

Moose Memo

This last week, we finally had a little bit of chill in the air for this year. It tells me that winter is just around the corner and all of the trees are changing colors as well as dropping many of their leaves. Although the grasses and turf have slowed down their growth pattern we are still mowing a couple of times each week but we know that dormancy is just a few weeks away if the weather continues to change as usual. As far as the golf course, this means quick greens and a little softer fairways to play on. I love those conditions because now you have to gauge how fast those down hill putts and chips are going to run. Touch becomes the primary concern when you are on or around the greens. This to me is what golf is all about. As has been our custom for the past several years, we will not overseed the greens but will continue to cut and roll the turf to ensure a true and smooth roll of the golf ball. Now is the time to try and keep your ball below the hole if possible and you are sure to cut down on those dreaded three-putts this winter season. It is also helpful not to short side yourself when you don't hit the green as this will surely save you strokes each and every round. Of course with the winter season, we are sure to see a little softer conditions on the fairways and rough which means that we need to be careful when we leave the cart path. Since the grass will take a while longer to grow, those dreaded tire marks from the cart will really be noticeable and lasting, so please be careful and avoid driving on wet or soft areas. If we continue to sand our divots and fix our ball marks on the greens, we will all enjoy our winter golf experience much more. Speaking of winter, remember that on Sunday the 2nd, Daylight Saving time ends and it will start getting dark around 5:15 or thereabouts. Please try and time your golf rounds so that you will be finished before dark and by doing

So we will have enough time to bring in all the carts and the golf shop will be closing at 6:00 PM. The driving range will also be closing prior to darkness starting the first week in November. As most of you are aware on the 4th of November we will be electing a new president and vice president as well as many state and local officers to represent us in congress and at the county and state level. I hope everyone will make the effort to vote. America is the greatest country in the world and our right to vote is one of the reasons we remain the world's leader. This Tuesday, the Castlewoods Tennis Center will serve as one of the polling centers for the area. This is just one way Castlewoods Country Club is always trying to give back to the community. From the first day that Castlewoods Country Club was brought by the new ownership, we have made every effort to support the sub-division and nearby communities. It has always been important to us to make sure we remain a vital part of the community even if we are not able to do everything we want to help out. It has also come with some difficulties as we try and continue to improve the area. Last month there was a break-in of our maintenance shop and several items were stolen and destroyed. We also had a break-in at the Tennis Center and the cash register was stolen. These damages total in the thousands and these were not the first instances where we have seen burglary and vandalism to our properties. I want to express our policy on such actions, as was the case with this last crime. We at Castlewoods Country Club intend to charge and convict every offender that is caught to the full extent of the law. If you are old enough to do the crime, you are old enough to do the time. No exceptions! We at CCC have just installed several new video cameras around the club and course property.

Hopefully this will help end the trend of destroying our property and value in the community. That makes five criminal convictions to date for various criminal acts here on the premises and golf course.

Last month we enjoyed several great events at Castlewoods and the Halloween party was lots of fun. In addition to the Halloween party, we also had several golf outings, a corporate party for Rayethon, an engagement party, a reunion party, a sales seminar, a homecoming dance and party in the clubhouse and court yard and a corporate party on the 8,500 square foot deck. These are just a few examples of what Castlewoods Country Club can host for the membership and any company searching for the perfect location to put on the perfect event. As the winter season begins, there are many events still on tap at the club. If you are thinking about your next company party or any special event, please allow Castlewoods the opportunity of hosting your event. We are getting into the busy holiday season and the club is ready and able to book yours. Call for more information at 601-992-1942. This month we have a wedding and reception scheduled for 7th, the MS College Fall Bash is set for the 14th. The CLGA Turkey Shoot Out is set for the 6th and the NW Rankin Golf team tryouts are scheduled for the 11th. On a personal note, I have agreed again this year to coach the NW Rankin golf team for the 2009 season. This will be three years running that Castlewoods has hosted the golf team. In the past we have helped many high school kids progress with their golf games and as a result several have signed college scholarships and are in the process of continuing their growth in this great game of golf. We would also like to welcome a new member from the last month, Jerold Sit. Be sure and introduce yourself when you see Jerold and his family and I hope to see you soon on the course. Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

