

The Hole Truth

New London Country Club

August 2010

(860) 443-6864 www.newlondoncountryclub.org

President's Message

By Shawn Maguire



July is in the books! If your golf game wasn't hot, the weather sure was. Dan has been keeping a close eye on the course during these stressful weather times, so we are in good hands.

A special open finance meeting was held for membership July 29th. The state of the 2010 budget was discussed. Unfortunately, there are shortages identified by the Finance Committee and the Board. The Board has worked hard to bring in membership this year. Through aggressive membership incentives we have welcomed some 30 or so members in 2010, and they continue to trickle in each week. Each department has made cuts in 2010 to be as lean as possible, and will continue to do so as more are identified.

To meet the budget shortfall, it was voted on to bill members an additional 2 payments in your July and August bills (payable in August and September). Depending on your membership category, members will be billed either \$50 two times or \$150 two times to make up for the short fall. It has been forecasted that NLCC will be around \$70,000 short. Wednesday professional day did not produce any outside play and we were about 15 regular members short of our membership goal. While we realize this is not a welcome situation, we have made great strides to getting the club back on stable financial times. This year we will have paid less in dues than last year, so that is a plus.

It is important to point out that the Board discussed making the regular 2010 dues \$4200 and thought that was the appropriate number. Instead, we set the dues at \$3900 and undertook our membership drive. While successful, the drive was not quite successful enough, and it turns out the dues will be \$4200 after all.

This month we will also be eliminating mailing out the Hole Truth with the bills. It cost an extra \$500 in mail fees to enclose it, so it is another expense we will cut. So, going forward the bills will be mailed without the Hole Truth. If you're getting your statement via mail and can switch to email, please do so; it will save the club money. Members can go to the website to read each month's Hole Truth, and you may also stop by the office and Tina will have some hard copies as well.

Tournament time is upon us, so good luck to all those participants! As Tim would say, keep it in the short grass!

Shawn Maguire
NLCC President
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GOLF

By Shawn Maguire, Chairman



August 2010

Upcoming Events for August

August 3 Ladies Rally for the Cure 8:30 mini shotgun

August 5 Ladies Invitational 9:00 shotgun

August 16 N.L Whalers Outing 1:00 shotgun

August 19 Men's Member Guest 1:30 shotgun

August 22 Championship Day / Awards Ceremony following play 3ish

August 23 Niantic Rotary Outing 1:30 shotgun

August 24 Men's TNL year-end banquet 7:00 / Play-offs at 5:00

August 28 & 29 Individual Quota Championship

August 30 Submarine Classic 1:00 shotgun

Golf

Men's Member Guest

Thursday, August 19 at 1:30. \$60 entry fee includes a sleeve of pro v's , dinner & additional prizes. Please see the golf shop staff if you have any questions or would like to sign up. This is a great opportunity to show case the golf course and maybe recruit a future member.

Driving Range

There are **yellow range balls** provided for those of you who would like to hit drivers. Please do not hit any balls over the net.

Family Golf Night 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. This year 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 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 pro shop if you have any questions.

Ladies Social Golf runs every Wednesday through September at 5:00. This is an evening of casual golf for those ladies looking to play 9 holes. There is no sign up sheet. You just need to show up a little before 5 pm and groups will be made based on the number of ladies that show up. This will be a relaxing and fun evening for all.



Golf Results

3-Day Golf Classic Flight Winners

Woods Flight Jon Morosini & Dennis McCabe
Nicklaus Flight Jim O'Neill & Henry Cormier (overall golf classic champions)
Jones Flight Lee Morse & Adam Morse
Palmer Flight Frank Rothen & Martin Galligan
Hogan Flight Gene Adams & Jeff Adams
Nelson Flight Wade Sarette & Mark Fournier



Mixed Team Championship

1 st Don & Patty Cleary (won on first play-off hole)	64
2 nd Tom Secchiaroli & Jackie Beck	64
3 rd Wally & Vivian Brooks	65

James L. Smith Junior Club Championship

1 st Nick Hedden	76
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PGA Junior Golf Foundation

The Connecticut Section PGA administers a very worthy charitable non-profit organization which, exists to provide money for golf and youth programs around the state. This foundation contributes much needed money to the Special Olympics of Connecticut, the CSGA In-School Program, and the First Tee Program of Connecticut. The Foundation also helps to fund the CTPGA Junior Golf Tour, which gives young golfers an opportunity to compete at a young age. The focus of the foundation is to provide funds to such deserving programs in order to make it possible for children to gain access to the game we love, golf.

These programs make a difference and I am asking you to consider a pledge for my marathon to be played later this month. Pledges can be made by holes played or a set amount and can be paid with check, cash or charged on your club account. I would happily accept a pledge by email; just let me know the amount and your preferred form of payment.

Thank you for your continued support, together we CAN make a difference!!

Kevin Shea

PGA Professional

kevin@newlondoncountryclub.org

GREENS

By Dan Rogers, Superintendent

The following is an article I received via e mail through our local association president. I am passing it along to all who are interested. When the weather breaks I will have more time to write a more personal news letter article.

