



THE
WALKER COURSE
■ AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY ■

Upcoming Events

May

- 2 Open Monday (11AM)
- 3 Meyers Foundation Tournament
- 5 CAFLS Tournament
- 7 Super Saturday #3
- 7 Demo Day
- 9 Mulligans for Maggie Tournament
- 9-11 Spring Golf Trip
- 12 Senior Interclub Match
- 12-13 Clemson Graduation (Premium Rates)
- 16 Blue Ridge Co-Op Tournament
- 20-21 Member-Invitational
- 23 Course Closed: Maintenance
- 28 Pool Opens
- 30 Open Memorial Day (Premium Rates)

June

- 8 Golden Tiger Reunion
- 11-15 Clemson Golf Camp Week #1
- 16 Senior Interclub Match
- 18-22 Clemson Golf Camp Week #2
- 25 MEMBER-MEMBER
- 27-30 Course Closed: Aerification Maintenance

BRENT JESSUP

PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Member Invitational

The 26th Annual Member Invitational is scheduled for May 20-21. This event is open to teams of two members or one member and one guest. Both team members must play from the same set of tees. Practice rounds are available Monday through Friday once you sign up. Festivities will start Friday evening at 5:30 pm on the Sole' patio with the Burgers, Birds, and Brews cookout for the players. At 6:30 pm, the first 9-hole round will get underway, with two teams paired together by the committee to take on a special course set-up. Scores from Friday evening will count as your first-round team score.

We will play the final round of 18 holes with a 9:30 am shotgun start on Saturday. Each two-player team will play best ball NET on the front nine holes and best ball GROSS on the back nine. Following play, there will be a team putting contest, and we will finish up with the awards ceremony inside Sole' with drinks and snacks. Winners will be awarded in each tee division. There is no Sunday golf round. The entry fee is \$200 per team and includes everything except the practice round cart fees. Call the golf shop to sign up before the Sunday, May 15 deadline.

Spring Golf Trip

May 9-11, we will make our annual spring golf trip to the high country mountains of North Carolina. Monday, we will play at the **Boone Golf Club**, Tuesday, we will travel to Jefferson to play 27 holes at **Jefferson Landing Golf Club**, and Wednesday, we will finish up with 18 holes in Newland at the **Mountain Glen Golf Club**. We will dine at two great restaurants in Boone and then stay at the Boone Hampton Inn & Suites. The cost is \$465 per person for a shared room and \$605 for single-room accommodations. We have room for 16 golfers total, and only a couple of slots remain. If you would like to go, call the golf shop as soon as possible.

Match Play Championship

Our Annual Match Play Championship will begin on May 5 this year. Players will sign up to play from specific sets of tees and will only compete against others playing from the same set of tees (orange, purple-white, white, gold, or red). Matches within each flight will be played with full *course handicaps* applied based on the day the match is played. This is a NET championship. There is no gross division championship this year. All matches must be played within the 4-5 week window of time for each round.

Golf shop credits will be awarded to the winners and runners-up of each flight. The winner of the men's championship flight (orange) and the women's championship flight (red) will be recognized as their respective match-play champions and will receive a trophy. The entry fee is \$20 per person, and the deadline to sign up is May 2. Call the golf shop now!

Super Saturday Update

Congratulations to **Ross Tomberlin** for his *low net field* win for Round Two. **Mr. Tomberlin** shot even par 72 gross for a net score of 66 with handicap and tee adjustments. We only had 13 members post scores.

This month's competition round is scheduled for Saturday, May 7. Sign up in the golf shop to play. Only three rounds remain, so you need to get started if you have not posted a score for this year.

Demo Day

In conjunction with Super Saturday, we have scheduled Demo Day for Saturday, May 7. So far, we only have commitments from Wilson and Ping. We are waiting for other vendors to commit, but since Covid, most will only do stand-alone demo days. As we get commitments, we will notify you of the dates and times. Drop by Saturday and see what's new!

