

# *New London Country Club*

**December 2010**

## **President's Message Shawn Maguire**

*The Annual Board meeting was held in November, and attended by many members. Thank you for your participation, questions, and encouragement, the Board really appreciates it.*

*The "draft" budget was presented at the annual meeting and fostered great discussions over the past month. The Board has taken many of the suggestions and put them to good use in updating the draft budget we presented to the Finance Committee at the end of November for review and discussion. I believe the membership will like the outcome. One of the main goals is to budget for less than the membership we had in 2010. As of the end of November, we have budgeted for roughly minus 14 regular members from 2010. We wanted to budget anywhere from 10-20 less regular members. If we are able to find more savings we will apply them to give NLCC more of a buffer in the budget. I think it is the responsible thing to do, and gives us a chance to exceed our membership goals because new members keep coming in every month.*

*I would like to thank Phil Orenstein and Tracy Shoor for there endless hours of time they dedicated to being on the Board, they will be missed. Welcome Patty Cleary, who takes over as Women's Association President. I'm sure the women know that Patty will now be handling the women's golf tournaments and gatherings.*

*The December Board meeting will be held December 21st at 6:30.  
I wish everyone a good winter and happy holidays!*

**Shawn Maguire  
NLCC President  
shawnm@att.com**



## *Greens*

### *Dan Rodgers*

When is it time to close the greens for the season? Every course is unique in its location, weather conditions, soil type, budget and membership. The most common reason for closing the greens is the weather. Before the ground starts to freeze and thaw, closing of the greens must be considered. Late season play on the greens can injure turfgrass because leaf tissue has stopped growing. Turfgrass crowns, where both roots and shoots are generated from, can be permanently damaged if golfers are allowed to play on frozen or freezing and thawing greens.

The "freeze & thaw" period can actually be the most damaging time. If underlying soil is frozen and the immediate surface is not, traffic will actually shear the roots off. The soil movement on the thawed surface causes detachment from the root system, which is stuck in the frozen soil beneath.

It is difficult to decide when the timing is right. We need to be able to accurately forecast the weather well in advance. Ultimately, we want members to enjoy the course as long as possible but not at their own expense. It's much worse to close the greens too late to satisfy the minority and have the majority suffer the consequences next season.

My number one goal is to protect the greens for the players next season. Every agronomic decision and maintenance practice we utilize from September to June is a preparation for next year's peak playing season. The greens must enter the stresses of summer with the healthiest turf possible to give them the best chance of survival and provide our members with the conditions they deserve.

Dan

## *Food & Beverage* *Tim Burrows*



2010 ending up being the best year for product, service, and bottom line performance since I joined the club 10 years ago. We started the year by getting a new carpet and painting the walls. The new look was received well by all and really set the tone for a great year. We served a very good product with good service all year. We did this with a payroll of more than \$100,000 less than our last full year of service in 2007. Christina did a great job of managing the staff and keeping our margins where they needed to be. Christina and I have already started working on next year by preparing for a bridal show to start to sell our room.

Our plan in 2011 is to operate the F&B under the same guidelines as we did in 2010. Our only change will be to increase our efforts to sell our room for outside events. This will bring more revenue to the club and bring more potential members on our property. As always if anyone has any questions or comments please send me an e-mail at [timburrows11@gmail.com](mailto:timburrows11@gmail.com). Thank you and have a Happy Holiday Season.

Cheers,

Tim



## *Membership*

### *Lou Camerota*

With the pins still in (as of this writing) we have enjoyed an incredible 8 months of golf this year. For those hearty members who get out early in the spring and play late into the season, NLCC has got to be the bargain of New England!

When the freeze finally arrives, Dan will be putting the course "to bed" and installing the temporary greens for the real hardcore. But, with this kind of weather, who knows when that will even come?

Golf is not foremost on people's minds in late fall. Even the most avid golfers take time off for Thanksgiving and to celebrate the holidays. I hope yours was ( and will be) joyous!

However, it is a very active period for the board as we plan the budget for next year's golfing season and attendant activities. You have, no doubt, heard about some of the lively discussion concerning ways to increase revenue, bolster membership, and make being a part of New London Country Club a more enjoyable experience for everyone. Suffice it to say, there is no gain without pain.

Be sure that whatever the board considers, it is with the purpose of maintaining NLCC as an affordable and pleasant venue for our members to convene, relax, enjoy one another's company, and play golf on a really nice course.

*Happy Holidays to everyone!*

Lou Camerota  
Membership Chair

