By now, you should have received a separate email about the upcoming Member Invitational that begins on Friday, May 17. We will once again have a “Ryder Cup” format event and members do not have to bring a guest to compete. You may play as an individual paired with another individual member or you can bring a guest.

Friday evening’s round (9 holes) is ALTERNATE SHOT and begins at 6pm, followed by a player’s reception cookout on the Season’s patio. Saturday’s format (18 holes) will be two-man team, BEST BALL match play, and Sunday’s final round (18 holes) will be individual player vs. individual player at STROKE MATCH PLAY.

All matches will be played for ONE POINT to be awarded to the winning player/team (Orange or Purple). The team with the most points wins and every team member will receive a winner’s prize. We will also have a pitch/chip/putt competition after Saturday’s round, and there will also be an optional happy hour party Saturday evening that includes spouses.

After Sunday’s round, the top six two-man teams (assuming 30+ teams) will begin a sudden death playoff on hole #1 to determine the overall two-man team winner of the tournament. Entry fee is $160 per member or $320 for member/guest teams and includes: one weekday practice round, Friday evening cookout, golf, cart fees, box lunch, pitch/chip/putt contest, entry gifts, tee prizes, and winner’s gifts. If you have not signed up for this event, call the golf shop now for more information. We are taking additional “stand-by” entries to be accepted based on keeping the team numbers equal. Come join the fun.

Our annual Demo Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Golf equipment company sales reps will be on the range from 1pm until 6pm to help you try out all of the new toys for the season. There is no cost to participate, just come and try! Scheduled to appear are: Nike, Ping, Wilson, Tour Edge, and Orange Whip Trainer.

Round three of Super Saturday is scheduled for May 2nd this month. Please call the golf shop to sign up for this month’s competition. If you have not started yet, June will be a great time to start and still have time to post three (3) scores for the cumulative total competition. We will resume competition in August after we re-open the course.
**Couples Twilight**

Last month’s kickoff event was rained out so we will try again on Friday, **May 1st** with a 6pm shotgun start. Following golf we will head to **Sardis Den** for drinks and light dinner. Entry fee is only $40 per couple and includes golf, cart fees, and “winner’s dinner” following play. Call now to sign up.

**Pool Opening**

Opening day for the pool season is Saturday, **May 23rd**. **Brandon Cloer** will be returning for his 2nd season as pool manager. The pool schedule remains the same throughout the summer. The pool is closed all day on Mondays and open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am until 7pm.

During the golf course shut-down this summer, the pool and the clubhouse grill will remain open. Have a safe summer of swimming and call the golf shop or **Mr. Cloer (864-506-5745)** if you would like to schedule a private after-hours pool party.

**Course Closing Information**

We are happy to report that several local area courses have been very cooperative with our requests for reciprocal golf privileges during our closedown this summer. Next month, we will give you more details about how, when, where, etc. you can play. Currently, we have verbal agreements with **Cross Creek Country Club**, **Oconee Country Club**, and six of the Anderson Area Golf (AAG) courses which include: **Boscobel, Pickens, Cobbs Glenn, Brookstone Meadows, and Falcon’s Lair**.

We are also going to be able to get some special rates at courses just outside our perimeter for “one time” deals. More to come next month. It’s getting exciting around here!

**Al Evans (1944-2015)**

Last month we lost a great Walker Course ambassador. **Al Evans** passed away on April 5th. **Mr. Evans** was an active member of the Walker Course for several years. He was known for his competitive nature and would boldly admonish his playing partners “don’t talk to my ball!” In addition to his golf activities, he served the membership as the Members’ Association tournament chairman and president for several years. Additionally, he was employed as a Walker Course ranger/starter (Friday/Saturday shifts).

**Mr. Evans** was a 1966 graduate of Clemson University and retired from Mobil Oil Corporation with 30 years of service. He is survived by his wife (**Jill**), one daughter (**Jamie**), and one son (**Christopher**), and several grandchildren. He will be greatly missed. Rest in peace our good friend.

