

Moose Memo

As the old saying goes, April showers bring May flowers, well I think mother nature got confused and in the past month, she started that phase. Enough rain, I am ready to start playing golf! As I look out of my window, all I can see is green grass and while the sun is shining, it looks so inviting. Last week I toured the course and I am happy to report that there are very few weeds and Po Anna compared to the past years. I know this will be our best spring ever and the golf season is officially here. In last month's news letter I explained a little about the associate membership that we started but I failed to mention that there are some limitations with this type of membership. This membership level was intended to extend a welcome to those who are becoming a regular at our happy hours or eating at our restaurant and those who occasionally play a little golf or tennis. This membership is not intended to replace our regular or corporate membership. In fact under the social membership, a member may only play golf twice per month at \$45 per round with no exceptions and if they want to practice on the range, they must pay \$6.00 per session. They may use the tennis facility or the pool facilities but they must pay a guest fee each time they use these facilities. I hope this clears up some questions concerning this membership and we will monitor this level for the next few months to make sure we want to continue with allowing new members to join at this level. We are starting to have several companies who are taking advantage of our corporate drive for new members and we are also fielding many calls concerning family and individual memberships. Now is the time to get your friends or associates to join and save on the \$1000 initiation fee. Our new chef, Keith Smith, has been doing great and the kitchen is running well with specials each day at lunch. I have been eating here the past few weeks and let me

Tell you that the food is great and I am fat and happy we found Keith. The happy hour on Friday from 5 PM till 7 PM has been building every week and CCC is very pleased with all of the support and response we have received from it. We are also lucky to have had some fresh oysters served on the half shell while the season is in full swing off the Louisiana oyster fields. A special thanks goes out to Slack, Jay, Stupica, Denny and Mole for helping shuck those beauties. The crawfish season is also right upon us and we hope to be bringing this tasty dish to our menu very soon. Speaking of new menu, come by and try the new shrimp po-boys or roast beef sandwiches or any other item you may want. Trust me you will be very pleased with whatever you order.

In the pro shop we have several new shirts, gloves, hats, putters, wedges and other clubs and we are starting to get in our spring shipments daily. Come by and say hello to Jay and the staff and I am sure you will find something that appeals to you. I also want to thank Joyce for all the hard work she has been doing at the club. As most of you know by now, Joyce has decided to retire at the end of this month. I remember when I first joined the club many years ago, Joyce was already a mainstay and she has always been there for the membership and ownership at Castlewoods. It is with mixed feelings that we see Joyce leave but I believe she will always be part of our family at the club. We will miss seeing you every day at the club. Congratulations to Kevin Webb who aced # 4 from 160 out with an 8 iron. It was his first ace ever and witnesses were Danny and Buddy Matthews, Jim Woodson and Bryan Hall. I also understand that Kevin Brady got his first ace two weeks ago at Colonial Country Club. I hope you both have many more in the future. As always I thank you for your support and hope to see you soon on the course.
Moose

JAY'S CORNER

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

Failure To Release - One of the most common errors related to release is lack of it. "Blocking a shot out" - leaving it to the right for a right-handed player because of the failure to square the clubface - is one problem that can be solved by having a better release. "Blocking" is the basis of the slice for many golfers, and results in compensations such as a bad grip and a worse swing path. Two common causes of the "block out" are: 1. tightness in the forearms which destroys the freedom to let the arms, hands and club head "go" or rotate along with the body. Blocking stems from trying to hit hard and squeezing the grip "too tightly." Firmness in the grip is desirable but tightness is destructive since it inhibits release. And, 2. moving the swing center ahead of the ball so that the arms, hands and club head cannot square up on release in time is another common cause of "blocking a shot out." For help with this or any other part of your golf game, just call me at the pro shop and get back on track for the spring golf season.

Junior Golf Camps

June 9th - 12th, ages 6 - 15

July 7th - 10th, ages 6 - 15

July 28th - 31st, ages 6 - 15

All Camp Times: 9 AM - 2 PM and lunch and drinks are included in the camp fee. Cost is \$100.00 per junior Call Jay (601) 992-1942 to sign up.

Congratulations to Clara Wimberly! She made a hole in one on hole # 4 with a 6 iron from 120 yards. Witnesses were Don Wimberly, Doug and Deannine Bullock.

We are currently doing club repair for the membership, so drop off your clubs and we will take care of you as needed.

Looking forward to seeing you at the club!

Jay Jordan, Head Golf Professional

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

With all the warm weather the course is turning green again. That is great news. I think we are getting tired of the same old brown from the winter and are ready for some change. The Masters is right around the corner and this usually signifies the beginning of the golf season. We are ready! The course is in the best shape we have seen it in at this time in a couple of years. I attribute this to a couple of circumstances. 1. The rains last summer had far reaching benefits from just keeping us green last season. One of the most important parts of the equation for weed free turf is a good stand of desirable grass. The rain last summer insured the Bermuda was strong and healthy going into the germination period of the winter weeds and it out competed the weeds. 2. We changed our herbicide applications. At the risk of hurting the feelings of the chemical companies, their stuff just doesn't work like it used to. With that in mind and some long conversations with other turf managers in the area, we came to the conclusion that pre-emergent

Herbicide applications in the fall are not economically nor culturally the way to attack winter weeds. We changed herbicides and application timing and it seemed to work much better. I think next year with a little adjustment on timing the application we will have a herbicide program we can all live with.

There is a down side to coming out of winter. I spend most of my time out on the course during the day but I can't get a really good look at what is going on unless I play. I was a little disappointed to find so many ball marks on the greens. I try to fix as many as I see but it will take a huge effort from the membership to help with this problem. Please fix as many ball marks as you can find on the greens. This is the best way you can help keep our greens in great shape. Also fill your divots in the fairways with sand. The sand bottles are attached to each cart and this will keep our fairways nice throughout the year. Please remember to also rake the bunker after you play your sand shots.

Mike Stupica, Superintendent, Castlewoods Country Club

Castlewoods Tennis News

Tournament News

Congratulations to Susan Runnels & Reveland Wheat for winning the Treasure Oaks Senior Classic in Ocean Springs. Currently, the duo is ranked # 1 in the state in Senior Women's 3.0 doubles. Also in tournament results, Will Stone was a finalist in the Cascades Junior Novice Boys 12-U division while Morgan Dollar finished 3rd in the girls 10-U division.

Upcoming Local USTA Events

1. Courthouse Spring Junior Classic (April 17) - BG (18-10)s, FIC. Deadline April 13
2. Aquafina Ridgeland Tennis Center Junior Open (April 25) - BG (18-10)s, FIC. Deadline April 14

Monthly Tennis Tip Stay Low, Play Better!

It's one of the most-repeated bits of advice in the instructor's lexicon. "Bend your knees." But why? Here are four good reasons that it's frequently dispensed.

1. Bending your knees helps keep the strings aligned with the flight path of the ball longer, which increases your likelihood of making solid contact. This translates into more control and better placement of your shots.
2. Preparing low allows you to hit with more power, Because force is generated with help from the ground, bending your knees places your body in better position to produce trunk, hip and shoulder rotation.
3. Keeping your body closer to the ground allows for better balance because your center of gravity is lower. Not only does this give you more control, it enables you to recover more efficiently.
4. Finally, bending your knees helps you cover the court better because it puts your body in the optimum position to spring into action for the next ball.

Tennis Staff:

Mark Elliott - Director Of Tennis, USPTA

Levi Patton - Head Pro, USPTA

Brooks Buffington - Head Pro, USPTA