

# The Hole Truth

**New London Country Club**

(860) 443-6864 [www.newlondoncountryclub.org](http://www.newlondoncountryclub.org)

**April 2010**

## **President's Message**

**By Deborah Benson**



As I am writing this, it is absolutely beautiful outside and golf is in the air. I hope you've had a chance to get out and enjoy our lovely course.

I want to remind you of the following financial incentives open to current members in good standing:

Bring in a new, full paying member, \$400 credit toward your dues.

Bring in a new associate member (age 30-34), \$250 credit toward your dues.

Bring in a new associate member (under age 30), \$150 credit toward your dues.

You may have heard the advertisements we are running on the radio. I think they are very appealing and they have generated a lot of interest. The office is receiving inquiries every day. Please help us by being a positive ambassador for New London Country Club. Membership is our lifeblood. Bring in a new member if you can.

Are you on Facebook? If so, you may have noticed that New London Country Club has established a page and you can become a "fan" of that page. (As I write this, our page has 48 fans, and the page has only been up for one 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.

We are also changing our website. It is still under construction but if you are interested, here is the link: <http://www.newlondoncountryclub.temp.ntwebb.com/>. We will let you know when it is up and running. Thanks to James Nicholas who is doing a great job on these internet items, and is donating his services. The Club will realize substantial savings on this.

Christina has been hard at work getting the Grill Room ready for the season. The bar is open and there will be food available sometime in May. Please stop by and take a look – you will see that the room has been spruced up and is looking very nice.

The meeting schedule for the Board for the next year is posted on the website. We occasionally have to change a Board meeting date, and any changes will be posted on the website and around the Clubhouse.

Phil Orenstein is our House Chairman. Phil is organizing a "Volunteer Day" to do work around the Club. Again, any work done by volunteers saves the Club money and makes our Club look more beautiful and desirable to potential members. The date is April 24th with a rain date of April 25th. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help out in doing simple work around the Club.

The Board welcomes your suggestions and input. If you are looking for information, please check the website first, as a lot of information is posted (i.e. Board minutes, budget information, Board schedule, etc.).

I look forward to a great 2010-golf season and hope you do too. Hit 'em straight!

Deborah Benson  
President  
[nlccpres@gmail.com](mailto:nlccpres@gmail.com)



## HOUSE

By Phil Orenstein, Chairman

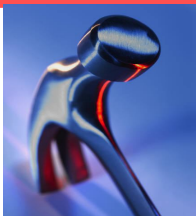
Now that golf season is here, those of us who have the opportunity to play the course have found it to be in great shape already. The greens are already good and I'm sure the rest of the course will soon follow.

Unfortunately, this season has found some areas of the grounds in slight disrepair. Paint is needed in some areas and some boards around the rear parking lot fencing have become pretty rotted as well. If we hired a contractor to repair the items that have been brought to my attention, the cost would be a couple thousand dollars. We are trying to conserve our funds and I would like to suggest a Volunteer Day. We can accomplish a lot in a day with 15-20 volunteers. For those of you who are able to scrape, paint, cut, nail or sweep, we could use your services for a portion of a day.

Beginning at about 8:00 A.M. on April 24th (rain date April 25<sup>th</sup>), we would like to have volunteers gather in the parking lot. Please call either Bruce McCutcheon (860) 447-2583 or email [mccut@aol.com](mailto:mccut@aol.com) or me at (860) 437-9873 or email [80mgbman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:80mgbman@sbcglobal.net) if you feel that you can donate some time and talent. Advance notice would be helpful for planning purposes. Those who plan to participate should bring hammers, saws, paint brushes, paint trays, scrapers or brooms.

Thanks to all of the volunteers in advance. Remember, the club belongs to all of us. We can save money and accomplish so much with just one day of work.

Thanks,  
Phil Orenstein



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**April 24th, 2010 (Rain Date April 25th)**

Contact Phil Orenstein at (860) 437-9873 or [80mgbman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:80mgbman@sbcglobal.net)  
Bruce McCutcheon (860) 447-2583 or [mccut@aol.com](mailto:mccut@aol.com)



## GOLF

By Shawn Maguire, Chairman

The warmer weather has finally arrived and the 2010 golf season has begun. The 2010 golf calendar approved by the Board at the February BOD meeting has been posted on the web page. Start planning your golf season!

