

The Hole Truth

New London Country Club

(860) 443-6864 www.newlondoncountryclub.org

May 2010

President's Message

By Deborah Benson



New London Country Club is off to a good start this season. Our course is in beautiful condition. The weather this spring has been quite variable, but I think there have been enough beautiful days that most members have found time to play a round or more. I hope it has been enjoyable if you have had the chance to play.

Christina, our new Pub manager, is also off to a good start. If you haven't seen it already, take a quick look at the Pub which has a new coat of paint and new carpeting. It looks lighter and brighter and very inviting. We should be serving food in the very near future, and the bar is already open.

The Club has also had a good sprucing up due to the efforts of Phil Orenstein, our House Chairman, and a dedicated group of volunteers. They came out on April 24th and did a tremendous amount of work around the Club, which I am sure you will notice. They plan to have another volunteer day and hopefully even more volunteers will be able to help. Remember, this is OUR club and it is our responsibility to maintain our investment. In these days of tight fiscal restraints, it is not possible to pay people to do jobs which we can do ourselves. Bravo to Phil and all the volunteers.

At the April 15th board meeting the Club policy entitled "Pro-rated Dues" was changed. Pursuant to the new policy, a new member joining prior to the July board meeting will pay full dues. Anyone joining after the July board meeting will get 1/3 off the full dues. No other changes to the policy were made, so a new member joining after the August board meeting will still get 2/3 off, and a new member joining after October 15th and paying the next years' dues in full will be able to play the course at no charge. (Under the previous policy, a new member got 1/3 off if they joined after the June board meeting.)

Our new website is coming along nicely. Have you checked it out? The address is: www.newlondoncountryclub.org (same as before). If you go to the "Members Only" section and log in (the password is nlgo), you will come to an area with the following I cons:

View Tee Times
Submit Tee Time Requests
Statements
Payments Online
Member Roster



Calendar
Club Information
Golf Results
Women's Association

There is a wealth of information on the website. Many reasons you would formerly call the Club can be accomplished easily (and probably faster) on the website. I hope you will surf our site and see how useful and user friendly it is. Also, other content can be added so if you have something you would like to see on the website, let someone on the Board know.

Are you on Facebook? If so, please become a "fan" of New London Country Club. We already have well over 100 fans, and more join every day. This is another marketing tool we are utilizing. In addition to reaching out to potential members, there will be items of interest to current members posted.

I would like to remind all our members that NLCC continues to have a dress code which will be enforced. If you have a question concerning proper attire, please contact the Pro Shop for details. If you bring guests to the course, it is your obligation to make sure they are dressed appropriately. If you or your guest comes to the Club to eat or drink, but not to play golf, the dress code still applies. We have worked hard to keep NLCC a private club, and it is important to many members that we continue to look like a private club. Maintaining a dress code is a big part of that. Your cooperation will be appreciated!

I look forward to a great 2010 golf season and hope you do too. Remember, the Bag Room opens May 8th, and tee times have already started.

Deborah Benson
President
nlccpres@gmail.com

HAVING DIFFICULTY ACCESSING MEMBER INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE?

The new password to log into the member section of our new website, www.newlondoncountryclub.org, is "nlgolf." To access more secure areas such as member statements and roster once you are in the members' section, please use your member number and old password. If you are new to the website, you will need to create an account by entering your member number and then clicking on the link to the registration page.

GOLF

By Shawn Maguire, Chairman

Upcoming Events for May

May 4 Opening Banquet for the Men's Tuesday Night League 6pm.
May 15 Free Full Swing Clinic 2pm.
May 16 Opening Day ABCD Jamboree 9am shotgun.
May 18 **PING** Demo Day 1-6pm.
May 19 Last Day to sign up for the Men's Senior & Super Senior Tournament.
May 22 Men's & Women's Spring Member/Member.
May 23 Last day to sign up for the Men's 4-Ball.
May 25 **COBRA** Demo Day 2-6pm.
May 29 Men's 4-Ball qualifier.
May 30 Men's 4-Ball round one or rain date for qualifier.

