

Moose Memo

Happy New Year and welcome 2K10. It will probably take me several weeks to get use to writing 2010 but like it or not we are now into the new year. As I look back on this past year, we certainly had some unusual weather that caused us to think a little outside of the box as far as maintenance was concerned. The abundance of rain not only affected us but many of the state's farmers and growers were hit with so much rain that 2009 will probably go down as one of our wettest years on record. Overall, however Castlewoods Country Club held it's own and actually improved in many areas around the course. Now that winter is here and the grass has gone into the dormancy stage, the greens are rolling fast but true. The fairways, rough and bunkers are playing very good even if there are some tight lies. This past weekend, we had some decent weather to continue playing golf in and hopefully the temperature will continue to afford everyone the opportunity to play all the way through the winter season. Layers is a good idea when playing as it is always easier to take something off than put another piece of clothing on when playing golf. In most cases, we are very lucky to be living in the south and not have to put up with the white stuff that has been pounding most of the nation these past few weeks. I suspect that after this weekend, many of us arm chair quarterbacks will be sick of watching football so don't forget to come out and get the new golf season kicked off with a round or two. While you are at it, bring a friend or guest to play and enjoy your course. Over the holiday season, we sold quite a few of the ten round golf packages to our members for \$350 and if you forgot to pick up yours, I will continue this sale for one more week if you're interested in buying the golf package. Remember you must be a golfing member of the club to purchase the packets and the cart fee is included in each golf pass. Please hurry as these passes will not be sold after January the 9th, 2010.

As many of you are aware, the economy continues to try and work itself back from the lull we have experienced over the past year or more. We have seen many businesses struggle to make ends meet and the golf business is no different. In talking with many owners of courses in the area, it seems that increasing revenue and building membership is a priority for this year. After speaking with many, I feel very fortunate that Castlewoods has such a good base of members. I want to take a few minutes and thank all the members who have hung in there during these trying times. I understand that at times, things beyond our control dictate what we have to do in order to continue living the lifestyle we have grown accustomed to. Moreover as the economy begins to recover and the signs of improvement start showing up, I take confidence in knowing that the new year will bring out the best in our club. In the past few weeks, I have been asked if the club is being sold. It seems that rumors have it that investors have approached me with proposals to purchase Castlewoods Country Club. To answer these questions, I simply told inquirers that no one has approached me with any offers nor has anyone even asked me if the club was for sale. Now I understand that many times, I am the last one to know what is going on but one would think that if someone is buying the club that they would tell me. This is not to say that for the right price that we might consider selling. In fact for the right price, just about anything I own can be bought including my other companies, properties, house and pets. However for those of you spreading these rumors, I say put up or shut up. I cannot see for the life of me why these rumors continue to come up or what those spreading the rumors have to gain in doing so. I guess what I am trying to say is that the next time we hear rumors, it is probably prudent to simply consider the source and enough said.

On a personal note, I have decided again to coach the NW Rankin golf team for the 2010 season. I guess by now most people are aware of just how much success the program has had in the last several years. In 2005 the kids won the state crown and since that time, we have come in second place each year after that. This year NWR has all five of our starters coming back for their senior year. Each season, I try and not have the golfers interfere with our member play but at times this is hard. I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. A week or so ago I delivered the can goods that our members donated to The Stewpot of Jackson at our Christmas party. Thanks to all who donated and attended the party. I wish everyone could share the smiles that I received because of your generosity. Thanks to all of you who participated. I also want to thank everyone who donated to the employee Christmas bonus fund. I can tell you that all of our employees expressed their gratitude for your gift this past holiday season and you are responsible for many of the smiles that their kids had during Christmas. In planning this and next month's calendar we have already scheduled several events and outings. I know it is early in the year but please keep Castlewoods Country Club in mind when planning your next event. Whether it is a golf outing, a reception, wedding or any other party or event, just give us a call at the club for more information. We have the ability to accommodate just about any size event. Just call 601-992-1942 for more information. I hope your new year's resolution involves more golf for this year. Don't forget to take some time and enjoy life. I hope to see you soon on the course.
Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

I would like to start off by saying on behalf of the course maintenance staff, thank you for your contribution to the employee Christmas fund. During the troubled economic times we are having, it is indeed hard to give a little extra to someone and I can say your donation helped these families have a joyful Christmas.

I have to say it has been a rather unproductive winter so far. The daily rains have lighted to just an inch or two in a week rather than every day but this still gives us almost no chance to do any real productive work on the course. I am hoping in the next several weeks we will see more dry weather than wet so we can finish the clean up of winter debris and possibly get a few sink holes repaired along with some other needed projects we have planned.

First on the list would be weed control. Typically by this time of year we would have applied a post-emergent control for winter weeds and prepared for a pre-emergent control for the summer weeds. Unfortunately we have had to put

This off a couple of weeks but it may prove to be a blessing in disguise. Late germination of winter annuals has plagued our industry over the past several years and with rising costs involved with weed control it has become extremely difficult to keep the course clean year round. The late application of post emergent control could prove to be the remedy for those pesky late bloomers we tend to see at the beginning of the spring. Also it will give us an opportunity to spray everything at one time. This saves time and manpower, rather than spraying two to three times we can tank mix and finish everything at one time. I know this will make Robyn happy. Our mechanic Tim Williams is preparing to have our equipment in tiptop shape for the first mowing. The monthly and yearly maintenance schedule is one of the most important parts of our operation. A well-oiled machine, so to speak, helps us do our job much more efficiently and as a result a well groomed golf course for your enjoyment. If you need any help keeping your equipment in top shape or a little advice, give Tim a call at the shop. He's getting married soon & needs extra \$ for the new wife.
Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Castlewoods Tennis News

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with far too much to eat and drink. We also hope you have made all sorts of resolutions to lose any "excess" bodyweight with the main one being to play tennis every Saturday and every evening!

Junior Winter Program — The next junior program will start January 12, 2010.

Ages 7-13 on Tuesday & Thursday from 4:00-5:00PM. **The session will last for six weeks with a total of twelve lessons. Make-up (rain) lessons will be added on at the end of the session. Cost: \$130-Members / \$145-Non-Members. One day rate-\$70-Members/\$75-Non-Member

Officials School - Are you interested I becoming a tournament official? Maybe you want extra spending money? Then officials school could be for you. The Mississippi official tennis school will be held at Millsaps College on February 6-7. The registration form can be found at mstennis.com. Have your forms completed in time to reach the MTA office by the deadlines shown on the application.

Tennis Tip of the Month — Making Contact

No matter how big or small you are, strive to make contact when the ball is parallel with your leading hip. That's your left hip on the fore-hand shot, and your right hip on the backhand side. You hit the ball pretty far out in front of you, but if you let the ball travel any farther back, chances are, you'll hit an errant shot. Many beginners get timid and let the ball travel too far back, or too close to their bodies, before they make contact. Strive to meet the ball in front of you, with your arm and racket comfortably and loosely extended. The rule is "play the ball"; don't let the ball play you! Keep your head still at and through the moment of contact. Don't worry one bit about where the shot is going. Your swing and timing determine where it will go. If you move your head, or jerk it up to see where the ball is going while you are making contact, the shot will fly astray.

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