



La Crosse Country Club Winter News 2010

Clubhouse: 781-5837

Golf Shop: 781-5562

Maintenance: 783-4344

Visit our website! www.lacrossecountryclub.com

CLUBHOUSE NEWS by Herbert J. Bassett

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The new season is coming on very quickly, and I believe we are prepared for it. Hopefully, you know that we are open for dinner Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays starting the first week in February from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please make reservations as we will be scheduling accordingly.

Be sure to join Yaron Gottfried, world-class pianist, conductor, and composer, with his jazz ensemble on March 6th at the La Crosse Country Club for a jazz concert. Social hour with gourmet hors d'oeuvres begins at 6:00 p.m., with the concert from 7:15 until 8:30 p.m. Rita Schuman of Reed Music Studios, and flutist Rose Wettstein, will entertain us during social hour. Leithold Music will generously provide a Yamaha C3 grand piano. Net proceeds will benefit the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra. The cost is \$50 per person. The public is invited and seating is limited. Call the Club for reservations at 781-5837.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

To insure the best golf playing conditions, the golf course is not open for any winter activities i.e. sledding, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, ice skating, snowmobiling, etc. If you live by the golf course and see activities which should not be occurring on the golf course, please contact the Golf Course Superintendent.

DINING STARTS FEBRUARY 3rd:

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday

5:30-8:00 p.m.



NEWSLETTERS AND STATEMENTS:

Since the Club started emailing statements and newsletters, we saved over \$3000 in 2009 (in paper, printing, postage, and labor)! Your cooperation in this savings is greatly appreciated! If you are still receiving a paper statement or newsletter please call the office today to provide your email address to help us reach our goal of 100% paperless participation in 2010. Thank you!

Please note newsletters can be viewed through our website www.lacrossecountryclub.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Our treasurer, Woody Godbold, is staying warm in California during the winter. Therefore, one of the duties that the Club President inherits is signing the bi-weekly checks so that our suppliers get paid on time. I can tell you from the checks that I have been signing that things are starting to gear up for spring. The suppliers are starting to deliver more food and liquor since the restaurant opens for limited hours in February. There are also bills coming in for the stock that we will have in the Pro Shop this spring.

One big bill that is coming due is for the new batteries for our golf carts. Last year, the Board did a careful investigation of our options regarding the golf cart fleet. The current carts are seven years old and the batteries were not holding charge well. We looked at replacing the fleet versus overhauling the current carts and replacing the batteries. In the end, we felt that while the current carts needed some maintenance, they are in very good shape. Our yearly wear on the carts is far less than a public course. We are overhauling the carts and replacing all the batteries this spring so they should run almost like new.

The carts are clearly an amenity that we need for our membership and for public outings. They are also a significant source of income for the Club. On the other hand, the cost of carts, maintenance, cart path repair/replacement and increased course costs like compaction from cart traffic are far more than we get in fees. Like many things at the Club, the carts are just part of the costs of running a first class country club.

The Board made the decision several years ago that a member who needed to ride a cart should not be penalized if no one else in the group is riding a cart. In other words, the fee for a cart was charged per golfer and not per cart. The Board still feels that this is fair and desirable. On the other hand, the cost of running carts (battery wear, mechanical wear, turf damage etc.) is actually per cart and not really related to the number riding each cart. To help control cart costs, the Board has asked Jim Kjellenberg to ensure that carts are filled as they are sent out on the course. For example, one or two golfers who ride get one cart and three or four golfers who ride get two carts. We don't want four carts going out in a foursome. Of course if you want your own cart, you are certainly welcome to pay the fee for an entire cart.

Shifting hats, I would like to go into my physician mode. We have lots of older members who walk our course every week and only take a cart in very hot weather or when a storm is threatening. Some of them are in their 80's and put the rest of us to shame by their stamina. Every week, I also see healthy members, in their 30's and 40's who regularly take a cart rather than walk. As much as we like the cart income for the club, it would be even better if our membership stayed healthy so they can remain members and active golfers for a long time. Golf is great exercise when you walk and lousy exercise when you don't. I think golf is more fun if you walk and you can even play on those days when carts aren't allowed on the course. With modern carry bags and speed carts, walking is easier than ever. You might just burn off the calories needed for that extra beer at the 19th hole!

