

Moose Memo

Welcome March and goodbye to all those cold and wet days we had the first two months of this year. I don't recall ever seeing such terrible weather in the beginning of the year before. I guess we will all pay attention now to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow on Groundhog day in the future. With the extra six weeks of winter weather, there is no doubt now that he did see his shadow. There is also no doubt that this has been as near to unpredictable weather as we have ever had. One day it's freezing and snowing and the next day it's in the sixties. Heck we even had one day two weeks ago that we hit 71 degrees. I also noticed that some of our fairways are starting to green up as they start to dry out. We have finished our spraying for winter and spring weeds and now all we need is some sunny and warm weather. I for one, am ready for some golf and cannot wait to get out there and hit some balls. By now I guess everyone has read the old newsletter that was mailed out with our statements last month. Yes, I know and yes, I am sorry that I printed the wrong document. I will try and be more observant in the future. I would like to take a moment and thank everyone who attended the meeting last Thursday with the ownership. I hope we were able to answer everyone's questions and bring you up to date with what is going on at the club and what is expected for 2010. Even with the cold and wet weather thus far this season, I am still very optimistic with this upcoming season. I do know that with what is currently on the calendar, we will be busy for the next several months at the club and I want to thank you for all your support. I feel that we have a very strong membership base here at Castlewoods Country Club and because of this, I believe that this year will be a banner year if the weather will cooperate. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, here are a few of the issues outlined for this season. On the maintenance side we plan on

Repairing several areas of the cart path when it is dry enough to get some equipment on the course. We will also start repairs with the sink holes that have popped up within the last year on the course. In the spring we will finish the lake project on hole number five and finish the tee box upgrade on hole number six. We are getting quotes to repair the bathroom on hole number 15 and continue our work schedule on several of the bunkers as needed. We still have a few holes that need some drainage work and within the next two weeks, all of our pre-emerge spraying will be completed. We have also started repairs on the clubhouse at the tennis center and the repair of the ice machine is now complete. We will also do some drainage work around a few of the courts and soon the pool will be cleaned and ready for the swimming season. Our goal is to hire our new golf professional by April 1 which coincides with the start of the golf season. I am very excited about introducing our new pro as I have been searching for the right person this winter and I know that we will soon have that missing link to our club for this upcoming golfing season. The plans to operate the restaurant on a regular schedule is now complete and we will post the hours of operation in the grill area this week. In summary, there were many suggestions and ideas passed around the meeting and I again would like to thank everyone who attended and participated. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Men's Golf Association kick off steak dinner and meeting on March the 4th at 6:00 PM. If you have not signed up for the dinner and meeting, there is still time to sign up in the pro shop. A special thanks goes out to those who are organizing this year's MGA schedule and meeting. David Fiveash, Ron Massingill, Mark Holland, Chris Baker, Greg Williamson and Ken Peacock. There are many plans on the slate for this year's MGA and the first

Event which is the "Ice Breaker" will take place on March 27, 2010. The format will be a three-man scramble with a 9:00 AM shotgun start which promises to be a great time for everyone. You can also sign up for the event in the pro shop. The restaurant and grill hours are now set. We will open for business Wednesday through Friday at 11:00 AM and on Saturday and Sunday we will open at 7:30 AM and close each day at 5:30 PM. Each day we will have a lunch special and these specials will be posted at the counter and also announced in the newsletter and mail-outs on a regular schedule. Of course we will also continue to serve off our normal menu if the specials are not what you are looking for that day. If you would like to be added to the daily e-mail announcements please sign up in the office and provide your e-mail address. This Spring we will also continue with our Friday Steak dinners and happy hour as well as several special events that will be announced as they come up. As I also discussed in the meeting, we are looking a little outside of the box this year and trying to generate a little extra revenue through advertising, sponsorships and membership contributions that enhance the appearance and appeal of Castlewoods Country Club. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and placing your company advertising in our newsletters, score cards or on course signage, please contact me and I will be happy to sit down and discuss the possibilities as well as the advantages and terms of such sponsorships. My door is always open to the membership and I want to again thank everyone who has supported and continue to support Castlewoods Country Club. I hope to see you soon on the course. Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

