



BRENT JESSUP

PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Upcoming Events

December

- 01 9am Tee Time Starts
- 8-10 Golf Shop Christmas Sale
- 09 Annual Membership Meeting
- 09 Member's Tough Day
- 24-25 CLOSED: Christmas Holidays
- 26 Open

January

- 01 Open
- 18 Yoga Therapy Seminar

Golf Shop Christmas Sale

Our annual golf shop Christmas Sale will take place December 8-10. Holiday balloons will be flying with nice discounts hidden safely inside the balloons. Additionally, we will have our famous “Double Discount” Elf Putting contest for those with low discount balloons. If you have shopping left, this is the time to take advantage of the discounted items and fill your sleigh. Also, this is a great time to redeem any expiring member tournament credits from the past year. Come on out. Shop, snacks, and save!

Member’s Annual Meeting

On Saturday, December 9th, we will host our annual membership meeting in the *Bellsouth Auditorium* of the *Madren Conference Center*. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am with reports from the management team members. A review of 2023 events and projects will be given as well as plans for 2024. We will also update everyone on the DAC building project and the associated “companion projects.” Following the meeting, our annual Tough Day event will take place.

Member’s Tough Day Competition

Immediately following the annual membership meeting, our annual “Member’s Tough Day” 9-hole event will take place. You must attend the meeting and sign up to play at the golf event. Following play, the awards ceremony will include a “snack and sip” at *Solé on the Green*. Don’t miss out on this FUN end of the season event.

Walker Course Employee Appreciation Fund

The annual employee appreciation fund collection is underway now through December 10th. This year, funds are being collected by members **Steve Trojan** and **Eddie Brown** and then turned over to *Don Garrett* and *Brent Jessup* on December 12th for distribution to their staff members. Last year, more than \$6,400 was raised and distributed to our employees. All checks should be made payable to either **Steve Trojan** or **Eddie Brown**. Please do not make them payable to The Walker Course. Contributions may also be dropped off at the golf shop in an envelope marked “Employee Christmas Fund.” Thank you for participating and appreciating the staff members' hard work in 2023.

Hole # 18 Rock Wall Work

On Monday, December 4th, work will begin on the rock wall project for the fountain pond on hole # 18. This will require us to close the new green and return to playing the “temporary green” until the project is completed. We anticipate the project to be completed by the end of January (barring weather or supply delays). Once complete, we will re-open the new #18 green for play. Thanks for your understanding. We hope you have enjoyed testing the new #18 green for a few weeks. Soon, it will be permanent.

Front Nine Closed: Bridge Work

Beginning Monday, December 11th, the entire front nine will be closed as work begins on strengthening the wooden bridge near hole number one tee. This bridge has been in service for over 28 years and needs major attention. Hopefully, the work will only take a few days, and once completed, we will re-open the front nine.

While the front nine is closed for this repair work, all golfers must play the BACK NINE twice to post an official 18-hole round. We have made the necessary time block adjustments to the tee sheets to accommodate golfers being able to play their 2nd nine holes without “much” delay on the turn. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Holiday Bowl Pool

It's time again to make those picks for our annual holiday football bowl contest. Entry fee is \$5 per card. **Caleb Ayscue** won last year's contest on the tiebreaker. He and **Lamar Flatt** both picked 29 winners. The entry deadline is the kickoff time of the first bowl game on December 16th. Pick up your form today in the golf shop!

Winter Hours of Operation

We have reached the off-season, the shortest and coolest days of the year. Beginning Friday, December 1st through the end of February, we will open the golf shop at 8:30 am, and the first tee time each day will be scheduled for 9:00 am (barring frost delays). Take advantage of the later starts. Drink an extra cup of java before heading out to play this winter. The golf course is closed on Mondays until April.

Range Club 2024

Sign-ups for the 2024 Range Club memberships begin this month. The fee remains the same for 2024 - \$300 for the first member and \$150 for each additional family member. There is a possibility that the range may be closed in late 2024 as we make changes to the layout to go along with the new DAC Building. If that occurs, your fees will be pro-rated the following year.

USGA-GHIN Handicap Service Renewal

The annual renewal fee for USGA-GHIN handicap services will be billed for the last week of January 2024. This is an automatic renewal for Walker Course members. If you wish to discontinue using the handicap service for 2024, you must let us know before January 20th. We cannot refund renewal fees once they are billed since the golf association bills us for the number of golfers on the roster on the deadline. The annual fee 2024 remains \$30 for Walker Course members and \$40 for non-members.

Walker Course Holidays: December 24 & 25

The Walker Course will be closed on **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** in observance of the seasonal holidays. **We WILL be open Monday, January 1st at 11 am** for those golfers wanting to start their new year off on the golf course. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yoga Therapy Seminar: January 18th

After the holidays, when you think about your off-season training for better golf, the Walker Course will host a “Yoga Therapy Seminar” by **Dr. Nekita Sullivan** of the **Yoga Therapy Bar** in Clemson. Members can attend this interactive workshop at 6 pm in the **Madren Conference Center** (Seminar Room 2). Bring your exercise mat, beach towel, golf ball, and favorite golf club. The seminar will address improving back, knees, and shoulder conditioning for better golf. Nothing like a good stretch to start 2024. Sign up in the golf shop to attend.

