Upcoming Events

December
01  Winter Operation Hours Begin
11-13  Golf Shop Christmas Sale
12  WCMA Annual Meeting
12  Member’s Tough Day (9 Holes)
24-25  Closed: Christmas Holidays

January
1  Open: Holiday Rates

Next Newsletter-February 2016

Golf Shop Christmas Sale: December 11-13
Our ever popular annual Golf Shop Christmas Sale is scheduled for the weekend of December 11-13. Make sure you drop by to do some holiday shopping and get some great “balloon discount” deals! We will also have our “Elf Putting Station” in full gear for more discounts. We have a large selection of winter wear and some fall leftovers to move out before the end of the year. Happy shopping!

WCMA Annual Meeting
The 2015 Members’ Association annual meeting will take place on Saturday morning, December 12th in the Madren Center BellSouth Auditorium at 9:00am. President Jim Kenworthy will give the annual report and a slate of new officers for 2016 will be determined. Following the meeting, the annual Christmas Sale will be taking place in the golf shop and the WCMA Tough Day Challenge will be available for meeting attendees. Hope to see you there

WCMA Tough Day Challenge
The WCMA Tough Day Challenge will take place on Saturday, December 12th immediately following the WCMA Annual Meeting. You must attend the WCMA meeting to sign up and play in this fun 9-Hole contest. The course will be set up in a unique fashion for unusual playing conditions.

Membership by the Numbers
Individuals: 128  Family: 121  Non-Resident: 29  Young Alumni: 10  Inactive: 11  Life: 27  Total Membership: 326

Welcome New Member
Thomas Shaw

Member Resignation
James Mason

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Holiday Bowl Contest
It’s time again for the 16th edition of the Walker Course Holiday Bowl Pool Contest. Drop by the golf shop and pick up an entry form as soon as the bowl game schedule is announced. Entries are due back before kickoff of the first of many bowl games during the Christmas & New Years’ holiday period. As always, this is a “winner takes all” contest. Last year’s champion, Ed Carrier, collected $345 for picking 26 of 38 games correctly. Good luck to everyone and enjoy Seasons by the Lake is Closing
On December 6th, Seasons by the Lake Restaurant will be closing. After renovations and preparing for new management the space will re-open in mid/late January 2016 as Sole’ on the Green. Walker Course member (T.J. Grove) will be the new lease operator of both the new restaurant (Sole’ on the Green) and the Walker Course clubhouse grill. Mr. Grove and his partners currently operate similar local restaurants in Clemson, Seneca, and Augusta. Sole’ on the Green will be bringing a new menu and perspective to both the food and beverage operations with customer service at the forefront. More information will be shared in the coming months as this transition takes place.

Winter Hours of Operations
The full effects of winter are now upon us as we begin our “winter hours schedule” on Tuesday, December 1st. Sleep late, enjoy breakfast and allow the frost to melt during the next three months.

Golf Shop hours: 8:30am until 5:00pm  (CLOSED ALL MONDAYS)
Range Hours: 8:45am until 4:30pm
First Tee Time Daily 9:00am, barring frost delays

Range Club Reminder
January 1st is the first day to renew your 2016 Range membership. For those members that joined last year (2015) before the course renovation work, as promised, we are extending your range club membership through the end of March of this year and a pro-rated fee will be charged for the remaining 9 months of 2016. You will still need to sign up for the renewal in January.

2016 USGA Handicap System Changes (No more solo score posting)
The USGA announced in November six rules changes to its handicapping system that will go into effect starting January 1, 2016. Most of those changes are not significant to the average golfer, but one rule change is very significant. Beginning January 1st, golfers will not be allowed to post scores played “solo” for handicap purposes.

Quoting the USGA reasoning: “Playing alone and necessary peer review: To further support the key System premise of peer review, scores made while playing alone will no longer be acceptable for handicap purposes. The change underscores the importance of providing full and accurate information regarding a player’s potential scoring ability, and the ability of other players to form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a posted score. (Section 5-1: Acceptability of Scores).”

SCGA Handicap Reminder
January 1st is also annual handicap service renewal month. This IS an “automatic renewal” service fee that will be added to your statement unless you notify the Golf Shop Staff before December 20th that you would like to discontinue your handicap service. After that date, we cannot issue credits for handicap service billing.

For new members that received a “free 2015” handicap service as part of your membership deal; you too will be billed for 2016 at this time if you do not notify us otherwise before December 20th. Thanks for your cooperation. The annual fee remains $30.00 for members and $40 for public golfers.

Member-Member Results
A very small turnout this year as the result of moving the tournament from June to November had everyone in position to “win.” When the players emerged from the swampy conditions, the team of T.J. Grove & Dan Day had captured this year’s gross division championship with Jim LaRue & Eddie Brown finishing second. The mixed white tee division, Randy & Cherryl Meadows took low net honors with a two-day total of 135. Thanks to all those that braved the wet conditions!

Eagle Report
Ray Carter Hole # 2 November 13
November Status

November has been another wet one with nearly 9 inches of rain, more than double the average amount. With this much rain and cooler temperatures, the course just doesn’t want to dry out.

