

Moose Memo

I am so glad to see March as the first two months of this year has given us more rain than the entire 2007 year. Of course there is always two views on more than normal rainfall, but as a golfer, I would love to see some dry weather and hit some golf balls. This month also begins a busy season to Castlewoods and of course I love to see golfers moving around at the club enjoying the beautiful facilities. With the new month we will also begin to see more activity with member outings and tournament play at Castlewoods. I encourage each of you to get involved with our various golf and tennis associations at Castlewoods Country Club. We are so fortunate to have great members who are active within their own groups as well as charitable outings and company sponsored venues. Please check the calendar for upcoming events and if you are thinking about your company outing, just give me a call for more information before the schedule gets filled up for the season. The second men's golf association event, The "Ice Breaker," was completed on the 23rd of this past month and the results are listed in the newsletter as well as on our web page.

As many of you already know, this year, I have agreed to again coach the Northwest Rankin High School Golf Team. It seems that last year was such a good year that when we announced to the school that we were going to have try-outs for the 2008 team, forty-three kids showed up to see if they could make the team. Unfortunately the school can only take on a few kids but it just goes to show that Castlewoods Country Club and Northwest Rankin High School is very interested in junior golf for the future. The high school golf season kicks off March 3rd and this year, the cougars are one of the favorites in the state in the 5-A division. Good luck guys and I am sure you will

Good luck NWR Golfers and I am sure that all of you will see the kids busy these next several weeks getting their games ready for the 2008 season.

On another subject, as I am sure many of you have already heard,

Castlewoods Country Club has just recently ordered new golf carts to arrive the latter part of this month.

With the new carts we also want to encourage each of you to abide by the rules and guidelines for golf cart rentals. Our policy is to have no more than one rental cart per two-some, two rented golf carts per three or four-some and a maximum of three rented golf carts per five-some. We will be issuing keys to the new carts and you must check in at the pro-shop in order to obtain a cart and key. The cart fee will remain the same at \$15.00 per person for eighteen holes and \$8.00 per person for nine holes. In order to keep control of which carts are rented and to whom they are rented, we ask that each and everyone playing golf to check in the pro-shop prior to your round. In addition to helping maintain a quality cart fleet, these rules will also help ensure that Castlewoods golf course will remain beautiful while cutting down on wear and tear on the turf as well as the new golf carts. Thanks in advance for your help in maintaining these new carts.

Of course we also have many members at Castlewoods that enjoy the convenience of having their own carts on the course. To those who pay the yearly trail fee and use their own personal carts, we ask that each of you to help out by allowing fellow members to ride along with you whenever possible. Again the guest or fellow members still pay a cart fee but this will cut down on turf damage.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and I hope to see you soon at the club. Moose

2/23/2008 Castlewoods Men's Golf Association "Ice Breaker" Results

1st Place

Rupnik, Matthews,
Williamson, Lantrip

2nd Place

Fiveash, Manville,
Norris, Martin

3rd Place

Zachary, Taylor,
Stupica, Tapscott

4th Place (Tie)

Schmitz, Holland,
Edwards, Brintnall

4th Place (Tie)

Baker, Lane,
Troupe, Bunting

6th Place

Rippy, Bain,
Butts, Cannon

7th Place

Hand, Pendergast,
Weems, Patterson

Proximity Winners

Closest To The Hole

4 Lane

7 Hand

12 Schmitz

15 Schmitz (Hole-In-One)

Congratulations to Ronnie Schmitz for his Ace on hole # 15!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Longest Drive—John Rippy

The next CMGA Event (Me and My Green Jacket) is scheduled for April 12, 2008.

The Suds Cup is scheduled for March 29th and 30th.

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

The Month of March is pulling into the drive at the Club and with it brings a heavy load of Spring. That normally means temperatures tickling 75 degrees and lots of rain.

Although March historically is not the wettest month it seems the course stays soggy for most of her 31 days. This typically is not due to the amount of rain we get but rather the frequency. Because the grass has not completely broken dormancy yet the water uptake of the plant is not at its maximum yet. With the rains in the Winter the soil is saturated and the water basically has no where to go. This has its upside though. The wetter soil is also warmer which will allow the turf to break dormancy quicker and help protect us from the heavy frost we usually see before April. But among all the wetness we will still be able to get some things done on the course.

In March we are pushing the window of opportunity for an effective pre-emergent application. It seems every year I have to make a decision on whether to get out and spray or not. I will try to apply the herbicide after 2 days of dry weather but before the next rain. This will be followed by a short irrigation cycle to get the herbicide into the soil

Where it actually does its work. Please excuse this inconvenience for the period of time we do this work.

We are expecting our new equipment to arrive any day now. The first dry day after it gets here we will try it out. I think everything could use a good mow and blow to get things back to looking nice again. Before long this mowing will become part of the daily regiment, but until then you will enjoy some of the best playing conditions of the year. The temperatures will be great, The Spring flowers will smell wonderful and the migratory birds will be passing through on their way to their summer vacations.

This month we will be adding and repairing the boundary stakes for the hazards and out of bounds. Our goal this year is to have everything clearly marked for the members and their guests. Please do not move or discard any stakes we install. If you live on the course we will make every effort to hide the OB stakes from your view but still allow the golfers to see them. Please do not move these stakes from their locations as doing so will inhibit the proper playing of the game.

Mike Stupica
Golf Course Superintendent

Tennis NEWS

Thanks to all who came out and participated in our Valentine's Mixer. Mike and Murna Gregory were the highest finishers amongst our members, as guest Oscar and Angie Deleon claimed the title in our first annual mixer.

March, April and May are three of the busiest months of the year for tennis play here at the club. Players are gearing up for the USTA league tennis, with teams holding organized practices and the high school players are getting prepared for their dual matches. Make sure you plan ahead and make a reservation since times can be tight during this part of the year.

Tennis classes and special programs are available throughout the year for all skill levels and ages, and are taught by accredited USPTA instructors. Levi Patton has filled his afternoon schedule and is now accepting lessons for those wishing to play in the mornings on Thursday and Friday. The tennis staff welcomes Brooks Buffington who has come on board to work here as a full-time pro. Brooks is a recent graduate of Mississippi College and was a top player on the men's tennis team. He has coached several of the states top ranked juniors and will be a huge asset to our program.

On Saturday morning the Ladies Round Robin has been a huge success. Now, we need to get the men out to play some doubles. At the end of the USTA league play, I would like to get a men's intra club league started here this summer. Call the pro shop at 601-992-5993 if you are interested.

Congratulations to member Chip Fisher on his two recent tournament victories. He won the Crawfish Classic in Hattiesburg on Feb. 2 by defeating the # 1 seed 6-2, 6-2 and then he followed that up by winning a three set final at Treasure Oaks Country Club on Feb. 16.

“IF YOU PLAY THE BALL, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IS ACROSS THE NET.” See you on the courts!

Tennis Director—Mark Elliott, USPTA

USPTA Instruction Staff: Levi Patton, USPTA and Brooks Buffington USPTA