Thank you! Ladies Golf Association.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our Ladies Golf Association for their support and work throughout this past year for “adopting” a golf hole for maintenance assistance. These ladies made sure to fill extra divots in the fairways, repair ball marks on the greens, and rake the bunkers. Originally, they selected one hole but later expanded their coverage to the full golf course. If all our member golf groups would do the same in 2024, playing conditions would be even better than they are now. Thank you!

Roger Collins Ace

Congratulations to **Roger Collins** for his November 26th hole-in-one on hole # 4. The perfect shot was made with a 116-yard sand wedge. Playing partners were **Mark Leising**, **Don Beasley**, and **Gene Smith**. **Mr. Collins** had not renewed his hole-in-one club fee, so the jackpot continues to grow. Congratulations!

November Status

November has been another dry month, and with some hard frosts, the grass has gone dormant. The greens have held their color well, as the zoysia tends to stay greener later in the fall and we have applied a couple applications of Turf pigment to enhance color further.

Leaves are a constant issue this month and next. We run the blowers every morning, and by lunchtime, it looks like we didn't. Hopefully, the leaves will all drop soon.

We got all our winter weed control sprayed earlier this month, so we look forward to a clean winter. The only wildcard is the weather. The forecasted El Nino effect could bring excessive rain, making our pre-emergent herbicides break down quicker due to anaerobic soil conditions and leading to a crop of poa annua germinating in late winter. Let's hope that's not the case.

The ryegrass overseeding of the tees on 8 and 17 has come in well despite seeding a week later than normal. A starter fertilizer was applied in early November. We began using the mats on 4 and 12 on November 7th.

We performed a couple of small drainage improvement projects this month on holes 3 and 6. Both involved lifting sod, doing some minor regrading and then relaying the grass. In the case of #3, the work will keep excess water from running onto the fairway and, hopefully, dry an area up. On 6, we diverted the water that ran off the slope behind the purple tee around and away from the tee.

The guardrail on #5, as part of the Perimeter Road project, is nearly complete. A gate will also be installed to allow us access to holes 3, 4 and 5 with larger, heavier equipment that we cannot take across bridges on 2 and 6. We are investigating planting more shrubs along this area to help screen the hole from the road. Unfortunately, what has been planted is all that the project called for.

The covers were placed near each green this month. Here's to hoping we don't have to use them this year.

December Goals

During December, we should get rolling with winter project work such as under brushing, tree pruning, raising sprinklers, repairing drainage basins, mulching and edging and replenishing sand in bunkers. This work will continue in January and February. We have a lot of work we hope to complete this winter. I enjoy the winter months as it allows us time to tackle the type of work that we are unable to do during the growing season when we are so tied up with mowing.

On Monday, December 4, we will return to the temporary green on #18 to begin installing the rock wall around the pond. We anticipate this work will take 6-8 weeks to complete, which is, of course, weather dependent.

Also, as previously announced, the Front 9 will be closed the week of December 11th-15th to replace the wooden bridge on number 1. This bridge is 28 years old and needs a rebuild. Tee times will be blocked to allow golfers to play the Back 9 twice.

Farewell to Andrew Massey

Senior Assistant Superintendent Andrew Massey has accepted the Golf Course Superintendent's position at Saluda Valley Country Club in Williamston. Andrew has been with us as an assistant for the last five years, and before that, worked two years as a student employee while at Clemson. Not only is this a step up to a head superintendent's job, but it is also convenient for Andrew as he lives only about 5 miles from the course. Andrew's last day with the Walker Course is December 1st. Please join me in thanking Andrew for his service to the Walker Course, and best of luck in his new position.

The maintenance staff and I thank you for all your support in 2023. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a great 2024!

A Note from Janice Bishop

Hello members,

It's finally retirement time for me! I have truly enjoyed my 19 years of working with our membership. Many friendships have come from our time together - some in person, some by email, and some by phone. I'll miss our interactions, for sure. You will be in great hands with Azenda Thompson, who has worked with you for the last ten years. Azenda has been promoted to Controller. Benji Poole has been hired as the new Accounting Associate and will be working alongside Azenda to help you with all of your member service needs. To reach out to either of them, Azenda is azendat@clemson.edu, 864-656-4448, and Benji is btpoole@clemson.edu, 864-656-0595.

Thanks again for being great members!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pro-Shop
Operating Hours:
 Monday
 (Seasonal)
 Tuesday—Sunday
 8:30 am—5:00 pm
Practice Range Hours:
 Monday
 (Seasonal)
 Tuesday—Sunday
 8:45 am—4:45pm
 (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: 187
Family: 85 Life: 28
Non-Resident: 71
Young Alumni: 12
Inactive: 5 Legacy Life: 11
Total Membership: 399

New Members

Member Resignations

Billy & Mary Anne Rice

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9 am Tee Time Starts	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Golf Shop Christmas Sale Begins	9 Annual Membership Meeting 9 am Member's Tough Day
10 Golf Shop Christmas Sales Ends	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ Closed Christmas 31	25 Closed Holidays	26	27	28	29	30
						4