### Shop Staffing

Assistants, Dave Rhinehart and Matt Nolan are both returning this year. The two of them have been nice additions to the club and they are both excited to be returning for the 2010 season.

### Kids and Family Programs

Our Junior Camp last year was a huge success, and we would like to try to expand upon it this season. The kids are the future members of the club, so the pros are looking at ways to make it even more enjoyable this season. We will also continue to offer Friday Family Night. We will be putting together some themed nights with F&B and hope to see more kids, parents and grandparents take advantage. A few theme ideas being tossed around are an ice cream night and a parent cocktail hour while the pros do a 1-hour putting & chipping clinic for the kids.



### Carts

The cart fee for 2010 is \$16.00, plus 6% sales tax. Seasonal carts will be available at a much lower rate than last year, which is as follows: \$850.00 (price includes all taxes).

### Speed Cart Storage

For the 2010 season, the club will offer speed cart storage to members for \$100 (not including Kangaroo carts). There are approximately 50 spaces available. A lottery system will be used if more than 50 members sign up. The registration form for Seasonal Cart and Speed Cart storage are in this month's mailing! The deadline to submit your registration form is May 1st.

### Golf

2010 reminders:

You will be able to pick your own partner in the **Tuesday Night League**. If you choose to sign up individually, you will be paired with another member. Keep in mind that the flight you are assigned to will be determined by your combined team handicap. Entry form included with your statement.

The **Men's Association** was well represented in 2009. Please consider joining the Association this year. The golf committee has finalized our plans for 2010 and the cost (\$95) and events (6) will be the same as in 2009. Come out and join in the fun while enjoying some good competition and camaraderie. Entry form included with your statement.

### **Membership Pictures/Email Addresses**

The Golf shop personnel will continue to assist the office by taking pictures of all members who do not have their photo included in the JONAS program (used for our bookkeeping/financial management). We are also requesting your email address (if you have one) to better expedite the sending of information to all members. Please give the Golf shop personnel a minute of your time, if requested, to take your picture and/or obtain your email information.

Shawn Maguire  
Golf Chairman

## **Golf Pro**

**By Kevin Shea**

Dear NLCC Members,

Another year is upon us, and we are off to a great start. The greens have been open for several weeks now and the golf course has never looked better so early in the year. The golf shop opened for the season on March 16th. I am looking forward to seeing all of you so please stop by and say hello when you get a chance.

### **Shop Staffing**

*David Rhinehart* and *Matt Nolan* are returning as our assistants. David and Matt have been great additions to the club and both are looking forward to another year at our great club. David starts work on April 1st and Matt on May 3rd. Both of them will be spending some time in the bag room to help with our budget.

Tee times begin Saturday, April 17th.

### **Golf Shop Merchandise Plan for 2010**

I understand these are still difficult times for some and that many of you will most likely spend less than in past years. I ask one thing for those of you who intend on purchasing any golf equipment, that you please consider my golf shop at your club first. My plan for 2010 is to provide competitive prices on all products to all of our members. My standard pricing on golf equipment will be very competitive with Dick's, Golfers' Warehouse and similar retail shops. For example, the 2010 Cobra S2 and Ping G15 driver is priced at \$299.95 at Dick's and Golfers' Warehouse. My price is \$289.95. There may be times when I cannot compete with a sale price and will advise you to buy it from a competitor; however, I ask that you give me a chance to earn your business. Remember, if you have any problems with anything purchased from my golf shop, I will be there to take care of you. The following are just some of the brand names I will be carrying in the shop this year: Ping, Cobra, Titleist, Foot Joy, Cutter-n- Buck, Ahead and Sun Mountain. Please keep in mind that if you do not see what you are looking for that I have accounts with all the major brand names and can get you whatever you are looking for (Callaway, Taylor Made, etc.).

## Spring Instruction / Short Game Tune Up!

The short game usually is the first thing to go and the last thing to come back after the winter lay-off. Most golfers just want to get out and hit golf balls and forget about the most important part of the game – The Short Game! I am offering a three-lesson series for \$125 covering Putting, Chipping, Pitching and Bunker play. Please call or e-mail me to schedule your lesson series.

