tim Greavette, their families and company for their support of this event. In just a few years, The Greavette has become one of the best tournaments of our season.

Pepsi-Titleist Tour – Thank You !!

Sincere thanks to the 38 members who gave us a hand hosting the Pepsi-Titleist Tour on July 10th. This Tour is a great developmental tool for our juniors, and the help from volunteers at all clubs is a huge part of its formula for success.

South Muskoka Infiltrates IJGA

With Ryley and Kailey Brooks already on staff at the International Junior Golf Academy at Hilton Head, the organization will take on an even stronger South Muskoka flavour as they have recently been joined by Stephen Thomson. Stephen will work as the College Placement Officer.

PING Fitting Day

Don't forget to book your PING fitting appointment for Friday August 15th. PING is the number one game improvement club-maker.

Ron & Jennifer

From the Chairman of the Board

The Nominations Committee will soon begin its annual assignment to seek out candidates for election to the Board. The Committee recommends enough members to replace all of the retiring Directors, and will post its report in the clubhouse and on our website, at least 45 days prior to the AGM.

If they wish, members may run for election independently, by filing a nomination with the signatures of at least 15 other voting members. Such nominations must be delivered to the Club Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the General Meeting. The 2008 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday December 13th.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominations Committee, or if you want to suggest a good candidate to serve on the Board, please contact me.

The Board has considered changing the date of our General Meeting. In recent years there has been light attendance on the usual December dates. After reviewing alternatives, the decision was made to continue the current timing.

If you have questions, suggestions, or recommendations for the Board to consider, please do not wait until the AGM to bring them to us. Call any of the Board members, or the General Manager, and we will be happy to entertain your ideas.

Enjoy the summer.

Jamie Hopkins

Curlers' Corner

All of the arena lighting has now been changed over to the new style of ballast and bulb. We hope that we have now heard our last buzzing ballast!! Even better, the arena will be noticeably brighter and we also expect our hydro consumption to decrease by 15-20%. With hydro rates quite volatile, likely to continue their upward trend, this will help us keep our costs down.

Did you know that South Muskoka had three members curling in Ontario provincial finals this past season? Jessica Lyall played in the Bantam Mixed with a team out of Coldwater; Jennifer Josiak (Mooij) played in the Trophy finals, and Jeff Gilbert was runner-up on the Al Corbeil team out of Stroud, in the Intermediate Men's division. Congratulations to all three.

Curlers should look to receive their 2008-09 registration forms shortly after Labour Day. The early payment due date will be in the first week of October. If you know of prospective new members please drop their name and address information to the Club office, or give us a call, so we can mail them a kit.

This season we will be changing draw times for leagues on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Monday changes are to change the Businessmen's start time 4:45 to 5:15. This means we also need to change Monday Night Men's to a 7:30 start.

On Wednesdays and Fridays the Mixed leagues will start at 6:30 pm with the second draw then at 8:45 pm. The goal of these changes is to get curlers off the ice and home earlier than the old 9 or 9:15 start time would allow.

Hopefully these changes will help us grow our membership base which has been heading in the opposite direction over the past few years!

We will have a few openings for drawmasters this year and we encourage members to step forward and help run their leagues. Contact Committee Chair Greg Corbett or the Drawmasters' Representative, Archie Buie if you would like to help out.

When you are registering for curling this year if you are looking for a spot on a team in one of the team entry leagues, there is a section on your form to do so, or you can mention this to the office staff as skips sometimes call us for players.



Improved Rain Check Policy

Despite what is printed on the reverse of our green fee tickets, this year we have changed our rain check policy and now give a straight pro-rated rain check based on the number of holes not played. This applies to power cart rentals as well.

As in the past a rain check must be redeemed in the same season as it is issued, is not transferable, and has no cash value.



South Muskoka CPGA Assistant Pro **Richard Ferraccioli** led his team of Paul Fraser, Jim Fletts and Bob Niebert to a two stroke victory at the 2008 Dave Ellis Pro/Am held June 2nd at Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club. It was Richard's first trip to the event, and he capped his day by also winning one of seven skins in the Pro Only competition.



If you find that you do not mind playing golf in the rain, the snow, even during gale force winds, here is a valuable tip: your life is in trouble and you may need counselling.



Golf is a hard game to figure. One day you can go out and slice it and shank it and hit into every trap and miss almost every green. Then the next day you go out and for no apparent reason at all, you really stink.



Guest passes remain a well-kept secret at South Muskoka. For the past four years members have been able to purchase guest passes to get discounts on green fees when entertaining friends, family, and other guests at the Club. Books of 3 passes may be purchased for \$165. Some conditions apply.

From the General Manager

The story of the year so far has been rain. Rain, rain, rain, and then some more rain. While this has been very frustrating for us, and is taking a toll on our Greens Fee and House revenues, other locations have actually been harder hit. For example, Paul Villemaire at Taboo reported that in mid-July they have had only 11 days this year when they did not have to restrict carts to path only – and their drainage is good!!

We have been fortunate that the very wet conditions have so far not produced any serious disease on the course. We did have to apply chemical to treat the areas where white grub infestations occurred and attracted those animal excavators. We hope that a single treatment will be effective.

As you may be aware, the province has brought down new legislation which bans the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes, and while they have stated that golf courses will be exempt it remains to be seen at implementation what this will really mean for us. We rarely use any chemical for “cosmetic” purposes, the grubs being a good example – we treated those areas because they were unplayable, not because they were unsightly. We do know that we will be asked to develop annual plans to justify our use of pesticides and fungicides, and we fully expect that the government’s objective will be to force us to reduce our usage each year.

Our neighbours to the north have been aggressively clearing lots, and in so doing have encroached on the agreed 20 foot buffer zone in certain areas, eg: the third tee. We are now negotiating with them to rectify this matter.

On another front, the new Granite Springs condominium development (off #1 fairway) will be purchasing blocks of golf rounds from us as an add-on to their condo units. Contrary to their initial literature and promotion, *these arrangements do not entail “membership” at South Muskoka.*

We were successful with our insurance claim for damage to the arena ice plant condenser which occurred last January. We managed to keep it functioning through the balance of the season, but it is a total loss from the impact and damage caused by shifting snow and ice. The new unit will be moved over on to the flat roof, to ensure no repeat of that incident.

We hope you are having a great summer, whether you are golfing, or just resting up for the coming curling season.

Sincerely,

Al Helmer

Lay-Up or Go For It ??

If you are afraid that a full shot might reach the green while the group ahead of you is still putting, you have two options - you can immediately shank a lay-up, or you can be patient, wait until the green is clear, and then top a fairway metal half-way there.



The bride came down the aisle only to find that the groom had brought his golf clubs to the altar.”What are your golf clubs doing here?” she asked. He looked her in the eye and said “This isn’t going to take all day, is it?”



A Reminder About Tee Decks

Our recommendation to maximize your enjoyment of the game is to select your tees according to your current handicap index, ie:

9 or Less	Black Tees
10 to 16	Gold Tees
17 to 25	Green Tees
Over 25	Orange Tees



Equitable Stroke Control

When entering a score you must use Equitable Stroke Control. Simply put, this prevents “blow-up holes” from unduly influencing your index. On a given hole your ESC score maximum is as below, so you need to review your card and make appropriate adjustments before entering your score. Note: If you enter your score on a hole by hole basis, the software automatically applies ESC, so you enter only your actual score.

Index	ESC Hole Maximum
0 or Plus	1 over par
1 through 18	2 over par
19 through 32	3 over par
33 and over	4 over par