Water Coolers

Just a reminder that the water coolers will be removed from the course beginning December 15 through the end of February. Remember that there are water fountains available at the restrooms on #4 and #14. Please plan accordingly.

2016 Maintenance Schedule

Brent and I have begun working on the 2016 schedule. With the anticipated release of the football schedule in January, we hope to have the major maintenance schedule ready to publish in the February newsletter. Look for it then.

Greens

With the new Zoysiagrass greens come some new maintenance practices. These are painting the greens for winter color and covering the greens for protection from cold damage. Here is a brief summary of these practices.

Because Zoysiagrass is a warm season turf, it will go off color, if not completely dormant, during the winter months. Rather than overseed with a cool season grass, the greens will be painted with a turf paint to provide winter color, as has become common practice. Typically this will be done around the first of December right before the grass goes completely off color. Depending on several factors such as the length of the winter, temperatures, amount of play, rainfall, etc., it may be necessary to paint the greens again at mid-winter for the color to extend until green up in the spring. For the past several years, we have painted the chipping green each winter. When it was bermuda, we found it took 2-3 applications. Last winter, after converting to Zoysia, one painting lasted the entire winter. As of now, we tentatively anticipate the first painting on Monday December 7, weather permitting.

By the way, there are several turf paints on the market with numerous shades of green available. Clemson researchers did some work for us last year on their Zoysiagrass research plot to help determine which paint had the best color, held its color the best, and lasted the longest.

Covers have become standard practice for maintaining warm season greens in our area of the Southeast, whether bermuda or Zoysia. While there is no hard and fast rule for what temperature to cover at, for most it seems to be when the nightly low is around 25 degrees. This can vary depending on the next day’s forecast high and the following night’s low. Zoysia has shown a slightly better cold tolerance than ultradwarf bermuda’s, so we may be able to go a degree or two cooler.

We have purchased the Xton brand of cover which is the most popular and widely recommended. They are a black plastic burlap like material. You may recall seeing the cover we used on the chipping green last winter. The covers were made in a rectangle shape to the dimensions of our greens. The staff and I have been having “Cover Practice” to get a feel for pulling the covers, how long it will take, and determining how to position them on each green. Once we have a cover laid out, we have put some paint marks down at the corners so that we have reference points to make the process go faster. It is my hope that we can get all 21 covers pulled in 3-4 hours. For the first time or two, we may allow at least 4 hours to be sure. This would mean closing the first tee at around 1pm or so in order to give us time to get them down before dark. Time to cover will also be dependent on how much help we have available and the amount of wind. Windy conditions make handling the covers much more difficult.

As for when the covers come off, this too will be dependent on the forecast highs and lows for the following day or days. A high, say for instance, in the upper 30’s the following day may see us leaving the covers on and closing the course since little if any play would be expected. In other cases, we may uncover 9 holes. Again this will be done on a case by case basis.

I can also see some instances where we may cover only the shady greens such as 3, 4, 12 & 14 when low temps are marginal for a full blown covering. Since these greens receive less sunlight, it stands to reason that their soil temperatures will be lower than greens that receive full sun and thus be more prone to freezing at higher temperatures. We will be installing some wireless meters in several greens that will allow us to monitor and track soil temperature in order to follow these conditions.

Regardless, it will be a learning process for all involved. We have spoken with local superintendents to get their secrets to covering greens and we have sat in on a seminar taught at the recent Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Conference on winter management of greens that discussed covering in detail. Hopefully we won’t have too much cold weather and there won’t be many days that we need to cover. But if we do, we are prepared.

The maintenance staff and I would like to thank you for your support in 2015. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a great 2016!
WCMA Fundraiser Results

Congratulations to T. J. Grove & Eddie Brown for winning the 3rd annual Bridge Tournament Fundraiser presented by the Walker Course Members’ Association. Thirty-two players competed in the team, best-ball fundraiser. Three net division winners (by tee color) were crowned.

Fran Moseley & Anna Tollison took the Red Tee title. Vince Morabit & Mike Morabit took the White Tee crown and as mentioned T. J. Grove & Eddie Brown also won the Purple Tee net title.

Following play, Aramark/Clemson Catering provided a complimentary social with food and drink. In addition to the golf winners, a raffle was held to raise additional funds. The Grand Prize winners were Pete Santora (Ping Irons) and Jim Kenworthy (Ping G30 Driver). Margie LaRue and Bill Banton won Foot Joy shoes and several other small prizes were drawn as well.

The final tally is incomplete at this time as the final expenses are yet to arrive. It appears the WCMA should net nearly $4,000 for future special projects. If you missed out and would still like to donate to the cause, contact the golf shop and we can bill your account. Donors will “vote” on the next project funding. Thanks to all the corporate sponsors and the members that either participated or donated.

College-Am Scramble Results

Congratulations to the team of Marisa Messana, Jim Kenworthy & Jon Silkworth, the winners of the 19th annual College-Am Scramble with a score of (-13). Also posting a -13 under par, but losing the scorecard playoff was the team of Lauren Stepehenson, Jerry Handegan, & Tom Teasley. This year’s event consisted of (2) members and (1) golf team member in a scramble format. There were six teams and seven combined members of the Clemson University men’s and women’s golf teams that participated. Thanks to everyone for playing this popular event.

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