

THE HOLE TRUTH

AUGUST 2011

President's Message, Lou Camerota

The season is progressing nicely. NLCC continues to gain notoriety as both a challenging and well-maintained golf course; we're earning a great reputation!

Tournaments are well-attended and we routinely receive compliments on the condition of our course. The 18th fairway is evolving into a wonderful finishing hole, and no one has missed the port-a-potty or the dirt road!

Kudos to Dan and his staff for his vision and for maintaining the golf course in tip-top shape. Similarly, "props" to Kevin & Dave in the Pro Shop who handle a myriad of situations in a professional and courteous manner, and to Tina and her staff for the attentive service rendered to our members and their guests. Whether in the bag room, grille room, or out on "the cart", our staff couldn't be more courteous and accommodating. Good employees make for a pleasant experience which, in turn, results in a pleasant environment and a contented membership.

In the recent past, August's HOLE TRUTH heralded the news of a special assessment. Naturally, speculation, such as it is, is unavoidable. However, I'm pleased to tell you that, this year we're breaking with tradition. There will be no special assessment. While finishing the year in the black will not be a "picnic without ants," it will not be done on the backs of you, the loyal supporters of New London Country Club.

The negotiations on the lot progress. Truthfully, it has been arduous with some bumps in the road. However, I hope to have some developments to report in the next edition of THE HOLE TRUTH.

If you haven't already seen it, try to catch Jim O'Neill's online blog that appears in the Sports section of The Day.com. Jim writes with passion about his love for the game and for New London Country Club. It's both entertaining and a good read.

Our next special social event is the New England Clambake on Friday, September 16th. The food and entertainment will be superb, and the company the best! I hope to see you all there.

Happy August, everyone. Play lots of golf - and bring along a friend to enjoy our beautiful course and our camaraderie!

Golf, Kevin Shea

Tee it forward!

These are words you have probably heard lately and something I've been trying to get some of our members to try over the last couple of years. Most golfers today play a golf course that is too long for them. Golf should be more fun and there's nothing more fun than having the chance to have more putts for birdies and pars. The golf culture forever has made it almost taboo to move forward and play a shorter course that is better suited to an individual's game.

For the month of August we're adding a set of yellow tees that will play between the white and red tees and I'm asking all of you to try playing from a shorter set of tees than you normally do to see if you have more fun. If you answer yes to one of the following questions than you're playing from a set of tees that are probably too long for you and should move up:

- 1) Are there any holes that I have no chance of reaching in regulation?
- 2) Am I hitting fairways woods into most of the holes in regulation?

There is no reason you shouldn't be able to play the golf course similar to the way I do. This means that you should be able to hit short irons (sw-8 iron) into a third of the holes, mid irons (7-5 iron) into a third of the holes and hybrids and fairway woods into another third of the holes. For example, in playing the first hole you should be able to have two options. One is hit your 3-wood off the tee which brings the sand trap on the left into play but takes the far right sand trap out of play leaving you a 8, 7, 6 iron or equivalent hybrid into the green. The second option is to hit your driver which might bring the far right bunker into play which adds more risk but if executed leaves you a pw – 8 iron. The first hole is designed to receive a golf shot with a mid to short iron, not a fairway wood. The shot is difficult enough and almost impossible if hitting a fairway wood.

I'm looking for your input on this to see if the game is more fun if played from a shorter length (I think it is). Please play one or two rounds from a shorter set of tees than you normally play from and let me know what you think. If this is something that most of you like, then we will add to our current scorecard another set of tees with a proper rating and slope and look to play more tournaments from a shorter set of tees.

Golf

Two golf committee members, John Gunderman and Hap Murano were my guinea pigs the other day as they played from the yellow tees. At the conclusion of the round we went over the scorecard to see which clubs they were hitting into the greens and it was revealing to see that the course was not too short for them. They hit short irons, mid irons, hybrids & fairway woods throughout their play which made for a well balanced round. During our conversation they used the word **FUN** several times. John and Hap play most of their rounds from the blue tees and said they would definitely mix in more rounds from the white and yellow tees. By the way the course record from the yellow tees is 77 shot by Hap Murano.

Here is a chart to help you choose the appropriate set of tees to try based on the average length of your driver

200 – 220 yds. white tees
170 – 200 yds. yellow tees
130 – 170 yds. red tees

Tee it forward and have more FUN!



It is hard to believe we are already into August. The weather has been very agreeable for the golf season. I hope it lasts through October.

I would like to thank all the women for their participation for The Rally for the Cure. It was a very successful day. Paula Santangelo and I stayed after the luncheon and hit up all the men that came for Tuesday night league for donations. Everyone was very supportive and generous for the cause. We raised 1,500.00 dollars this year; this is the most we have raised. Thank you again supporting Rally for the Cure.

I would like to thank Dan for the pink ribbons on the tee boxes and also the pink cups on the greens. It added a special touch to the day. Tina did a wonderful job for our luncheon. The tables looked so pretty and soft. Our meal was great, very positive feedback on the Antipasto salad. Thank you Tina for your devotion and hard work. Thank you Dave in the Pro Shop, you were very helpful.

Let's keep golfing and for those of you who are doing matches for Championship Day good luck to all.