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**Membership by the Numbers**

- Individuals: 116
- Family: 118
- Non-Resident: 30
- Young Alumni: 13
- Inactive: 14
- Life: 27
- Total Membership: 318

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**Welcome New Member**

Vince Morabit
April Status

Normally during April, we perform a core aerification on the greens. However this year, since we will renovating the greens in the summer, we did not feel this was necessary. We did do a ¼ inch solid tine “venting” of the greens the last week of April. This practice is non-disruptive to play yet allows for air and water infiltrations into the rootzone which keeps the soil breathing. We will be brushing, grooming and lightly topdressing on a regular basis every 10-14 days in May to keep the surface true and to promote smooth ball roll. We have also been making regular fungicide, fertilizer and growth regulator applications.

The remainder of the golf course has nearly reached full green up and we have begun mowing on a regular basis again. Once again, we have a significant amount of spring dead spot. This year, due to the cool, wet spring weather, we also have quite a bit of large patch afflicting the fairways as well. Typically, we will see a little large patch in wet areas such as #1 & #9 lower fairway. This year everything has stayed saturated and we have had widespread occurrence. Unfortunately, it is cost prohibitive to spray a fungicide on this large of a scale. The bermudagrass is pretty tough and as the weather dries up and warms up the turf a bit, the disease will subside and the turf will heal on its own. We do spray preventatively for spring dead spot on the tees. Our results were so-so this year. I think some of the thinning on the tees is due to the colder winter, cool, wet spring, and the late frost we experienced. The good news is that research that Clemson has conducted has shown promising results for controlling spring dead spot with two new products. While still cost prohibitive to spray fairways, we will be utilizing these new products this fall on the tees.

May Goals

During the month of May, we will really be trying to fine tune the course and get it in “Tournament Condition” due to the number of special tournaments and events that occur in May. Bunker edging will be completed and we will treat the course for fire ants. We will also be training new crew members as we transition into our summer staff. We have a lot of loose end type stuff to tie up and some things on the periphery of the course to address such as mulch beds. We will also be repairing and re-sodding the sink hole area between 17 & 18 now that this area has finally dried up.

Chipping Green

If you have been out on the chipping green in the last few days, you may have noticed numerous orange dots on one portion of the green. These dots are marking plots for a project that Dr. Bert McCarty and his graduate students in Turfgrass Management will be conducting for us regarding growth regulator use on Diamond Zoysia. Growth regulators are commonly used on greens to promote turf density and ball roll and to discourage seed head production of undesirable species such as annual bluegrass. However very little research has been done on growth regulators and Diamond. This study will look at several commonly used growth regulators at various rates and combinations. The results will help us better manage our new Diamond greens in the future.

Summer Renovation and Closing

The day is fast approaching for the closing and renovation of the greens and other work on the course. Somebody asked me the other day “are you nervous, excited, ready?” My answer was “yes”.

On June 22 we will have eight contractors arriving to perform various jobs. New Life Turf will be performing the greens renovation. Environmental Landscaping will be installing drainage, rebuilding some bunkers and renovating several tees. Turfplaner of the Carolinas will be leveling the practice tees. Bridges To The Other Side will be replacing the bridges on holes 6 & 9. Schneider Tree Care will be removing some trees for the enlargement of the tees on #12. Zorn Construction will be overseeing the replacement of the cross tie retaining wall at the tunnel from 1 to 2. MCMG Turf Services will be here verticutting the fairways., and another contractor will be re-furbishing the restrooms. Later in the process, we will be re-paving some areas of the cart paths.

While this sounds like a lot of work, and it is, I want to remind everyone that we are not doing a total re-build or renovating the entire course. We will be addressing some of the most glaring issues. I have met with the WCMA board and I feel that we are covering most of the issues that the membership sees as a priority.

Also, be aware that when we reopen on August 15, not everything will be in perfect condition. Eight weeks is not a very long time. There will still be some rough edges. There will still be some freshly laid sod that isn’t quite knitted in completely. There may be a tee box that isn’t quite ready to open. Sod seams will still be visible on the greens and they won’t be as fast as we would like just yet. Sand in the renovated bunkers may still be a little fluffy. But we will be open and with a little more time to grow in, I think you will be pleased with what we have done.
# May 2015

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