

SOUTH MUSKOKA NEWS

WINTER 2010

FROM THE PRO SHOP

As I write this birds are skating on the frozen water of our birdbath in Ocala Florida!! This is truly winter weather this year, with a cold snap that has brought our winter world of golf to a complete standstill. However, the 37th golf season at South Muskoka is on the horizon and we are certainly looking forward to that.

As most of you know, Sarah Boyce will be taking time off to have her first child. We are pleased to have Ryan Hutson joining our golf professional staff for 2010. Ryan is a native of Haliburton and very familiar with golf in Muskoka. After graduating from Niagara College with a Business Admin & Professional Golf management degree, Ryan has spent the last four years at Clublink's Rocky Crest resort & golf club as an Assistant Golf Professional. We are excited and happy to have Ryan join us and looking forward to his contributions to the golf program at South Muskoka.

We are also very pleased for Erin Thorne who has gained conditional status on the LPGA Duramed Futures Tour. As she did in '09 Erin will split her time between her role as Assistant and Teaching Professional at SMC&GC and playing in some Duramed/Futures Tour events. Her contributions to Pro Shop operations are an important part of our success. We expect all of the staff from 2009 to be returning and we look forward to further enhancements of our golf operation with the addition of some new members to our inside and outside Pro Shop staff.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be introducing a new aspect to the Junior program for the 2010 season for Juniors wanting to increase their golf experience. Details will be announced at the Junior/Parents meeting in May.

We hope your winter has been enjoyable and you are getting ready for another busy and exciting year of golf

Ron & Jennifer



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FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Because the Annual General Meeting had to be postponed, we haven't officially inducted the new Board, however, we are still making plans and looking ahead to the coming year.

With a little luck we hope to see progress on two key fronts – successful resolution of our property tax appeals, which date back to 2003; and sale of some or all of the Oakwood Heights lots. Both of these events will improve our financial position.

On the golf course, we hope that summer 2010 will be more normal in terms of precipitation, and allow us to grow our green fee volumes over the levels that we have achieved in the past few years. We will again have a busy schedule of outside tournaments, concentrated in June and September. These events represent a vital income stream, one which is more stable year to year than revenues from individual public play.

As a Club we are constantly seeking ways to improve what South Muskoka offers for its members. If you have ideas, suggestions, criticisms or questions, direct them to our General Manager. He will be pleased to receive your feedback, investigate problems, evaluate suggestions, and respond accordingly.

See you at the Club.

Kevin Chilvers



CURLERS' CORNER

The 2009-10 curling season is in full swing with the bulk of our bonspiel schedule just around the corner, starting with the Molson's men's event on January 16th. Bob Lacroix's Baysville rink are the defending champions.

We have hosted two OCA zone playdowns this year. In November we hosted the Junior Girls and Boys. Then in December we had the Men's Tankard event, which included our own Jeff Gilbert competing with the Andrew Thompson team out of the Stroud curling club. We were treated to some great shot-making in the Tankard, but we were a little disappointed that more members did not come out to watch.

Next up on our bonspiel schedule will be the Third Annual Denise Parise Memorial on January 23rd. The proceeds of this year's event will benefit both Junior Curling at the Club and the local Cancer Society.

February will again be a busy month on the ice. First up is the MLA Mixed, with its new dates of February 5-6 and we hope to return to a full field of 24 teams this year. On February 11th we will again host the Muskoka/Parry Sound High School Playdowns, so come on down and watch some future Olympians. Later in the month we again host the Men's Muskoka Lakes bonspiel, February 25th – 27th and it is not too early to register your team for this long-running regional event.

Entry forms for all South Muskoka bonspiels are available in the locker rooms as well as the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Flyers for out of town events are kept in binders in the curling pro shop.

This year we have purchased two sets of little rocks to improve our Junior program and we have 4 "little rockers" learning the ins and outs of the game, ranging in age from 4-7 years old. For more information about this program contact me at Extension 228.

Congratulations to Robert & Nancy Kinsman and Rick & Jennifer Maloney, winners of the 2009 Labatt Mixed bonspiel. In a unique development, the second place team lead by Mary Whittaker and Ed Blekkenhorst won the right to organize next year's event !! Talk about good luck!

See you on the ice!

Jenn Josiak



2010 GOLF SCHEDULE

MAY

- 4th Ladies Opening Dinner
- 9th Mother's Day Sunday Brunch
- 10th Parent/Junior Meeting
- 11th/12th First Ladies/Men's Nights
- 13th New Members Social
- 28th PING Fitting Day
- 29th The Early Bird

JUNE

- 4th-6th Shiers Better Ball
- 14th Golfapalooza Junior Golf Festival
- 18th PING Fitting Day
- 26th Porky & Rocket's Revenge

JULY

- 5th-11th Take-a-Kid to the Course Week
- 10th PING Fitting Day
- 15th Pepsi-Titleist Tour day
- 17th The Tennessee Scramble

AUGUST

- 7th Match Play Day (Tee Times)
- 13th/14th Tim Greavette Memorial Mixed Golf Classic
- 28th/29th Desjardins Club Championships

SEPTEMBER

- 6th Junior Tagwagi
- 10th/11th Tagwagi
- 13th Seniors Fall Classic
- 16th Swiss Chalet Harveys Pro Am
- 20th Persimmon Junior & Senior
- 27th Ping/Webby Golf Jr Finale
- 28th Ladies Closing Dinner

OCTOBER

- 2nd The Finale

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Because of the severe storm December 10-11 the 2009 AGM was postponed, and will now be held on Sunday January 24th, at 1:00 pm. Given the weather we had throughout the golf season, it was somehow fitting that Mother Nature took one more opportunity to put her stamp on 2009.

