

THE CGC CHRONICLE



May 2021 Edition

Presidents Message

Joe Green

Presidential Ponderings

Greeting fellow members! It is great to have this newsletter revived. Hopefully you'll find it useful and informative. From time to time, I'll give some updates here but often I'll be sharing some recollections and observations.

Being in my first few months as President I'm learning all kinds of traditions for this office. You may have seen in some pictures that from time to time a green jacket is worn by past presidents. This summer I'll be hosting a small event of the past presidents of the club (if COVID allows). This is a time when a green jacket will be passed on to the latest past president our first female president Anne Lindsay. At the last convening of the past presidents Walter Webber hit a hole in one on what is likely the hardest par 3 to do so. His shot on number 16 was heard around the club not only for the hole's difficulty but that Walter is in his 90s (move over Phil!). I wonder if another hole in one will be found this year?

Speaking of holes in one, I have only one in my trophy case. It came on number 8 a couple years ago. I was most grateful for Tony Cohoon and PJ Cowan. You see I got paired up with them that day and without them I wouldn't have a hole in one. This is one of those events in life that need witnesses. Did I jump up and down like a teenager? Did I hit three double bogeys on 9-10-11 immediately afterwards? It's all a blur to me but its moment I hope to recreate every time I'm on the 8th tee box.

I've discovered that talking about a hole in one prior to hitting a ball doesn't influence anything. I follow a number of golf people on social media and one I recommend is Erik Anders Lang who does all kinds of ways to passionately promote the game of golf. On every par 3 in his videos, he declares that ACE CAM is in effect! So may your ACE CAM be on with each par 3 you face this summer!

You've got the honours,
Joe Green, President

General Managers Message

Dave MacMillan

First and foremost, I want to welcome all our returning members for the 2021 season, and I extend special greetings to those members who are unable to join us at this time due to the COVID restrictions. I sincerely hope circumstances will soon permit all of us to be together again in the very near future.

As I reported at the recent Spring General meeting, we continue to be focused on our COVID operational plan to ensure that we are making every effort to keep our members, guests, and employees safe as we navigate these uncertain times.

From an operational perspective I also reported on a number of initiatives we have been working on to improve your experience at the Club including, but not limited to, an improved telephone system in the Pro Shop; a decrease in tee-time intervals which increases the availability of tee-times; our starters now have access to our reservation system so if you haven't checked in with the Pro Shop, the starter can assist; and, we have acquired a license for Golf Genius, a cloud based tournament management software product, that will help us to management our Club events and tournaments more efficiently. We are also working with Chronogolf to improve the online booking process so members will have more time to complete their reservation without losing it.

Finally, there has been a lot of interest in our turf program so over the next few issues of the newsletter we will focus on various aspects of the program – check out the *Tee Maintenance Series* in the newsletter where we have added a section on tee maintenance.

Thanks everyone and see you on the links.

Green's Committee

David Harvey

On the last course inspection from our golf course architect – Les Furber, he identified a number of holes where the course would benefit from new

tees. Some of the new tees that were recommended have already been built (#1 gold, #4 red and gold) and we are now prioritizing the construction of the following tees:

- Hole #3 – build new red tees approximately 50 yards in front of current tees.
- Hole #5 – build new gold tees behind current tees, halfway back towards white tees.
- Hole #7 – build new gold tees behind current tees, also approximately halfway back towards white tees.
- Hole #15 – lower and flatten the front end of the back tees to expand the white tee.

We believe these new tees will reduce the wear and tear on the tee turf, improve the speed of play and safety while creating reasonable new distances for these holes.

Food and Beverage Update

Megan Sheppard

The Food and Beverage operation is running as Covid-19 restrictions permit. We are providing take-out service, as well as Snack Bar service, daily. Though we are disappointed to see so many sunny days come and go with no one enjoying our deck, we are lucky to have the opportunity to serve our members and community at a limited capacity. We have been, and will continue, to offer daily specials. And though we have our fingers crossed that we will have dine-in service by mid-June, we do have a contingency plan in place for Father's Day on Sunday, June 20th, so keep your eyes peeled for those specials!

This is also the perfect opportunity to extend our great appreciation for everyone who involved us in their Mother's Day celebrations. We were thrilled to have so many orders, so much support, and so many positive comments on our food!

We will continue running with our current hours for the time being. As a reminder, the Snack Bar window opens at 9am, while take-out services begin at 11am, 7 days a week. Right now, our closing time

is 7pm, please place all orders no later than 6:30pm. To place an order, please call 902-275-4702 ext.3! We love pre-orders too, so don't hesitate to call ahead and order your meals! Orders are to be picked up at the Snack Bar window.

In the interest of safety, please wear your mask when approaching the Snack Bar window. Hand sanitizer is provided, and we ask that you give your hands a scrub before paying for your order. We will do the same on our side!

Head Professional

Dan Fraser

A View from Behind the Desk.

Hello Everyone, what a strange start to the season we are having. Hopefully you and your family are staying safe and playing some golf wherever you reside. If you have stopped by the Pro Shop you have most likely seen some new faces behind the plexiglass (or penalty box as I sometimes call it).