When every month gets close to the end I am required to write my news letter article. Every month it seems I have a deal line like a reporter for the New York times. This month I missed the dead line because I wanted to listen to what you had to say at the general membership meeting Thursday night so I could comment on the issues raised related to course maintenance. As a whole the comments were very positive and any criticism was very constructive. We don't take these opinions lightly and will do everything we can to do a better job for the members. There were a few items brought up that can be taken care of with relative ease and little to no expense. Among these would be trash cans, ball washers, water coolers, etc. No problem it is done. Minor maintenance to the bath house on # 8 tee, no problem, it is done. Next would be cart path repairs. This duty is a little more involved but all the same very doable with little expense. We will begin repairing cart paths in March when the weather dries enough to get some equipment out there.

Another hot topic is the bath house on # 15. This project is something that is much more involved and quite frankly out of my realm of expertise. This is going to take considerable funds and time to complete. First thing the morning after the meeting I was in contact with someone who can help us with this project. In the coming weeks we will do what is required to repair or if deemed necessary replace this bath house. Sink holes in the fairways is a project I am qualified to complete but is a little more expensive and time consuming. Very soon we will expand our work force and will have the people to tackle this chore with diligence. There was one question which is much more interesting. "Why are the greens so good for the Make-A-Wish tournament and why can't they be this way every day?" The question is simply answered, difficult to understand and complicated to correct. In short during big tournaments we try and lower the cut on the greens in order to achieve maximum speed of the greens, however to continue cutting them for a long period would certainly cause damage due to weakened turf, disease and stress that would be created.
Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Castlewoods Tennis News

Sectional Champions!! Susan Runnels and Reveland Wheat's Super Senior 6.5 team recently competed in the Sectional Championships on January 22-25. In their flight, they had a perfect record by defeating State Champions from: AL, TN, SC, and NC. In the final team match, they played the state Champions from Louisiana and edged out a 2-1 victory as Reveland captured the deciding match 7-6 in the third set! Congratulations to them and their teammates for capturing this prestigious title.

Valentines Junior Mixer Results The junior mixer had great participation as 30 juniors came out and had a fun filled day playing tennis for over 4 hours. In the high school division, Carter Black and Ellie Bond finished 1st and 2nd. Case Page and Jake Lundy finished 1st and 2nd in the middle school division! Thanks to all who participated, we look forward to the next junior mixer!

Upcoming Local Tournaments

March 5 - Ridgeland Spring Junior Novice. Ridgeland Tennis Center. BG(18-8)s. Deadline March 3

March 12 - Pepsi Spring Junior Open. Ridgeland Tennis Center. BG(18-8)s. Deadline March 9

March 19 - Reunion Junior Novice. Reunion Country Club. BG(18-8)s. Deadline March 17

March 26 - Cascades Junior Novice. Cascades Country Club. BG(18-8)s. Deadline March 24

March 27 - Courthouse Racket Club One Day Only NTRP Tournament. NM(3.5-4.0)d,NW (3.0-4.5)d. Deadline March 23

Tournament Note.. Jenny Smith recently competed in the Courthouse Junior Indoor Challenge in the girls 14-u division.

Jenny had excellent results by knocking off the #1 seed and finishing the event with a 3rd place finish!

NWR High School Practices.. It's that time of year again where afternoon play at the club is in full swing as the NWR High School tennis team is practicing each day from 2:00-3:30. Make sure to call and reserve your courts in order to guarantee your own court time.

Tennis Tip Of The Month.. "Riding Your Groundstrokes To Victory"

No matter what kind of baseline game you ultimately play, keep this in mind: The player who is farther inside the court almost always has the advantage. So even when you are rallying with your groundstrokes, try to move into your court as much as your opponents' shots allow. The farther in you get, the more you will be able to hit your own shots deep, driving your opponent even farther back. Working your way into the court also allows you to hit more and more sharply angled shots. When you're rallying, you want to be the puppeteer, not the puppet.

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