PLANS FOR THE 2010 GOLF SEASON

This coming season we will change the colour of our gold tees to blue. Since inception there has been some confusion among guest players between the gold and orange tee decks. This is particularly true on holes where one or the other of these decks is not readily visible from the main teeing area (eg.6,7,8,9...).

We will also be adding a fifth course this year, a "blended" course which combines nine green tees with nine of the new "Blue" tees. This will provide some variety for both male and female golfers, who would normally play one or the other of these tee decks. Distinct ratings and slopes will be provided for the new "blended" tees.

Member golf dues will be increasing by an average of 2.5% in 2010. The increase will cover inflation of 1.7% with an additional allowance to offset rapidly increasing costs of processing credit card transactions. Green fee rates will be a little over 3% higher, before the impact of the coming HST.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – MARCH 1ST

Golf Membership renewals are due on March 1st. Over the past few years some members have taken liberties with this deadline, putting the onus on the Club to contact them and obtain renewal information. While we certainly do not want to erroneously terminate any memberships, we cannot spend several days trying to reach delinquent members. It is your responsibility to make sure that we have your renewal form and payment by March 1. Avoid disappointment !!

THE NEW HARMONIZED SALES TAX

The new HST takes effect July 1. Under the transitional rules member dues and storage or locker fees for 2010 paid prior to May 1 are totally exempt from the new tax, as are pre-paid green fee passes (guest passes etc). After May 1 the tax applies on a pro rated basis, and from July 1 on is in full force and effect. Note that the equivalent Ontario Retail Sales Tax of 8% is already payable on power cart rentals so there will be no change there. Next year, ie: in 2011 the HST will add 8% to member dues for both golf and curling, locker rentals, and club storage fees.

(cont'd on next page)

FROM THE RESTAURANT

The Sunday brunch schedule for the remainder of the winter is as follows:

January 17th · February 7th , March 7th , April 4th (Easter) and May 9th (Mother's Day).

Seatings are still 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. and reservations are required, so book your tables early. Prices: \$17.95 adults, \$8.95 children under 12. Teenagers: \$100 each.



Next month we will offer a special Valentine's Day prime rib night, on Sunday February 14. The menu will feature our mouth-watering prime rib roast with a variety of delicious side dishes and "damn the diet" dessert choices, all for just \$24.95 plus taxes and tip. What a way to treat your special valentine, or to celebrate the Family Day long weekend. Make your reservation by calling the restaurant at Extension 226.

The major breweries have been raising prices over the past year and we have now raised certain draught prices as a result. The good news is that the price of locally brewed draught is unchanged, as is the price of regular bottled beers. We've also added a Chardonnay to our house white wine selection, so you now have an alternative to Pinot Grigio.

Bet you didn't know that last summer we started accepting credit or debit cards at the half-way house and the beverage cart. At least that's what the sales volumes looked like!! Maybe we kept it a secret?? Seriously now, there are some fairly significant costs to have wireless card terminals in those locations. If the service is not required, we will revert to cash only. Time will tell if this is indeed a

The Club will now quote all golf prices on a tax excluded basis – green fees, cart rentals etc, which had been tax inclusive in the past.

THANKS

Jamie Hopkins is stepping down from the Board this year, after several terms including time as Chair. Jamie brought a wealth of business experience to the Club and was strongly committed to improving the value that members receive at South Muskoka while also protecting our long-term interests. He will be missed on the Board, and on behalf of myself and our members I extend our sincere thanks to him for his contributions.

MEMBER BOOK INFORMATION

This year we plan to publish e-mail addresses along with phone numbers in the Member's Handbook. If you prefer that we do not include your e-mail address, please let us know and we will be happy to oblige.

Al Helmer

THE 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Kevin Chilvers	Rob Burgess
Dave Finch	Bricie Boothby
Stephen Roche	Joan Habib
Bill Lang	Ed Chuter
Joe Conway	Bruce Robinson

SUDOKU

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HUMOUR??

As this section is reserved for items that are supposed to be funny there will no Tiger Woods jokes. That is just sad.

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During a visit to a new psychiatric facility, the politician asked the Director how they determine if someone should be admitted. "Well", said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then offer the patient a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket, then ask them to empty the bathtub". "I see" said the politician, "a normal person would use the bucket, because it's bigger than the spoon or the cup!" "No" said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Would you like that bed by the window?"

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A Fanatic: One who won't change either his mind or the subject.

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The only difference between a taxman and a taxidermist is that the latter leaves the skin.

Mark Twain

~

When you look up, causing an awful shot, you will then always look down at exactly the moment when you ought to start watching the ball if you ever want to see it again!!

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"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

Winston Churchill

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Have you noticed that the shortest distance between any two points on a golf course is generally a straight line which passes directly through the centre of a very large tree?