New POS & Tee Time System Coming

After 17 years, our current POS system has reached the end of its effective life. In early July, we will be converting to a new, more efficient point-of-sale and electronic tee sheet system. The system is part of the *NBC/Golfnow* network called EZ Links. As we prepare the background work for the conversion, we will be asking you to help by updating your membership information with the most accurate email addresses and phone numbers. As of now, it appears you will be able to maintain your current membership identification number. The new system will allow our members to make tee times 14 days in advance online with a valid membership ID.

Our current public golfer files will all be deleted and require a new player profile with name, email, and phone for them to make online tee times within the seven-day public booking window. Please be patient as we begin this process and update the golfer files. We will keep you posted as we move forward into this uncharted territory.

Couples Spring Twilight

Congratulations to the team of *Billy Rice, Mary Anne Rice, Lamar Flatt, and Laura Best!* They edged out a strong field of couple's teams to win the Spring Couples Twilight with a score of three under par. Ten couples competed on Friday evening, and the winners and runners-up won dinner at Solé following play.

Thanks to all the couples who played! We will have another Couples Twilight later this summer. Stay tuned.

Senior Interclub Team Report

The senior interclub season got underway last month as our Walker Course team opened play on April 19 with a match at *The Preserve at Verdae*. It was not a good day for Team Walker. As they regroup from their opening loss, they look forward to two home matches on May 12 and 26 against *Smithfields Country Club* and *The Patriot Golf Club*. Hopefully, we can get a couple of wins and get rolling toward the playoffs. Captain *Jack Mansmann* is still looking for additional team members to play in the upcoming matches. Contact him if you are interested.

Eagle Report

On April 1, *Mickey Plyer* scored an eagle (2) with a 193-yard, 6-iron shot on hole #11.

Cart Path Only!

We need to remind everyone that our cart path restriction rules need to be followed when they are in place. We are seeing more and more golfers (members, the public, and students) disregard the restrictions and drive off the cart paths leaving ruts and damaging turf in their wake. If you see someone not following the cart path rules, please notify the golf shop so we can address the violation with the culprit as quickly as possible. When we restrict carts to the path, we only do so to preserve the course conditions, not to punish golfers. Please respect those restrictions when they are necessary!

Blue Flag Reminder

We are happy to grant handicap access flags to those in need of assistance. However, we want everyone to understand that *the blue flag DOES NOT grant the right to drive anywhere and everywhere*.

Please observe the following restrictions so we may continue to offer this accommodation:

1. Please observe all curbed, roped, and fenced-off areas and all directional signs. Do not drive on, over, or around these areas at any time.
2. When using a flag under wet conditions, please make every effort to keep your cart in the rough and avoid crossing the fairways whenever possible.
3. During wet conditions, please avoid low areas as well as those that are visibly wet or have standing water.
4. *Please keep the cart on the path around tees and greens and a minimum of 50 feet from the green at ALL times.*

Your cooperation is appreciated in helping preserve the course for everyone to enjoy!



Cart BEHIND green on hole # 8!

Swimming Pool Season

The swimming pool will open for the summer season on Saturday, May 29. The pool will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Tuesday through Sunday and closed on Mondays for maintenance.

Ally Emerson will be returning as our pool manager. Lifeguards will be on duty only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Swimming Tuesday through Thursday will be at your own risk. Please be sure to register each person when you come to the pool. If you are interested in swim lessons for your family, please contact *Ally Emerson* for rates and dates.

Tee Time Prudence: Make two times, use two times.

We are experiencing an increase in the number of MEMBER tee times being over-booked. Members are making reservations for two tee times and only using one. We certainly understand that there are instances when folks have to cancel at the last minute, but this growing problem is creating issues for other members who are then unable to make tee-time reservations. ***PLEASE be considerate and cancel any tee times you know you are not going to use at least 24 hours prior.*** Your fellow members appreciate your cooperation!

