

# Moose Memo

Hello Members, With the start of the New Year last month, the club is already building momentum for 2009. There are quite a number of events already planned for the end of the winter and beginning of spring. In fact we are currently booking outings as far ahead as December 2009 and it looks like we will have a full year of scheduled events at Castlewoods Country Club. The Men's, Women's and Senior Golf Associations have set up their upcoming events and it promises to be a full year of great events. We are also in the process of booking other special events such as class reunions, special meetings, weddings, receptions and other events at the rate of two or three each month. Now is the time to call and get your next special event booked and the date reserved while we still have openings on the calendar. For more information as to your next function or special event, call the club and speak with Jean Hee or Jay. We are also in the process of getting new members to join the club for golf, tennis or swimming this season and with the new push on gaining more members, we are allowing new members to join with no initiation fee during the month of February. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a new member of Castlewoods Country Club, now is the time to save on the \$1,000.00 initiation fee. All new members can join with no initiation by signing a one-year contract. A few weeks ago the club started having a Happy Hour starting at 5:00 pm each Friday and I am pleased to announce that those who have attended really liked the idea of more social events at the club. We plan on keeping the Friday Happy Hour open and hope to make this a tradition at the club. The Bar is set up with your favorite beverages & the complementary hors d'oeuvres have been a hit. The clubhouse now has three HD TV's and a music sound system to make it more entertaining and more fun each Friday.

The Super Bowl Party was a success and congratulations to all of you who cashed in on the boards quarterly payouts. A special thanks goes out to Brian Brister and TAY'S for all of his work and great BBQ that was served. I was able to play golf this past weekend and the course is in good shape and it looks like the spring transition is going to be one of the best in recent memories. Mike and his crew have been working hard this winter to minimize the time of the transition and I can hardly wait. While it was cool a week or two ago, I also took a lesson from Jay and believe it or not, even my swing is starting to look better. Now if I can just find the time to play. If you are ready to hone your game and get ready for the spring, this is a good time to call Jay and get your golf swing tuned up. You can also call Mark at the tennis center and get started back hitting those tennis balls. I understand that league tennis is now in full swing and the pros at the tennis facility are very good at helping us improve and become more consistent. I noticed the other day while playing golf that we still need to pay attention and continue to repair our ball marks on the greens as well as filling our divots with the sand provided in our carts. I also noticed quite a few tire marks on the turf around the cart paths. Please remember to stay on the cart path especially when it is wet. It is not going to save you or anyone else any noticeable time when you pass your fellow players that park on the path while hitting their shots. When we are off the path please try to avoid any wet or soft places in the fairways or rough and all of us will enjoy our course even more. Last month I asked for any dinner ideas or evening event suggestions at club. If you have any, send them to me. Thanks again for all of your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon on the Castlewoods course.

Moose

## JAY'S CORNER

**GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH**  
Spot Aiming — If one is to copy an aiming procedure, one might use that practiced by almost every tour player. Start behind the ball, visualizing the shot. Then draw a line from the direction the ball is to start, back to the ball. Pick a spot on that line somewhere a couple of feet in front of the ball and sole the club so that the leading edge is square to the spot out in front of the ball.

It may be a divot mark, some discolored grass, a broken tee or whatever you can use as a ball starting line. Complete the setup by using that intermediate target spot as a reference point, then visually checking the line all the way to the target, and finally making a swing to send the ball over the spot. Visualizing a swing path approaching the ball as a slightly curved, painted stripe on the grass could help. Actually painting a stripe there for the student will help promote this practice.

Experimenting with aim and alignment should be limited to determining how your body most naturally produces an inside to on-line to inside swing. Then stick with it. If the ball still does not go where desired, make changes in your grip or setup rather than developing a new swing path to compensate for some other error. You will literally then be on the "path to better golf."

### Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 14th is the Valentine's Ball with cocktails at beginning at 6PM

Thursday, Feb. 19th is the MGA Meeting Beef-o-Rama with cocktails at 6PM and dinner at 7PM.