### Special Offers:

- Members will receive 20% off on all clothing throughout the year.
- Demo Days (Tuesdays) scheduled for **Ping** on May 18 and **Cobra** on May 25.
- Fitting Days (appointments needed) scheduled for **Ping** on June 2 and **Titleist** on June 8.
- 20% off the re-gripping of eight or more clubs through the month of April.

**Interesting statistic-** I recently was reminded at my CT Section PGA Meeting of an interesting statistic that people who play golf live longer than non-golfers do. There are insurance policies that will give you a rebate or credit (\$200-\$500) towards your policy if you play golf. Contact your insurance agent and find out if playing golf can save you money.

I hope all of you are doing well and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Kevin Shea  
PGA Professional  
860-439-1524  
[kevin@newlondoncountryclub.org](mailto:kevin@newlondoncountryclub.org)



## MEMBERSHIP

By Lou Camerota, Chairman

Since our last publication, spring has sprung, the pins are in, the Grill Room has had a facelift and our restaurant facility is being run by a new, enthusiastic and very gracious manager, Christina Marlow. This, along with our returning "veteran" staff and a well-maintained and manicured golf course, positions our club to provide us a wonderful golf season. To our returning members, welcome back, and to those of you who are new, WELCOME!

Our mid-March joint finance and membership meeting was a great success with more than 50 members in attendance. Questions concerning the club's financial wellbeing as well as topics such as debt service, membership, and dues were discussed. The meeting was highly productive, providing for an open exchange on these and other related matters. Several members complimented the "transparency" of the numbers as well as the tone of the meeting. It was evident that the format was well received. Because of its success, similar meetings will be conducted in the future.

A couple of key points:

Thanks to Walter Berry, Isaak Lazarou and our finance committee's work with Dime Bank, our debt service has been restructured to the benefit of the club.

There is no plan or intent to either increase dues or to implement a special assessment.

There is a plan to reduce dues over the ensuing seasons.

Our numbers stand as follow:

Associate Under 30	7
Associate 30-34	3
Associate 35-39	4
Corporate	3
Family	28
Pautipaug	8
Regular	204
Senior Regular 90	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	258

We continue, on a daily basis, to receive queries and applications for new membership, both trial and full. Additionally, Pautipaug members continue to contact us and we expect more of them to join us.

A membership initiative is currently ongoing to attract professional people in the area and a campaign is about to break – one targeted at developing younger members.



### **What you can do to support your club:**

Dispel negative rumors and innuendo; they are harmful to the club.

Bring a guest or two to play golf with you.

Promote membership (encourage friends, neighbors and acquaintances).

Stop by for a libation after a round of golf.

Support the pro shop.

And above all...come out and enjoy our lovely golf course and the camaraderie of you fellow members.



Lou Camerota  
Membership Chair

[bmwlou@snet.net](mailto:bmwlou@snet.net)

Office: (860) 447-3141

Mobile: (860) 912-9531

## Food & Beverage

By Tim Burrows, Chairman

The Pub is currently open for the season serving drinks. A light food menu will be offered in early May. The room looks very nice; we have painted the room and installed a new carpet. The Pub hours for the season will be consistent this year and our drink prices will be priced fairly. The menu is going to be "light fare" and will provide enough options to please most. Drinks will be available every day the course is open from 11:00 A.M. to at least 8:00 P.M. After 8:00 P.M., if we have customers, The Pub will stay open as long as the law allows. If we see more demand to stay open late, the permanent hours will be changed. We are currently working on a food service schedule. Christina has done a great job of getting The Pub ready for the season. She has put together a solid team of bartenders and we have hired a cook.

This past weekend was a good one. We opened on Friday and had our first event on Saturday night. Overall, it was a solid opening weekend and we anticipate a great year. Please remember we are in full control of The Pub this year and the more it's used the more revenue for the Club. Please consider us for lunch or early evening cocktails in addition to golf-related dining.