Golf

3-Day Member Guest Golf Classic is scheduled for July 16-18. This year's format has been slightly changed. On Friday we will have two 9-hole matches instead of a practice round. There will be eight teams to a flight with seven 9-hole matches. **The entry form is enclosed with this hole truth.** Please send or hand in your entry form by May 31, so you do not miss what promises to be our best one yet. Please contact the golf shop if you have any questions about the event or need an entry form.

Tournament Rangers

NLCC is asking for volunteers to assist the club in monitoring and assisting guests in our outside/charity tournaments. Please see Kevin or the pro staff to sign up for these events. This will insure we have more eyes on the course, and help to keep the tournament moving and with no damage to our great facility. Thank you to those of you who have already participated and/or signed up for future events.

Driving Range

The driving range is now open for season. There are **yellow range balls** provided for those of you who would like to practice your drivers.

Family Golf Night begins Friday, June 18 anytime after 6:00pm. This is a casual night designed for our members to bring their children or grandchildren out for a few holes of golf. For the kid's enjoyment, we will have a set of family night tees more suitable for their age and ability. Some adults might even find this to be a fun but challenging par 3 course for themselves. We will have tee markers out on the course on these nights and a special scorecard showing the length and par for our family night golf course. We encourage all kids to carry their golf bags. Please contact the golf shop if you have any questions.

Shawn Maguire
Golf Chairman

GREENS

By Dan Rogers, Superintendent

This past week was a struggle; the process of aerification was made difficult by multiple rain events at the worst possible times. The process of cleaning up cores and incorporating sand is next to impossible unless it is dry. We did, however, complete the process and, with warm weather approaching, I am anticipating a 1-2 week heal period.



Aerification is a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for the course. When you see aeration holes, remember that without those little holes, the greens would eventually die. Preventative maintenance is an integral part of successful golf course management. Aerification is an inconvenience, pulling cores from the greens and leaving holes that can

affect putting for many days before healing. But a golfer needs to understand how important aerification is to producing quality, healthy turf.

Aerification achieves three important objectives. It relieves soil compaction, it provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots and it reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch. Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than its aesthetics. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order for grass to grow at 1/8-inch or lower, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles. Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green and particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants become weaker and will eventually wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy. I do this by removing 1/2-inch cores from the greens at least twice per growing season, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand 'topdressing' that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward. Older greens (all except 1, 2, 9 and 16) are constructed of soils with significant amounts of silt, clay and fine organic particles that are prone to compaction. Filling aerification holes with sand improves drainage and resists compaction. The periodic introduction of sand to a green's top layer can over time, avoid or postpone expensive rebuilding or renovation of the greens. Finally, growing of turf adds to a layer of organic matter on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead stems, leaves and roots. A little organic matter makes for a resilient green, but too much invites diseases and insects. Topdressing with sand can prevent thatch buildup; aerification is one of the best ways to reduce the existing layer of excess thatch that has established here over the years. Another aerification technique I use is "deep tine" these holes penetrate deep in to the soil structure to relieve compaction, improve drainage and increase oxygen to a depth of 10 inches.

Thank you all for being patient and understanding of this process I hope by reading this you gain a greater awareness of the how and why we need to continually aerate the golf course.

Dan Rogers

Golf Course Superintendent.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

By Tim Burrows, Chairman

The food and beverage operations are under way with the bar being open seven days a week. Lunch is being served Tuesday through Sunday. There are many positive things going on in Food & Beverage and we hope you will take some time to enjoy what is being offered.

Please email me with any questions or input at timburrows11@gmail.com

Cheers,
Tim Burrows



MEMBERSHIP

By Lou Camerota, Chairman

The warm weather has given us an early start to the season. Many members have already played a round or two and everyone has commented on the excellent condition of the golf course as well as the work that Dan and his staff have accomplished. While some other courses are still reeling from the recent deluge, ours has been playable all along. Nice job, Dan.

Along with the mild weather, interest in membership has been increasing with multiple inquiries coming into the office daily. Several of them have resulted in applications and our ranks are growing. Thanks to all of you who have made an effort to promote NLCC! Please keep it up!!

Our website is working well, informing current members of club events as well as attracting potential members. James Nicholas has done a great job of making our site both contemporary and something that works hard for us. Google it and take a look.

