Upcoming Events

February
25-26  PKB Jr Tournament

March
09  New Member Orientation Dinner
11  Member Appreciation Breakfast
18  Super Saturday # 1

BRENT JESSUP
PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

“Calling for all Volunteers!”

The Peggy Kirk Bell Junior Girls Tour comes to town again this month with a stop at The Walker Course on February 25th & 26th. As always, we will need several volunteers each day willing to help drive shuttles on both or either Saturday and Sunday. If you are able to help out for a few hours either day, please call the golf shop or stop by to sign up for an assignment.

National Championship Merchandise

Since our last newsletter, your Clemson Tiger football team won the National Championship and we are helping you celebrate “in style” with new national championship golf merchandise selections throughout the shop. We have items from Tervis, Nike, Cutter/Buck and Antiqua with the national championship logo for sale. We will continue to stock new items as they become available. If you have a friend or relative that can’t make it to the golf shop, drop by and pick something up for them to remember this great achievement!

Holiday Bowl Pool Contest Winner

Congratulations to Ben Crosland for capturing our annual holiday bowl pool contest. Mr. Crosland correctly picked the winner of 30 of the 41 games. Mr. Crosland collected a jackpot of $325.00 for his win. Thanks to everyone that participated this year. It was fun!

Christmas Fund Thank You!

All of the Walker Course permanent employees would like to thank the Members’ Association, and all of the members that contributed to the 2016 employee Christmas bonus project spearheaded by the Member’s Association. Your gifts were greatly appreciated. You made their Christmases’ much merrier!

Walker Course Special “Thank You” rate

The Club at Brookstone in Anderson closed last summer/fall for major renovations. While they were closed, we made a reciprocal agreement allowing their members to play here for a special rate. Now that they have re-opened, they are offering our MEMBERS a special “thank you” rate for allowing them to play here. For a limited time, they are offering our MEMBERS a $25 special rate for tee times after 10am each day. In order to receive the special rate, you MUST make your tee time through one of OUR STAFF members. If you want to try out the new “Brookstone” give us a call and we will set you up!

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Rule Reminder of the Month

We have had a few inquiries about the rule status of the “metal hole-plug covers” for holes that are not in use on the putting greens during the winter months. According to USGA Rules Decision 16/7: A hole not in use on each green IS considered a hole made by a greenskeeper. Relief would be covered under Rule 25: Abnormal Ground Conditions, etc.

In layman terms, if your ball is ON the putting green, and one of the “metal hole-plug covers” interferes with your stance, swing, OR LINE OF PUTT, you are entitled to FREE RELIEF at the nearest point of relief. If your golf ball is NOT on the green, no relief.

For more detailed information, please review:
USGA Rules Decision 16/7
USGA Rules Definition: Ground Under Repair
USGA Rule 25-1a
USGA Rule 25-b (iii)

Pace of Play Tips “On the Green”
This month, while we are focusing on the putting greens, here are some tips you can implement that will help reduce your pace of play while you are “on the green.” Around and on the green is where an enormous amount of time is either gained or wasted, depending on your routine and how quickly you proceed. With that in mind, keep the following tips in mind to help you PLAY MORE QUICKLY while on the carpet!

• On the green, begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it’s your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and make the stroke.
• If you need to walk all over the green to read your putt, do it quietly while others are putting. When it’s your turn to putt, be ready to make the stroke.
• When on the green, do not “mark” putts within 18 inches of the hole. You should go ahead and tap the putt in, but do your best to avoid stepping in another player’s line of putt.
• When on the green, the first person to hole out is normally responsible for putting the flagstick back in the hole.

March Calendar Notes
Just a quick reminder, the full member event calendar for 2017 will be published in our March newsletter. There are, however, a couple of early event dates you might want to remember. Details for these events will be forthcoming.

• New Member Orientation Dinner will take place Thursday evening, March 9.
• Member Appreciation Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 11.
• Super Saturday # 1 is scheduled for March 18th.

LGA Rules Seminar
The LGA kicks off their season on Wednesday, March 1st, in the Madren Center with a 2 hour rules seminar presented by the SCGA. Following the rules seminar, lunch will be served in Sole On The Green, then our PGA professionals will give a short game clinic from 1-2 PM.

Note: The rules seminar has seating for up to 40 participants. All members (men and women) are welcome to attend. Sign up in the golf shop or contact LGA President, Susan Hehir.

Membership by the Numbers
Individuals: 131  Family: 103
Non-Resident: 29
Young Alumni: 16
Inactive: 9  Life: 26
Total Membership: 314

Welcome New Members
Larry Kuykendall

Member Resignations
Craig & Nancy Tompkins
Rich & Kelly Davies
Frank & Beth Thompson
Course Update
Where did January go? A cold snap with some snow then a big warmup, with a National Championship in between, has made this month fly by. We had above normal rainfall with 5.7 inches, yet it didn’t really feel wet as most of it came in two shots, one early in the month and the other later.

The greens were covered from Jan 6-9 due to the cold snap. They seemed to handle the cold well, and greened up quite a bit from the warm spell that followed. Due to weather issues, needing to spray for weeds, and holiday schedules, we did not get the greens painted prior to the end of the year. Then with the green up from the warm weather, and the fact that they retained a good bit of color even during the cold, we decided that we would just forego painting this winter now that we are into February.

I would point out that this is the time of year the greens really appear to be “beat up”. Since they haven’t really grown any since late October, you have 3 months of traffic, ball marks, and cup cutting wear that are unable to recover until we resume regular growth in the spring and are able to begin cultural practices such as topdressing and vertical mowing. In the meantime, please help us by doing your part by fixing your ball mark and one other.

Speaking of ball marks, some have mentioned that a single prong ball mark repair tool seems to work better on the Zoysia. We are going to do a little testing and see. If this is the case, Brent and I are going to look into getting some to make available to everyone.

We have nearly completed our winter weed control, with only about 12 acres left to be treated in early February. This is as clean as I can recall the course being this time of the year. We tried a different approach this winter and I have my fingers crossed that we don’t get any weed breakthrough until we get our summer pre-emerge application down in March.

We completed a couple of small projects this month, completed a good bit of under brushing work, and removed a couple of dead trees. In addition, we refurbished #11 fairway bunker by repairing a torn, exposed liner and adding sand back to the proper depth.

February Goals
We will continue with some more under brushing in February, add sand to a couple of more bunkers, and cut back all the lovegrass around the course. We hope to grind some stumps as well as repair another drainage basin or two.
### February 2017

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