If you or someone you know is looking for a place to hold an event, our banquet room has dates available. We will be charging a room rental fee of \$600 for non-member and \$400 for members. NLCC will be in charge of the alcohol and soda; the food will be provided by a preferred caterer. For a list of preferred caterers you can see Cristina. Please email me with any questions or input at [timburrows11@gmail.com](mailto:timburrows11@gmail.com)

Cheers,  
Tim Burrows





## Women's Association

By Tracy Shoor, President

It looks like the weather is cooperating and we are finally going to be able to dust off those clubs that some of us have not used since last October. The greens are open and there are no longer any excuses not to get out there and play. Our first scheduled Ladies' Day will be May 4th. So, if you haven't signed up for the Women's Association yet, now is the time to do so. The form is in this month's "The Hole Truth."

Debbie Cook has been busily working on the schedule of Ladies Day events. The schedule will be posted in the breezeway outside the Ladies Locker Room. The sign up sheet will be posted there as well. The sign up sheet will have three columns so that all you need to do is initial whether you want to play as a competitive, non-competitive or working player. The competitive and non-competitive players need to sign up by noon time on Saturday. And the working women need to sign up by the prior Wednesday.

The Wednesday Evening Ladies Social will be starting in June. This is another 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.

### **Remember what it felt like to be a beginning golfer?**

- You arrived at the golf course for the very first time, not knowing anyone and feeling a bit intimidated about teeing off with players you didn't know...
- You were unfamiliar with the course, really didn't know the rules very well and were sure you might hold up the experienced players...
- You were uncertain about etiquette, what to wear, placing a ball marker, or repairing divots...

We want to make it more comfortable for new golfers and new members to learn the game of golf. This year we are continuing our golf mentoring program. I will have more information about the program in next month's "The Hole Truth" article. If you are interested in either being a mentor or being mentored (a mentee), please contact me about signing up. 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](mailto:LouisB@snet.net).

Tracy Shoor  
President



## GREEN

**By Rob Renehan, Chairman**

The course opened the third week of March with fine conditions. No turf damage occurred during the winter of 2010. Clean-up has begun but will take longer this year due to budget cuts resulting in a smaller staff. The recent heavy rain has caused quite a bit of damage to our already weak infrastructure. We are considering different options and will address the problem soon. Tee and fairway coring have begun and will continue throughout the month. Green aeration is scheduled for the end of April. The regrading and drainage behind 11 green is finished and will be sodded as soon as material is available.

A friendly reminder:

- Repair your ball marks and all others you seen on the greens.
- Replace divots when possible.
- Rake traps after use.
- Carts remain on paths and obey signs and rope lines.
- Carts stay away from greens.
- Pull carts do not wheel between traps and the green.
- Stand bags off green and collar into the rough and off tees.
- Never discard litter on golf course.
- Mr. Parliament and Mr. Marlboro Light – keep your butts off our golf course.

The staff is working very hard. Your help in these matters is very important. Our course conditions are among the finest in the State and we plan to keep it that way going forward.

Rob Renehan, Green Chairman

## GREEN

**By Dan Rogers, Superintendent**

Welcome back to those of you who have been able to take advantage of some early spring golf between monsoons. We are doing our best to finish up winter projects, complete spring clean up and transition into a normal maintenance schedule. In addition to spring clean up work, I am trying to fix some drainage issues. We have installed 180' of 6" drain line behind the 11<sup>th</sup> green; this should eliminate the wet area behind the left trap. I plan to install a 200' drain line on the right side of the 9<sup>th</sup> men's tee and I will be able to connect that line to the newly installed line behind the 11<sup>th</sup> green. I discovered a clogged main 8" drain line in the fescue right of the 13<sup>th</sup> hole. The cause of this clog was the roots of a large Japanese maple. Trees have a remarkable ability to find water. The roots of this tree made their way into this 8" perforated pipe and almost completely filled 60' of pipe with fibrous roots. I will be replacing that perforated pipe with solid pipe so this does not happen in the future.

Due to budget cut-backs, the maintenance crew will be raking bunkers on a set schedule. It is imperative that all golfers show consideration and remember their responsibility to rake bunkers. Thanks for your patience as we prepare the course for 2010. I look forward to seeing everyone out enjoying the course and the warm weather to come.

Thanks,

Dan Rogers, Superintendent

