

Moose Memo

Hello February and the beginning of a new golf season. This past week we had a few events at the club in preparation of this new season kicking off. Thanks to the Castlewoods Men's Golf Association for holding their annual meeting to kick off the year. It appears that this 2008 season will be full of events each and every month for the MGA at Castlewoods. The schedule is set and looks like a great year is in store for everyone. The Ladies Golf Association also held their annual kick off meeting as well and they too have many events scheduled for the year. If any of you are not members of either association and would like to be involved, please contact Ronnie Schmidt or Roberta Howell at the club to join their respective associations. It's a great way to meet new people and join in on the fun that is scheduled this year.

I also have the pleasure of coaching the Northwest Rankin High School golf team again this season. It looks like we will have over a dozen young men playing on the team for 2008. As many of you already know, last year the team finished second in the state and with just about everyone returning from last year's squad and a few new members, the boys team should do very well again this year. If any of you have a chance to watch these kids play this season, you will be surprised just how well these young golfers can play. I hope last year and the next few years ahead, plants the seeds for many years to come that a strong junior golf program at Castlewoods Country Club is a reality. For more information concerning the 2008 high school schedule, just contact me at the club and show your support for these young men.

Just as a reminder, for those of you who have not renewed your handicap yet for 2008 with the Mississippi Golf Association, you may call the pro shop

Or the MGA for more information on how you can renew or begin keeping track of your handicap.

This past week or so, I have also been busy with the 2008 schedule at Castlewoods Country Club. It looks like many of the events planned for this year are a repeat from last year but there are several new events already scheduled. As many of you know we do not have very many outside events at the club each year, so when we finalize the schedule for the year, there will not be much room for new or other events to be scheduled. With this in mind, if you or your organization are thinking about planning some type of outing or get-together at Castlewoods in 2008, Please call me soon to make sure we can fit your event into the schedule.

We are also extending the reduced joining fees for new members another month. Just as the last couple of months, anyone wishing to join Castlewoods as a new member can save over \$700.00 on the initiation fee with a one year membership contract.

If you know of anyone interested in joining the club to play golf, tennis or enjoy the swimming pool this year, just have them contact me at the club. I will be glad to give them a tour and share the great news that we have to offer for this new year.

Today, I sat down with Mike Stupica and discussed several issues in regards to improving the course this year and it looks like this year will be the best we have seen so far. We are very excited to be making several changes to the course and club including obtaining a new fleet of golf carts in the near future. The new year will also bear witness to many improvements and we are looking forward to a banner year at Castlewoods Country Club. I hope to see you soon!

Moose

Castlewoods Men's Golf Association 2008 Schedule.

- 2/3/08 Super Bowl Scramble
2-man Scramble event
- 2/23/08 Ice Breaker
4-man scramble event
- 3/15/08 March Madness
Individual/Handicap event
- 4/12/08 Me and My Green Jacket
Individual/pick-a-pro
Event (Flex # 1)
- 5/10/08 Who's Your Crawdaddy?
Individual/pick-a-pro
Event (Major)
- 5/24-25 Bushwacker Member-
Guest Tournament.
Match Play event.
- 6/21/08 Thong-a-Long
3-man Scramble (Major)
- 7/19/08 Me and Ye Old Cup
Individual/pick-a-pro
(Flex # 2)
- 8/9/08 Tiger and Me to Repeat?
Individual/pick-a-pro
(Flex # 3)
- 8/23/08 Did You Say Stableford?
Stableford format (Major)
- 9/7/08 The TROUT
Individual/Handicap

Don't miss out on the fun, Call
Ronnie Schmidt for more
information or just come into
The pro shop and sign up for the
Men's Golf Association.

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

With spring just around the corner the course maintenance staff is excited about getting back to some real work.

During the cold and wet winter months it is hard to find things to do from the cart path. We did manage to get some things completed this winter, most notably some cart path repairs. Although no one on my crew is a professional concrete finisher I think we did a great job with several of the trouble spots. Tree pruning is still coming along slowly but surely. The trees which have been pruned really look good. Our experimental bunker drains are working out very well. We will continue to work on more bunkers in the coming weeks.

With the support of the ownership, I have ordered several pieces of new equipment this year. It is truly amazing how technology in this industry has improved over the past several years. Although the diesel engine remains pretty constant the cutting heads for each mower has changed due to the demand for better maintained turf. Without getting into specific technical terms we are excited about the outlook for the coming years. The new greens mowers I think are the most improved.

The new design of the cutting unit will allow us to lower cutting heights without as much wear on the turf. This will be especially noticeable on the older greens. Although there is no way short of new grass to get rid of the grain on these greens, the new mowers will allow us to maintain them in a way that will be more consistent with the new greens. The Toro Company has perfected the rough mowers to the point that lower mowing heights, even in the later part of the summer, can be maintained at desirable levels. I cannot promise no rough, we are Castlewoods after all, but I can say it will be much improved from years past. Look for the shiny new red machines, they are really nice.

Cart traffic is killing us. The wear due to cart traffic on the course is now getting out of hand. Daily I see ruts in areas where carts have no business. My crew is the cause of some of the damage but that will change soon. Since most of the damage comes from member play, I have recommended to the owners that we should aggressively enforce the club's policy for carts. This will include private and club owned carts. During a round of golf there will be no more than 3 carts per fivesome, two carts per foursome and one cart per twosome. I ask for your understanding of this policy and hope you will police this by yourselves. I as well as the proshop will be charged with enforcing this policy. Thanks, Mike Stupica

Tennis NEWS

Junior Clinics have resumed after the Holiday break.

Ages 7—13 will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM.

Ages 4 to 6 will meet on Wednesday from 4:00 PM until 4:45 PM.

February 2—4 is the Junior Bullfrog Tournament to be hosted at Castlewoods Country Club. The Southern Sections top juniors will be competing. This is your time to come out and watch the South's finest in action.

Valentine's Sweetheart Round Robin is Friday, February 15! The time will be 6:00—8:00 PM with appetizers served and prizes awarded to the winners. Sign up as a couple. Please come by the tennis shop or call 601-992-5993 to sign up.

Northwest Rankin High School Tennis Team has begun their preparation for the 2008 season. Congratulations to the Castlewoods juniors who will be representing NWR this year.

The Adult Spring League Schedule is as follows:

Monday — 4.0 Women, 3.5 Men

Tuesday — 3.0 Women, 4.5 Women, 2.5 Men

Wednesday— 2.5 Women, 3.0 Men, 4.0 Men

Thursday— 3.5 Women, 4.5 Men

Saturday & Sunday— Seniors