

Moose Memo

Well the Christmas season is just about here. With less than a month before Santa comes, I hope everyone is getting prepared to take care of all those good little girls and boys. Even with the economy still waiting to make up it's mind whether this will be a good year or just the same ole, same ole we have witnessed over the past months, I am hopeful that this year will bring you the best of times. We at Castlewoods Country Club would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you have yet to buy that special golfer a gift we just received some Titleist golf balls in the pro shop and if you buy from us, we can also imprint your name on the Titleist golf ball dozen to add that special touch to your gift. All personalized balls must be ordered prior to December 10, 2009 and are guaranteed to arrive by December 24th. We also just received some one size fits all golf gloves for \$10.00 each for your stocking stuffers in both men's and women's gloves. Moreover, don't forget about the ten round golf passes for our golfing members. The cost is \$350 for ten passes and can be used any time you want to bring out guests for this and next year. The golf rental cart is also included in this pass so don't miss the chance to buy while supply lasts. This offer is only good through the end of the year and you must be a golfing member to purchase the golf passes. Please, only ten passes per member. Whatever you decide to purchase, thanks for buying from the club. And while in the pro shop, look around for the winter pullovers, hats, shirts, clubs and accessories. Now that the year is winding down, I have noticed that many members are now taking advantage of their time off to play golf. In fact, I have been playing more than usual and I must say that the greens are rolling very nice and the course is playing firm and fast. The weather has also been very nice these past several weeks and it seems that our mild winter conditions are just what we look for this time of year.

In fact, the past few rounds I have played, I enjoyed the mid-sixty degree temperatures and mild winds. If you have not played in a while, what's keeping you away? Come out and have some fun and bring a guest while you are at it. We are still offering new memberships with no initiation fee as long as they sign a one year contract. That's a \$1,000.00 savings for anyone joining this month. This past month we continued with our Friday Steak night and I must say, that the response have been very good. We have enjoyed our chef cooking now for just over two months and the suppers just seem to get better and better. If you have not made it to the Friday Steak night, you have just got to come. For \$15.00, you can enjoy one of the best meals in the state. Remember you must purchase two drinks minimum and you must have a reservation prior to Friday night in order for us to serve you. Please check the calendar and make sure we are having the steak night and while you are at it, check out the parties and come enjoy the club after hours. You will also notice that Castlewoods is having our annual Christmas party on the 20th of this month. We will be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. I hope to see you there but when you come, please bring at least four cans of food to donate to the Stew Pot of Jackson. We will also have some live music and the party is from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Casual dress please and I look forward to greeting you Sunday the 20th. You will also notice that Castlewoods is having our annual New Year's Eve party on the 31st of this month. We will be selling tickets in advance for the party and scheduled to play is the Hunter Gibson Band. For more information call Jean Hee at the club. If you want to be added to Jean Hee's email list, just send your address to: jeanheemuse@weddingbymuse.com and she will add you to the list of weekly notices concerning club activities and future functions scheduled.

Congratulations to Doug Bullock who aced hole number 4 from 146 yards out using an 8-iron. Witnessing the shot was Deanine Bullock. I would also like to welcome the newest members to the club that include: Mike Kelly, Richard Roman, Charlotte Stark, Timothy Stubbs, Sim Watson, John Wright and Tom Yingst. Please welcome these fine folks and introduce yourself to them the next time you see them. The calendar at the club still has a few days or nights open for that last minute party you have been thinking about but you must hurry if you are interested. Call 601-992-1942 for more information or drop by and see me or Jean Hee to see what is available. Remember whether it is a small gathering or a large blowout, we can make your next event a memorable one at Castlewoods Country Club. A special note to the Fun Group, Ken Peacock has reserved April 10th and April 11th for the 4th Annual Sud's Cup Matches. This year features Captains Chris Berry's squad against John Oxley's squad in what is looking like another classic Sud's Cup contest. We always look forward to these annual Ryder Cup style matches and it always seems to bring out the best in the participants. I also look forward to my team photo being placed on the mantel instead of the men's bathroom wall for the next year. I hope you and yours have a safe holiday season and I hope to see you soon on the course. Moose

Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year !

