

SOUTH MUSKOKA NEWS

Spring 2011

From the Pro Shop

As I write this, the golf course is covered in something white, the thermometer is at 0 degrees and I couldn't get my car up our driveway !!!!..Last year at this time we were greeting smiling faces in the pro shop. Golf season is here according to my calendar and we are ready to go in the Pro Shop. We will wait a few days before the weather turns and off we go on season number 38 at South Muskoka C & GC.

The two major changes on the golf course, # 6 tee area and #9 bunkers are looking good and will be in play early in the season.

Our staff are all returning after busy eventful winters. Erin has a full slate of lesson programs set up and Erin and Ryan are ready for the juniors with several new programs in place including season # 2 for The ACADEMY. Erin and Ryan both attended the CPGA / Golf Canada Junior Workshop. As well, Erin attended a two day GAO Coaches Clinic in Niagara On The Lake.

The Pro Shop is set, the staff are waiting and the grass is getting greener as the snow disappears. We are looking forward to another enjoyable season of golf at SMC&GC.

Make sure to read below about the great changes to Club Championships, and our new season long competition sponsored by Harvey's & Swiss Chalet. Watch for further news about improvements to July's Tennessee Scramble.

See you soon.

Ron & Jennifer



www.southmuskoka.com

Chair's Column

On behalf of my fellow Directors, and our members, it is my pleasure to welcome all of our new members this year. I encourage you all to take full advantage of our Men's and Ladies nights and the schedule of member tournaments, to make the most of your membership.

Late last fall we re-built #6 back tees, and renovated #9 green-side bunker and we look forward to seeing the impact of these improvements. We have some drainage jobs scheduled for this spring but no other significant renovations at least until the fall.

This year the Board will be reviewing our long range goals and strategies, as well as our golf membership policies. We would welcome your suggestions.

We will also be testing a major change in the format of the Club Championships, which we hope will raise the profile of the event and encourage much broader participation within the membership.

The entire Board was greatly saddened by the passing of Bruce Robinson, who had just recently begun his involvement as a Director. We will miss Bruce at the Board room table, as well as on the golf course.

I hope that you have an enjoyable golf season.

Kevin Chilvers

Chair

Curlers' Corner

The 2010-11 season wound up with a week of Club Championship playdowns, and the Cavalcade Ford Hot Shots competition with a good number of participants.

Congratulations to all the members who took part and to the Champions, listed below.

Ladies Division	<i>Colleen Murphy</i>
Men's Division	<i>Rick Maloney</i>
Mixed Division	<i>Jeff Gilbert</i>
Open Division	<i>Archie Buie</i>

In the Hot Shots competition, Archie Buie won the Men's title and Mary Luke repeated as Women's champion. The winners plus first and second runners up received great prizes courtesy of Bricie Boothby and Cavalcade Ford Lincoln Sales Ltd.

Next season will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Muskoka Lakes Association Mixed Bonspiel. As such our goal is to have a very special celebration and event. We are looking for a group of volunteers to form a committee to make this special year one to remember. This committee will work in conjunction with the MLA and South Muskoka leading up to and during the big weekend.

The 2012 edition will take place February 10th & 11th. If you are interested in lending a helping hand please contact Al Helmer at extension 221.

A final thank you to all drawmasters for running their leagues so well, and to all our other volunteers, with Juniors, school groups, bonspiels, and on our Curling Committee.

Now that the season is done and the grass is getting greener, I wish you all a great summer. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next Curling Newsletter for updates regarding the 2011-2012 Season.

See you in the fall!

Jenn Josiak



Coming Events

May

3rd Ladies Opening Dinner

5th New Members' Wine & Cheese

8th Mother's Day Sunday Brunch &
Mom's Golf Special

9th Parents & Juniors Meeting

10th First Ladies Night

11th First Men's Night

12th Sponsor Appreciation Day

28th The Muskoka KIA Early Bird

Coming Events are posted regularly on our website: www.southmuskoka.com.

New Season-long Points Competition

Steve Maher of the Bracebridge & Huntsville Swiss Chalet/Harvey's restaurants will present a brand new competition for golfers at the Club. The Swiss Chalet/Harvey's Cup will be modeled in part after the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup. There will be both Ladies and Men's Divisions with the winners each receiving a PING golf bag at season's end.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Every Men's Night and Ladies Night low net winner will receive 2 points and the winners of each flight will receive 1 point. In members' events, champions will receive 3 points with flight winners receiving 1 point.

Points will be tabulated regularly and prominently displayed along with the Cup in the Clubhouse.