As it gets later in the summer the hot dry days start to wear on the course maintenance staff and the thought of the first frost is like a mirage in the Sahara desert. Then though the winter, chilling cold wet days have us hoping for the first warm days of the spring. The cycle continues this year as many before and I am sure for many more to come. The first frost has come 9 days earlier this year than is the average. The average first frost here is November 6th. This year it came October 28th, as welcome as it is we are now entering a period of the year where leaf removal is the highest priority. We will spend the next 8 weeks blowing and moving leaves and other fall trash from the course. We still plan to do some bunker renovations as well as some minor drainage repair, but for now blowers and tractors will be taking care of the fall trash. I have heard a lot about green speed the past few weeks. No complaints really, more questions about why the greens are so fast. It is simple really. During the growing season the plant is full of lush green leaves with a waxy coat. This causes extreme resistance between the ball and the turf giving, if unmanaged, slow greens. In the summer we can manipulate the turf to an extent to get the

Type playing conditions we desire. During the fall of the year the turf begins to spend more energy gathering and storing food for the winter. Lush growth is not the priority. The growth is much less aggressive and when temperatures start to drop the growth stops almost completely. In other words there is no lush green waxy leaf to cause any resistance. The greens will be faster. You will also notice your style of play from around the greens must change if you plan to be successful. The bite you might get in the summer is not there and the ball will get away from you in a hurry.

I am not a pro but I might suggest using a loftier club around the green for the winter. That's beside the point the question is, "what can I do about it?" Well truthfully, not much. Without actively growing grass we are limited to what we can do. We try and get the greens as smooth as we can so the ball will roll true and the golfer will know what to expect. But as far as speed, I think they will only get better before they get worse or worse before they get better depending on your opinion.

One quick side note before we go. Earlier last month we had a couple of instances of vandalism and theft to our property. The perpetrators were caught and will be punished to the fullest extent of the law. This is a will remain the club policy. So pass the word to everyone and hopefully occurrences of this nature will end.

Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Castlewoods Tennis News

Upcoming Local Tournaments in November

1. Ridgeland Tennis Center State Championship. MW(op), sd, FMLC - (3.0-5.0) sd, FMLC Deadline Nov. 4

Fall Combo Teams Update

Wow, Castlewoods tennis has truly placed itself on the local league scene as many of our teams have competed and finished at the top of their perspective divisions! In women's action, 5.5 member Christy Bennett's team tamed the local competition by posting a perfect 10-0 record. Reveland Wheat's 6.5 team finished strong by placing 2nd in their division out of ten teams. Team members include: Susan Runnels, Didi Williams, Linda Alford, Beth Fisher, Jeanhee Muse and Renee Carpenter. In the 7.5 action, Gayla Elliott's team placed first with an 8-1 record. The Castlewoods men's teams fared well too with Chip Fisher's 6.5 team completing a perfect sweep of the competition with a 7-0 record. (Home court advantage couldn't have hurt!) Team members include: John Cleary, Greg Hamilton, Anthony Carpenter, Kent Williams, Dan Bennett and Jon Salem. In the 9.5 flight, Brooks Buffington lead his team to a first place finish by defeating the men's team from Mississippi College. Most improved team goes to Duke Simmon's team for winning twice as many matches then in their inaugural league from last year.

Thanks to all who have played out of Castlewoods and supported our tennis programs over the last year. Your tennis staff thanks you and we look forward to serving you in the upcoming seasons! Good luck to all that are headed to the state championships.

Junior Tennis News - The first fall session has wrapped up with many juniors improving and polishing up their tennis skills. The 2nd session will begin the first week in November. Class days are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4 to 5:00 (Six Week Session)

Cost: \$120 — Ages 7-13. Pee Wee Classes are on Tuesdays from 4 to 4:45 (Six Week Session) Cost: \$60 — Ages 4-6

There are still several team tennis matches to be played on Sunday afternoons at 2:00, so be aware that many of the courts are taken during this time.

November Mixers - Fall Adult Season Ending Mixer - Saturday November 22. Sign Up in the Pro Shop

Jr/Parent Mixer - Call Levi Patton at 601-992-5993

Tennis Staff

Mark Elliott...USPTA...Director of Tennis, Levi Patton-Head Pro, USPTA, A. Brooks Buffinton-Head Pro, USPTA