Tony Huskison joins us again for his 3rd season. Tony is originally from the Bridgewater area and brings a lot of experience to the shop. Now if he can only decide on what driver to use! Keziah Funk is in her rookie year here at CGC, while this is her first year working at a golf course, she's been a natural fit and will be our new rugby team captain too. Mike Young, or Young Mike is back for his second season. Mike is from Bathurst and his hat collection is second to none. Graeme and Scott Weagle are both new to the Pro Shop, however you may recognize Graeme from his days on the Maintenance team. I'm an OK curler, I only fall down 2-3 per game, but Graeme and Scott have represented Nova Scotia on multiple occasions and I'm looking to pick up some outturn tips from them. Allison & Matthew Chandler are our return vets and it's funny to refer to them as veterans. Both are coming off great seasons down south and I could list all their accomplishments, but I've been told to "Keep it short Dan!"

Down below of course we have the great Bruce Bond who helps the train running with John Saltzman, Dominic Lowe, Adrian Nunn, Grace Lantz, and Marshall Josey. As you already know, Bruce does a great job leading the team down there who are eager to help you out in any way they can!

Our Starters and Player Assistants include Alexander Nemeskeri, Wayne Arnold, Nate Stepner, Erick Bickerdike, along with some of the Pro Shop team helping out, when they can. They will make sure you get you checked in and started on time.

I'm so pleased all these wonderful people are on our team for the 2021 season.

The spring is a great time to check your grips. If your grips are shiny and smooth, they need to be replaced. Lucky for you...we have grips! New grips can make your clubs feel brand new and perhaps drop some strokes off your game. (Not guaranteed)

Pro Tip: Use the markings on your golf ball to help you line up putts. In fact,...a lot of the new Callaway Golf balls have the triple track alignment system right on the golf ball. That was helped created by Phil Mickelson and he's my pick for the PGA Championship this week. A dark horse pick sure but I think he's got a great shot.

Once again, welcome to the 2021 season, it's been a strange start but hang in there and we'll get where we need to be.

Stay safe everyone!

Tip / Shameless Sales Promotion of the Month Your GRIPS!

Ask yourself a question. When's the last time I had my grips replaced? If you play 30 times a year and it's been over two years, I have news for you. Your grips need to be replaced! Grips are an essential part of your equipment as hard or shiny grips will lead to increased grip pressure, increased tension in the hands and thus bad swings may be made. The only

contact we have with our clubs is through our grips, so you want to make sure they have a soft, yet tacky feel. New grips can give your existing clubs a whole new feel and make them seem brand new again! Feel free to stop by the shop or check with Bruce to see if your grips need to be replaced.

Make sure to keep your head down!

Ball Marks: You may have noticed that our greens are starting to become populated with pitch or ball marks on our greens. To keep our putting surfaces smooth throughout the summer, please remember to fix your pitch mark on the greens. Even if you don't hit the green, find a pitch mark to fix. A pitch mark that is fixed immediately will repair itself in 24 hours, while a unrepaired mark can last for up to 3 weeks!

Here is my good friend Andy Wild with a great YouTube video on repairing pitch marks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1UWnpv3woU>

Women's Division

Gail Mitchell

It's May. May Hit It, May Not!

The month of May is complete, and the Women's Division Tuesday morning membership is growing. Many thanks to Rosemary MacInnes for creating two draws in May. We are so hopeful that our old and new Members, residing outside the Municipality of Chester, will be one with the Tuesday golfing scene soon in June.

June- Tuesday mornings monthly hosts are Sheila Boss and Dee Dee Dyer. 3:00 pm every Thursday to enter every Tuesday draw in June.

The Women's Division decided to participate in a worldwide event. Sherry Brine, Sheila Boss, Gail Mitchell, Anna Camp and MJ Saffrey are tying up loose ends for the global celebration - International Women's Golf Day on Tuesday, June 1. A 9-hole

fun scramble, gifts and prizes are planned for the 72 participants.

Check out the Chester Golf Course website, click on leagues, click on Women's Leagues, click on Tuesday Morning League. All the information for any female golfer at our club is there!

Let's Play Golf,
Gail Mitchell

Women on Wednesday (WOW)

Trudy Somers-Lamb

"Don't make plans for Wednesday. I've got WOW." Yes, WOW has become a permanent entry on the schedules of a growing number of women at the CGC. It's been a pleasure to welcome back all the familiar faces from past seasons, though we are missing those who live outside the municipality. And it is wonderful to see so many new women join the ranks of WOW in 2021.

Is WOW right for you? Would you enjoy a relaxed, non-competitive, nine-hole round of golf with like-minded women? It's a chance to socialize with friends in a COVID-compliant manner. It's a great opportunity for working women to fit in a round of golf after work. It's ideal for those who are trying to learn the game or improve their golf in a supportive atmosphere. WOW is open to members and to green fee golfers. All skill levels are welcome. You don't need a golf handicap. You don't even need to keep score. WOW is just about enjoying the game and the company. WOW, doesn't that sound like fun?