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

I would like to say this has been a weird fall as far as weather conditions are concerned but the fact of the matter is other than it being a degree or two warmer than average, it has been fairly normal. September and October rains were a bit unusual for the average but this is what fall/winter in Mississippi is supposed to be like. Our average first frost is November 6th. We had a little frost on the 18th but nothing really to brag about. It was just enough to stop all growth of the Bermuda. The greens have all but shut down growth now. We have cut back mowing to every other day and they are getting very fast. We will try one more cut on the fairways and roughs to tidy them up for the winter and continue to clean up debris from the trees. Green's covers have been a hot issue the last couple of years with me and the other superintendents in the area. We have discussed whether to cover greens or not and does it really help at this latitude to justify the effort not to mention the down time the course will experience. We all have a good feeling about our individual courses and the consensus is to play it by ear. There are so many factors involved in the decision to

cover that it would take a couple of pages to discuss them all but there are a few major keys that would prompt me to pull the covers out. 1. Soil temperature. Typically our soil temps in the middle of winter will dip down into the lower 40's. This is not dangerous for the turf but rather helps keep the plant hardened off for future stress periods. 2. Soil moisture. Water in it's liquid or solid form is a great insulator. Good soil moisture will help keep the plant insulated from boarder line temps. 3. Hours below freezing. Typically the time the temps are below freezing is short. The sun will rise and warm the surface quickly taking the surface temps above freezing quickly in the morning. 4. Temperatures on the days just prior to the freeze and expected temperatures that will follow the freeze. Usually when a major cold front comes through there will be several days of warmer temperatures prior to the front passing than a day or two later the temperatures rise again. All of these and many other factors will be considered before we cover our greens. That doesn't mean we won't cover but the trend over the past several years has been to let it ride unless things get really bad.
Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Castlewoods Tennis News

The tennis staff would like to wish you and your families a Happy Holiday season. Also, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout 2009 and we look forward to an awesome 2010.

Parent/Child Mixer Thanks to all who participated in the parent/child mixer on November 20. The turn out was great as thirteen teams competed in the event. A special thanks to our adults who came out and played with several of the juniors who were lacking partners as their parents don't play tennis. (We'll have to work on that one!) The Paige family had the largest number of family participants as Jim, Cindy, Keaton and Case all played in the outing. In the U.S. Open division, John and Calder Cleary narrowly edged out Jenny Smith and Chris "Big" Weeks in a tie-breaker to claim top honors. In the Wimbledon division, Duncan and Will Stone finished ahead of the pack to take home first place. The night ended with a Parent/Child shoot out, Juniors Tanner Havard and Lennis Barlow finished first and second! Besides the tennis fun, many were entertained with the music as several of our juniors displayed their line-dancing skills as the night went on.

Toys For Tots - The club is hosting a toy drive for Toys For Tots. If you would like to donate, please bring a new unwrapped toy to the tennis pro shop. Best hours to drop off your toy would be from 4 PM to 9 PM Monday through Thursday.

Reveland Wheat/Susan Runnels - Check out the article on member Reveland Wheat on mstennis.com.—"USTA Sectional Queen". The MTA has done an article about all of her tennis accomplishments throughout this year. She has gone to the Sectional Tournament with 4 different teams this year and has one more chance for another sectional as her 6.5 Senior team is state-bound. The same article could be written about Susan Runnels as well, as she had advanced with Reveland on each of these teams. Congratulations on each of you to a superb tennis year, you both make the Castlewoods staff proud!

Jean Hee Muse's 7.5 Combo Team - Congratulations to her team for winning the Jackson Local League 7.5 division! Good luck at state!

Tip of The Month - The Grip

No objective criteria exist for choosing a grip size. Grip size is purely a matter of comfort. If you don't have a preference, tennis has an old rule of thumb — and I mean that literally. When you grip the racquet comfortably (but not tightly), you should be able to touch the tip of your thumb to the top (or outermost) knuckle of your middle finger. Avoid choosing a grip that's too small. The natural tendency of some beginners is to select a small grip because the racquet seems easier to handle. But a really small grip will twist in your hand when you hit the ball off center. That unnatural twisting could eventually hurt your wrist or elbow. If you're torn between two similar grip diameters, go with the smaller one, for this reason: You can always build up the grip later with grip tape. This is especially useful to know if you are Christmas shopping for others who play!

Tennis Staff:

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