Phil Orenstein spearheaded a "spruce up day" recently and it was heartening to see the number of members who showed up to paint, build, and generally tidy up. There was a great sense of community that day, with everyone pitching in to do something constructive for our club. Nice job Phil and volunteers!

We have an electronic media campaign out there currently to drive new membership and we continually correspond with Pautipaug members whose interest in joining seems to run in concert with the nice weather. Kevin Shea has been doing a great job of providing names of potential members for follow up. Thank you, Kevin.

Along with increased membership and the great tournament revenue we have on the books, 2010 is shaping up to be a terrific year at NLCC.



Please join me in welcoming the following 2010 members:

2010 NEW MEMBERS



THOMAS POBLETE	REGULAR	EVELYN WIDHAM	CHILD
HARRY CHIAPPONE	ASSOCIATE	RAYMOND DRENNEN	REGULAR
MELISSA CHIAPPONE	SPOUSE	BRIAN RITCHIE	REGULAR
BASEL SAAD	ASSOC 35-39	DAVID STEFANSKI	ASSOC. -30
GARY HEARD	REGULAR	QUINN EDWARDS	CHILD
FREDERICK WHEELER	REGULAR	JOSEPH ASTUTI	CHILD
WILLIAM STANLEY	REGULAR	KEVIN SILVESTRI	ASSOC. -30
RICHARD GRUSKIN	REGULAR	DEBRA MILLER	REGULAR
ULYSSES HAMMOND	REGULAR	KEITH KRIET	SPOUSE
SARA HEARD	RESIGNED	RAYMOND DUPOINTE	ASSOC. -30
FRANK VILLAZANTE	REGULAR	MITCHELL KIAH	CHILD
MICHAEL ANNON	REGULAR	NICHOLAS KENYON	ASSOC. -30
DAVID HARDING	REGULAR	MARK PALMERINO	REGULAR
ANTHONY SUSI	REGULAR	MARY QUINN	SPOUSE
WILLIAM KAVANAUGH	REGULAR	ANTHONY QUINN	REGULAR
JOYCE KAVANAUGH	SPOUSE	JONATHAN DICLEMENTI	JUNIOR
EDWARD PAINTER	REGULAR	SCOTT HERBIG	REGULAR
MATTHEW D BARNES	ASSOC. -30	JANE HERBIG	SPOUSE
CHRISTOPHER GRIEDER	REGULAR	TYLER GODDU	JUNIOR
MARVIN HORWITZ	REGULAR	TAYLOR ZALDIVAR	JUNIOR
SUE HORWITZ	SPOUSE	WADE SARETTE	ASSOC 30-34
PETER SMITH	REGULAR	TAYLOR MELTON	ASSOC. -30
ROBIN SMITH	SPOUSE	WILLIAM SULLIVAN	CHILD
JAMES MCCLURE	ASSOC. -30	GARTH BALLANTYNE	REGULAR
NASSIM SAAD	ASSOC. -30	STEVE CHEVALIER	REGULAR
		THOMAS N. BORDNER	REGULAR

Women's Association

By Tracy Shoor, President

Our Ladies Day opens for the season on May 4th. So don't forget to sign up for the Women's Association to be able to play. Remember to sign up for Ladies Day events by noon on the prior Saturday. The sign up sheet is posted in the breezeway outside of the Ladies Locker room. You can sign up as either a competitive, non-competitive or a working player.

Our first tournament of the season is the President's Cup Tournament, which will be played on May 25th and May 26th. Don't forget that this is a two-day tournament. Make sure that you are available for both days. The rain date for the President's Cup is May 27th. The sign up sheet is posted in the breezeway located outside of the Ladies Locker room. So don't forget to sign up. The deadline for signing up is May 18th.

Many of you are looking for partners for either the Member/Member or Four Ball Tournament. If you are looking for a partner, please put your name on the sign-up sheet located in the Ladies Locker room. You can also check with the Tournament Chair, Pat Smith.

Save the date of June 1st for the spring meeting of the Women's Association. There will be a shot gun start followed by a luncheon. Even if you are not a member of the Women's Association, plan to come for the luncheon and find out what we are all about.