Saturday, Feb. 28th is the MGA Icebreaker Tournament with a 9AM shotgun start.

For more information or to sign up for these and all other events, just call the pro shot at (601) 992-1942.

Jay Jordan, Head Golf Professional

## TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

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Although there are still many frosty mornings yet to come this winter, we are preparing the course maintenance staff for a long and productive season. Most days over the past two months have been too wet to get a lot of productive work completed. Still on the list is some bunker work. We had hoped to get some of this done late in the fall but the rains had us on the cart path most days. We managed to get the course cleaned pretty well and are applying the herbicides to the rough. By the end of this month all herbicide applications should be complete and the other business on the list will be addressed before the major mowing duties begin. For the most part the winter was kind to our turf. At the time of this newsletter, I am seeing very little winter damage anywhere on the course. The chemicals used for spring dead spots have done a fairly good job though I think we will still see minor damage to some of the old greens. This is a hard disease to control because timing is critical during the application period.

Studies have shown earlier applications of fungicide do at least an equal job of combating the disease, as do the later and more costly remedies of the past. The spots are smaller and the healing process should be short once the grass begins to grow. Touring the course over the past several dry days, I have noticed the lack of damage control exhibited by our members. Though some of this may be our fault for allowing cart traffic off the paths during times when we probably should not, we would still like to see our members use good judgment and stay out of the wet areas. Also the divots in the fairways have been filled only to about 10% of the shots played. On the greens as well, please find your ball marks and fix them. Fill your divots and rake the bunkers. This will help us maintain the best course conditions possible. With the economy on a slight down turn we are, as the rest of you, feeling the pressure. In an effort to generate more revenue we will soon begin our spring membership drive and player specials for our friends who we would like to see as new members. Please encourage your friends to join you for a round and maybe persuade them to join. Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

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### Castlewoods Tennis News

It's that time of the year again when the tennis season is upon us with full force. The USTA league matches will begin the week of February 14th. **The Nights of Play are:** Monday - 3.5W & 4.5M      Tuesday - 4.0W & 3.5M  
Wednesday - 3.0W, 4.5W & 2.5M      Thursday - 2.5W, 3.0M & 4.0M      5.0M & 5.0W TBA & Seniors -Weekend Play

**Valentine's Mixer - Feb. 14th.. Come out and enjoy a morning of tennis with your spouse or friends. Partners will be set, therefore sign up with your partner. Play will begin at 9:00 am and will end around 1:00 pm. Lunch and drinks will be served.**

**Jr. Clinics**      Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:00. The session is for six weeks (12 lessons) Ages: 7-13, Cost— \$130.

**Returning Serve Crosscourt**      Let me give you a rule that applies generally whenever you return serve, but especially when the server attacks you by coming to the net. Hit your service return crosscourt when possible. It's a good idea to return serve crosscourt because of the logistics involved. When you try to return a serve down the line you have immediately brought the sidelines into play. You are flirting with hitting the ball wide. Being just a little off means that you lose the point without even making your opponent have to hit the ball. Also, as you know, the net is higher at the sides than in the middle. Finally, you have more court to hit to going diagonally, or crosscourt. Pretty solid reasons for going back crosscourt if possible, right? More court, less net and no sideline. But there is another advantage to hitting crosscourt. By knocking your service return back diagonally you force your opponent who's coming to the net to make a more difficult volley. If they want to hit to the open court (away from you) they have to hit down the line. Suddenly they have to make a shot that gives them less court, more net, and brings the side line into play. Or they can make the other choice and hit the ball back to you. That's okay — it saves you a lot of running. So, as a rule (and especially on big points), go crosscourt on your service returns. It'll pay off with more balls staying in for you and more missed volleys for your opponent who's approaching the net.

Tennis Staff: Mark Elliott — Director of Tennis, USPTA

Levi Patton - Head Pro, USPTA

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