Heat wreaking havoc on golf courses nationwide

Prolonged periods of high temperatures, and in some cases, excessive rainfall, and high humidity have made life uncomfortable for golfers and golf courses alike, with Mother Nature holding all the cards for true relief.

"The simple fact is the cool-season turfgrasses such as bentgrass, fescue, bluegrass, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and others are stressed when temperatures climb and humidity is high," Clark Throssell, Ph.D., director of research for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, said. "Golf courses in many parts of the country experience this every year, however what makes the situation so dire this year are the high levels of extended heat and humidity, and the sizeable part of the country affected (Midwest, Mideast, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic)."

According to Throssell, golf facilities and those entrusted with managing the golf course – golf course superintendents – are not alone in this battle with the elements. However, the nature of their product makes their challenge greater.

"We are certainly seeing homeowners, athletic fields and businesses suffer turfgrass damage brought on by the conditions," Throssell said. "What makes it more difficult for golf facilities are the mowing heights are much lower and traffic is much heavier. That just adds to the stress on the turfgrass."

Throssell indicates that golf course superintendents are addressing the issue with a variety of management practices to make sure turfgrass survives. While there may be some short-term impact on playability of the course, the alternative is the loss of grass, the closure of the course and the additional costs of re-establishing playing surfaces (primarily putting greens).

He also cautioned golfers from thinking that water, whether from rain or irrigation, is the answer to the ills. There is a difference between heat stress and drought stress. Adequate irrigation will alleviate drought stress. Adequate irrigation will not alleviate heat stress. It is not only possible, but likely, for a turfgrass plant to be adequately watered and still suffer from heat stress under extended periods of high temperatures.

Among the practices that superintendents are implementing to manage golf courses include:

- Raising the mowing heights of playing areas, most notably putting greens.
- Alternating daily practices of mowing and rolling putting greens, with consideration to skipping a day if the schedule of play allows.
- Forgoing double mowing, topdressing, verticutting or grooming greens.
- Watering to provide adequate soil moisture, but not over watering as saturated soil will cause the turfgrass to decline rapidly.
- Hand watering as much as feasible. If a green has a dry spot or two, superintendents will hand water the dry spots only and will not water the entire green. When the entire green shows stress from a lack of water, superintendents use the overhead sprinklers and water the entire green.
- Avoid aerifying using large diameter tines that penetrate deeply into soil and remove a core of soil. If a superintendent feels the putting surface is sealed, venting using small diameter solid tines or other similar technique is employed.

be in constant contact with golfers to educate them on what is happening at the facility. But golfers must also understand that golf courses are like snowflakes – no two are alike. Some courses may be able to withstand the challenges of Mother Nature better than others because of better drainage and soil conditions, better air flow due to the placement of trees, less traffic or the presence of greater financial resources. "We know the weather conditions will become more agreeable. What is important right now is to manage the golf course in a manner so that turf can be kept alive until that point."

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 20,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf, works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts. Visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org





Women's Association

By Tracy Shoor, President

Congratulations to Sandy Fisher and Sue Schmidtknecht, winners of our Four Ball Tournament. They beat Debbie Kendros and Patty Cleary. It was a very exciting match, taking them all the way to the 17th hole. What a great effort by all the players. Congratulations to all participants.

Last day to sign up for the Women's Club Championship was July 27th. Hopefully everyone that wanted to play has already signed up.

We have one more tournament to play this year, and it is the Flight Championship. The first round will be held on August 10th. The Rain Date is August 13th. Please watch the deadlines for the various rounds. These are all play by dates. They are: Round 2, August 18th; Round 3, August 25th and Finals, September 1st.



The Terry Brodeur Breast Cancer Research Foundation Rally will be held on August 3rd. Don't forget to sign up. If you don't want to play, you may still contribute to this very important cause. All donations go directly to research. Donations are open to everyone, not only Women's Association members. Just contact Patty Cleary.

The Wednesday evening Social is still continuing. If you wish to play 9 holes, just show up at the Club by 5 pm.

The NLCC Ladies Invitational will be held on August 12th. Sign up forms can be found in the breezeway outside the Ladies Locker room. It is a fun day, so don't forget to sign up.

Be sure to contact me with any questions or comments. The easiest way to do so is to e-mail me at : LShoor@snet.net.

Tracy Shoor
President



FOOD & BEVERAGE

By Tim Burrows, Chairman

Things continue to go smoothly in the F&B. We are currently operating at a profit. A strong finish will get us beyond our goal. Christina and her staff has done an excellent job in managing product and labor cost.

We have expanded the kitchen hours to see if we can drive additional traffic.

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11am – 8pm
Wednesday	11am-8pm
Thursday	11am-6pm
Friday	11am-8pm
Sat	11am-6pm
Sun	11am-4pm

The Bar will be open all 7 days from 11:00am – to at least 8:00pm.

Please remember the more we use The Pub and the Beverage Cart the more money that goes back to the club.

Cheers
Tim Burrows