DON GARRETT, CGCS**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****April Status**

April was an up and down month as far as temperature, with warm-ups followed by cool snaps and light frosts. This caused the turf to green up and then get zapped back, which is the worst possible scenario for warm-season grasses like ours. The plant uses its reserves to green up and then gets knocked back before it can build these reserves up again. Two to three cycles of this, and there is very little energy left in the tank for the final green-up. The result is the slow early growth we are seeing now. Add to that near-record levels of play and traffic, and the turf is just beat down. Want some visual evidence? Look at the end of fairways 3, 5, 11, & 14 past the cart signs. Contrast these areas that are thick and full because they have not received traffic with the thin, beaten-down look of the rest of the course. Soon we will have some warm nights. We will push the weakest areas with a little extra fertilizer, and the turf will eventually get going. In the meantime, to help with the traffic issue, we will do some rolling cart restrictions whereby we restrict carts to the path on one hole on the front and one on the back, rotating holes week to week. Please observe the 90-degree rule and avoid the highly used first entrance and last exit points on each hole. Also, please keep all four tires on the path around tees and greens.

In April, the course was treated for fire ants, mulch was spread in numerous beds, which always gives things a fresh look, and the fairways greened up nicely without the scourge of spring-dead spot. Unfortunately, the solid tine venting aeration that was scheduled for the month was rained out. We have rescheduled it for May.

With April revenue up 40% over budget, the practice tee has been under a lot of pressure, making it a struggle to keep good turf on it. Fortunately, we have the new mat.

Perimeter Road Widening Work

The work to widen Perimeter Road has been begun, and it is hard to miss. The clearing along the golf course is complete, and the major earthwork along holes 5 and 6 will begin soon with the digging of two retention ponds to control storm-water runoff and help prevent the golf course from flooding. It looks rough now and will for a while, but once it is completed and landscaped, it will be worth it.

May Goals

We will really be trying to fine-tune the course during the month of May as we head into summer by making our first application of growth regulator to the fairways, tending to the mulch beds, and tying up some loose ends. We will also be training new crew members as we transition into our summer staff.

On Monday, May 23, we will be aerifying the tees. A fertilizer application will be made on May 9 to push the tees to grow a little more prior to aerifying.

May will also see us getting a little more aggressive with greens maintenance. We will be grooming the surface more often and topdressing on a regular basis.

The greens were treated for nematodes in early May. Visual observation of thinning last summer was confirmed by sampling and diagnosis that counts were beginning to get to the point that control was warranted.

Thanks to Jerry Crabtree, who has been monitoring our bluebird boxes. Jerry reports that eight birds have already fledged and left the nest, with 20 more chicks hatched and nine additional eggs.

USGA Video – Making Time for Maintenance

The USGA Green Section produces a lot of good content on course maintenance and upkeep. I thought I would share a video I received from them recently in a newsletter that talks about the importance of having time to perform maintenance tasks. Take a look.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/60/05/making-time-for-maintenance.html>

We do our best to plan and program as much of our work before and around play as it keeps us out of your way and makes us much more efficient. However, there are times when we need the course to ourselves so that we can offer you the best playing conditions possible. Thank you for your understanding!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Pro-Shop
Operating Hours:**
Monday
11:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday—Sunday
7:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Practice Range Hours:
Monday
12:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.
Tuesday—Sunday
7:45 a.m.—6:45 p.m.
(Weather Permitting)
**Brent Jessup
Head Golf Professional**
656-7516
**Don Garrett
Course Superintendent**
656-1814
**Azenda Thompson
Accounting**
656-0595
Golf Pro-Shop
656-0236
Club House Grill
656-7518
Sole On The Green
656-7444
The Martin Inn
654-9020
The Madren Center
656-7155

Membership by the Numbers

Individuals: 183
Family: 101 Life: 26
Non-Resident: 51
Young Alumni: 9
Inactive: 5 Legacy Life: 7
Total Membership: 382

New Members

Kent Owens Charles Devier
Mike Corley

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Open Monday	3 Meyers Foundation Tournament	4	5 CAFLS Tournament	6	7 Super Saturday #3 Demo Day
8	9 Spring Golf Trip Mulligans Fore Maggie Tournament	10 Spring Golf Trip	11 Spring Golf Trip	12 Clemson Graduation (Premium Rates) Senior Interclub Match	13 Clemson Graduation (Premium Rates)	14
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