The Wednesday Evening Ladies Social will be starting June 2nd. This is an opportunity for women to play together in a more casual environment. You do not need to be a Women's Association member to participate, but we would love to have you join. So wherever your interests or abilities lay, there are opportunities to get out and play.

There has been a good response to members interested in being mentored (a mentee). We are looking for members who are interested in serving as a mentor.

Who is a Mentee?

A mentee is someone making the transition from instruction to playing on a golf course. A mentee is paired with a mentor to guide them around the golf course safely and answer questions about etiquette, basic rules and the other nuances of the game in order to build confidence and comfort in the golf course setting.

What are the qualifications of a Mentor?

It's not about your handicap—it's more about making golf a fun activity for



the first time player!! You must have a good knowledge of the basic rules and etiquette of golf (what to wear, pace of play, etc.) and be able to answer questions that beginning golfers may ask.

What are the responsibilities as a Mentor?

Essentially, you want to make sure that the new player-member (your *mentee*) feels comfortable on the golf course by knowing about:

- Basic golf rules, etiquette and pace of play
- NLCC activities, including education clinics, golf and social events
- How to arrange for weekly play, what time to arrive, etc.

Just remember that mentoring is not about your golf score! It's about welcoming new members, and making them more comfortable as a beginner on the golf course!

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, or being mentored, there are sign up sheets located in the Ladies Locker room. You can also contact our Mentoring Program Chairman, Arlene Dray or me.

Just a reminder to post your off season scores, either online or in the pro shop.

I look forward to hearing from you. The easiest way to do so is to e-mail me at: LouisB@snet.net.

Tracy Shoor
President



New London Country Club

Waterford, Connecticut
Est. 1925

Dear Member,

We would like to invite you to participate in our **20TH ANNUAL MEN'S WEEKEND GOLF CLASSIC**. This year's event will be held on **Friday**, July 16, **Saturday**, July 17, and **Sunday**, July 18. This year's entry fee is \$525.00 per team. We have scheduled this event so as not to conflict with Sailfest or Fourth of July.

Everyone who has played in this event can tell you that this it is an event not to miss, and this year's event will be no different. The gift assortment for each participant will be similar to last year and Kevin is once again donating a set of irons for our free raffle. The course is in the best shape we've seen in many years - hard, fast greens should be the rule. You'll want to make sure you get your guest out for a practice round prior to the event.

This year's format is as follows:

✦ **NEW FORMAT** Friday beginning at **12:00pm**: 2 nine hole matches (instead of practice round) followed by Skills Challenge, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner.

Saturday beginning at 9:00am: 3 nine-hole matches with lunch served in between rounds 2 and 3.

Sunday, beginning at 9:00am: 2 nine-hole matches followed by a barbeque lunch.

Please remember that your guest must have an established USGA handicap. Your entry form MUST include your guest's GHIN # and club affiliation. If you fail to include this information, your entry form will be returned to you.

Last year's participants will have first preference, and then we will open up any remaining spots on a first-come, first-served basis to the remainder of our male members. All responses must be returned by May 31. Entry forms may also be submitted to the Pro Shop. New entrants will be placed on a list in the order that they are received. Your account will be charged \$525.00, which will appear on the June statement. This balance must be paid by June 30, 2010. Once you sign up, you will be responsible for payment.

The Tournament Committee hopes to once again fill the field for this year's event. It has historically been a fabulous weekend for members and their guests and we believe that the changes made over the last several years will make the 2010 Men's Golf Classic the best one yet. Do not miss it! Send in your entry form today and have a great spring season.

Sincerely,
Shawn Maguire
Golf Classic Chairman

**PLEASE FORWARD TO NLCC, 28 Lamphere Rd. Waterford, CT. 06385
or submit your entry form to the golf shop by MAY 31, 2010.**

The entry fee of \$525.00 will be charged to your account.

Member Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Address: _____

Guest GHIN# _____(MANDATORY)

Guest Club: _____

Corporate Caterer of Branford will be providing us with our meals this year. The Friday night dinner will be surf and turf with hors d'oeuvres. The steamers that were such a big hit two years ago will be part of a raw bar that night.

Tom Messner, the former owner of Shoreline Caterer who provided us with great food in 2008, is now working with Corporate Caterer. Tom knows exactly what we like and will be here through the weekend serving you.