Thanks to Steve and to Bruce Kruger for

From the General Manager's Desk:

After 9 years it now appears that our property tax appeals will be successfully resolved within the current fiscal year. The NGCOA won a hard-fought victory against a formula developed by MPAC that effectively taxed the real estate plus the enterprise value of a golf course. The golf course side of the argument was led by a test case involving Clublink's Glen Abbey GC. The hard numbers for us are still not clear but it is safe to say we will recover a significant amount of the increased taxes we have paid since 2002.

Our Spring Green Fee sale is again underway, with the usual 10-packs available, or packages of 7 for those who golf less frequently. This sale continues until Friday May 20th. These passes remain a great way for non-members to save money on their golf at South Muskoka, and to also have the opportunity to participate in several Club tournaments. Guest passes will again be available all year long, in books of three.

We have no changes in our green fee or cart rates this season. Volatile (read rising) fuel costs continue to be a concern but we will not raise cart rates at this time.

Last year's Father's Day special was quite successful and we will expand that this year to include the same promotion on Mother's Day weekend, hoping of course, that we are in fact open by then!! This package allows you to bring your Mom or Dad to play on either day of their weekend and receive their green fee, cart rental, a club hat, glove, and a sleeve of balls, all for just \$59.95, including taxes (\$49.95 if playing 9).

We also have a new green fee package that will be of interest for those of you who would like to entertain guests at the club. Our new "Thursday Special" will be available Thursdays from June 23 through August 11th and provide an 18 hole green fee, power cart seat, plus the player's choice of breakfast, lunch or dinner, all for just \$89 including tax. The dinner option will be a NY striploin steak to BBQ. There are walking and twilight options available.

In another initiative to increase green fee play we have rolled back twilight time on Saturdays, Sundays, and stat holidays to 1:00 pm. The weekday start of twilight time will remain at 2:00 pm.

We are all looking forward to a great golf season.

Al Helmer

Password Reminder

For the RCGA Handicap system your username is simply your first and surname and the password default is 123456 . You can change that password on your profile, if you wish.

For the online tee time booking system your ID is your 5 digit South Muskoka member number and your password is the last 4 digits of your main phone number (the primary phone in the Members' Handbook). If you need to change this password, you will have to contact the Club Office.

Restaurant News

For the summer season we are pleased to have Saskia Van Ryn and Meghan Fenn returning from school, and you may recognize another familiar face as former Pro Shop staffer and Junior member Katie Broere has joined the house staff while US Immigration officials deal with her green card application.

The House has had a good winter even though our customer traffic suffers quite a bit after the Christmas season. Sunday Brunches have remained popular, and at time of writing the Easter brunch was sold out in both seatings. Reserve early for Mother's Day brunch, on May 8th.

In the kitchen Doug, Janice and Kim are eagerly awaiting the return of golfers and our Mens and Ladies Nights dinners, not to mention tournament banquet dinners.

If you have any suggestions or special requests for the restaurant operation, please feel free to share them with staff, call us, or e-mail gm@southmuskoka.com



Big Changes in Store for Manulife Securities Club Championships

The 2011 SMC&GC Club Championships will take on a brand new format sponsored by Manulife Securities (Ken Lovelock, Danielle Aitken & Wayne Snow)

The 2011 Manulife Securities Championships will take place on two consecutive Sundays -- Sun Aug 21st and Sun Aug 28th . Through the generous cooperation of the SMC&GC Board of Directors and Manulife Securities the gross champions for 2011 will receive partial memberships for the 2012 golf season. In the Mens, Ladies, Senior Mens, Senior Ladies, Junior Boys and Junior Girls divisions prizes will be awarded as follows - Champion gets 50 % , second place gets 30%, and third gets 20 % of their memberships paid for the 2012 season. This will be for the GROSS side of the competition only and will be the only prizes in the division.

The NET side of the competition will be playing for substantial prizes as there will only be the above mentioned prizes (memberships) in the gross competition, with all entry fee prize money going to the net side prize table. Players will indicate when they enter what competition they will be entering (gross or net). The players in the NET competition will be divided into flights based on Handicaps and the prizes will be for net scores only.

With this format and new sponsorship, we expect the Club Championships will take their place at the top of our tournament list with all players, no matter the skill level, having a two day competition for substantial prizes. A meal will be included after the second day of the competition. Both days will be a 1:00 p.m. firecracker start.

We are looking forward to an exciting championships this season and hope you will be able to take part.

Completely Unverified but Amusing Facts

Heroin was the brand name of morphine once marketed by Bayer.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows – in that era it was fashionable to shave them off.

Google is derived from the term for the number 1 followed by a hundred zeros (googol).

The military salute evolved from medieval times when knights in armour raised their visors to reveal their identity.

This year July has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. No big deal you say? Apparently it happens every 823 years, or so.

People in nudist colonies play volleyball more than any other sport. (Ed. Note : Really??)

Everything weighs 1% less at the equator.