Each week, a block of tee times from mid-afternoon thru to early evening is reserved for the Women on Wednesday. You let us know that you want to play on a particular week, the monthly hosts assign you a tee time, you get an email confirmation and you come out and play.

If you are interested in joining WOW, send an email with your name and contact information to wow@chestergolfclub.ca and we will add you to our

email list and let you know how to sign up for weekly play.

See you out there!

Around the Club

Dean Durnford

Changing your email address or contact information? Be sure to let the Pro Shop Staff know of any change to your contact information so we can continue to stay in touch.



- We have 65 new members this year and we are at capacity for the first time in several years. Please join us in welcoming these new members to our club.
- As a Club Member, we enroll you as a gold member with Golf Canada. Beyond recording your handicap, your golf equipment is protected. If anything happens to your equipment, if you damage a motorized golf cart by accident, or if an errant shot breaks a window, Golf Canada Incident Protection helps get you back on the course by reimbursing your replacement costs or damages. Check out all the benefits <https://scg.golfcanada.ca/member-benefits>.
- If you have any ideas for content in the newsletter or pictures for us to call our own, please send them in, we are always looking to improve your newsletter content.
- If you have any information requests or questions pertaining to your membership, please contact memberservices@chestergolfclub.ca.

Have a hole in one? Be sure to let us know the details and a photo would be great. Let us know what hole, what club was used and who you were playing with. All entries are posted to the Hole in One Club on the website and invited to the Celebration of Champions in the fall.

Rule Tip

Ruth Christian
National Rules
Official



Penalty Areas (formally known as water hazards)

Rule 17.1 There are various shapes and sizes when it comes to penalty areas in golf. Some penalty areas contain water while others can contain grass, trees, rocks or other debris. Regardless of the penalty area's shape, size and contents, the relief options will always be classified into two categories yellow or red. Our course only has red penalty areas.

The revised rules of golf that came into effect in 2019 made most rules for playing your ball in the

penalty area the same rules as playing from the general area. The general area is all areas of the course other than the teeing area or the green of the hole you are playing and all bunkers and penalty areas on the course.

You can always play your ball where it lies without penalty unless it is in a no play zone. If you decide to play the ball as it lies in the penalty area the following rules apply:

- ✓ You can touch the water.
- ✓ Ground your club behind the ball.
- ✓ Remove any loose impediments.
- ✓ Relief from movable obstructions
- ✓ Take practice swings that touch the ground.
- ✓ When searching for your ball if you accidentally move the ball replace the ball with no penalty

However, you cannot deem the ball unplayable or get relief from an embedded ball. Also, you do not get relief from an abnormal course conditions such as a bridge or sprinkler.

Note: You can ground your club on the bridge if you choose to play the ball on the bridge.

Next month we will review the relief options if you choose not to play your ball as it lies in the penalty area.

Tee Maintenance Series

Dave MacMillan

General Manager-Superintendent

Turf Care - This year we intend to highlight various aspects of our turf care program, as we feel it is important that members are informed of this important part of the Clubs overall operations.

This month we would like to talk a little bit about tee maintenance. It is true that our tees do get beat up at times, due to heavy traffic, and our gold and red tees are receiving more play every year. To combat the wear and tear, the grounds crew implement the following practices:

1. To relieve compaction, we aerify the tee decks 3-4 times every year. This involves the use of both solid and hollow aerifying times.
2. We do a divot repair program to our Par 3 tees, which tend to get more damage, because more golfers are using irons. This involves filling the damaged areas with a mixture of sand, peat, and grass seed. We try to do this several times a month. Although we concentrate divot repair more on the Par 3 tees, we also undertake periodic repairs of this nature to all the tee decks on the course.
3. We have a strong fertility program for our tees, that involves the use of turf grade fertilizers. We generally do 8-10 fertilizer applications per year.
4. We also implement 2-3 heavy topdressings to the tee decks per year. This involves spreading a sand-peat mixture over the entire surface of the tee deck. This helps to level the general surface of the deck and supplements our divot repair program.
5. Tee rebuilding and tee expansion has become a priority at the CGC over the past decade. This is particularly apparent with our forward gold and red tees. With today's aging golf population, the surfaces

have received more and more play, so it is highly likely the enhancement of our tees will continue to be a high priority of the Clubs forward planning, and maintenance operations.

6. With regards to regular maintenance, we move tees 3-4 times per week, move the tee blocks 6-7 times per week, and irrigate on a regular basis through the growing season, as required.

I hope this helps to explain an especially important part of the Clubs maintenance practices. Stay tuned for our next segment. Happy golfing and remember, fix those ball marks!

Upcoming Events

MEMBER EVENT CHANGES

Men's & Women's 2-Ball originally scheduled for May 5th now scheduled for **JUNE 19th**.

Members Opening Day originally scheduled for May 6th **now cancelled**.

JN Pew and Women's Handicap originally scheduled for June 12th **now JULY 24th**.

The reason for cancelling the Opening Day Scramble is because we do not know when HRM restrictions are to be lifted and we don't feel it's fair to our members to have a Members Opening event without the full participation.