Dr. Chris Born

A Few Thoughts About Spring Golf

By Jim Kjellenberg, PGA Professional

If this issue of the Niblick reaches you on or about February 1st, keep in mind that more than one-half of our off season is already behind us. That alone should be reason to celebrate! Also, it's easy to begin thinking about golf again as we tune in to the televised Tour events and watch the players (PGA, LPGA, Sr. PGA) make this game look so easy. As you watch a variety of top-level players go through a round of golf, take note of the following items;

- ◆ The speed of the arms and club matches the speed of the body turn as the player swings back and through. Any imbalance between these speeds and the ball usually flies off line. Trying to emphasize one area more than the other would be similar to attempting to run faster with one leg than the other at full speed. How would that idea work out?
- ◆ Notice how evenly balanced these players are at the finish of their swing. The majority of top-level players focus their attention on *completing the entire swing* rather than just hitting at the ball. Getting the club back to impact is only 2/3 of the golf swing. Remember to produce a swing as opposed to creating only a "hit".
- ◆ Don't top-level players swing through the ball as if the ball were exceptionally light? Meaning, the golf club merely passes through the impact zone on its way to the finish of the swing. This encompasses every swing, big or small, driver or chip shot. The club moves through the impact zone and on toward the target, even when we putt.

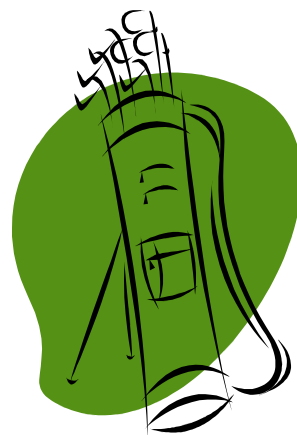
I mention these items because it's so easy to get engrossed in achieving certain key "positions" (or checkpoints) during the golf swing. Start the golf season by thinking of the big picture i.e. a complete turn back and through to the target. Finish in balance. This is the best way to make sure you're creating a complete swing every time.

A "Market" Update

(Note: "Market" in this case refers to equipment, apparel, and trends within the golf industry.)

Late January is the time of year when we head to the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando to catch an early glimpse at the latest in fashion and design. To no surprise, the economy has been a huge factor in the strategy and sheer existence of many companies within the sports industry. I'll have more to say on this when I return from Orlando, but for now let's explore the subject of grooves on the face of golf clubs and what has changed within the USGA Rules governing this area. The short answer to this subject is that we're in the midst of a long-range phasing out of what we call "square" grooves. However, any club manufactured through the calendar year 2010 will be legal for use for many years to come. The PGA TOUR and a few other select competitions have put the new groove regulation into effect already but for the majority of golfers there will be no need to worry about Rules violations.

What will begin to happen will likely be the introduction of a few new "modified v-groove" (a general term I'll use for now) clubs, particularly in the area of wedges. We should have a few demo wedges with the new groove configuration for use this spring. Golfers, depending upon their interest level, will gradually begin to transition to the new grooves over time. How big a difference a specific individual will see will depend upon the individual, but rest assured there will be a difference to some extent. On this subject, too, I'll have more information as we get closer to spring. For a more detailed explanation of this change, go to the USGA website for plenty of good reading on the subject.



Enhance Your Progress Through Playing Lessons By Jim Kjellenberg, PGA Professional

Over the past several seasons we've seen an increase in the amount of "playing lessons" that we're providing to our golfers here at the LCC. Playing lessons are instructional sessions that actually occur on the golf course, working on specific shots from certain locations or with specific golf clubs to improve a golfer's playing strategy. The reason we're seeing an increase in the frequency of requests for playing lessons is likely because golfers, quite often, have a hard time transferring their swing improvement from the practice tee to the golf course. What we see most of the time is that, yes, the golfer may be doing something fundamentally better during their practice time but yet they continue to misalign themselves while teeing off on a certain problematic hole and wind up with the same negative result that they had before. Once they realize that they may be repeating the same errors in alignment or set-up they can take corrective steps to make better use of their improved swing fundamentals. The moral of the story; the swing itself is only part of the equation while playing a round of golf. Alignment, ball position and club selection are among the many other factors that need to be monitored from time to time.

Also, remember that a playing lesson is about YOU. It's not critical (or even recommended) that your instructor actually play along while you're trying to conduct a lesson. More often than not the lesson winds up being all about how the instructor plays and/or a "why can't I hit the ball that way?" session. The intention of a playing lesson is to focus on you, the student, and finding ways to improve your on-course time and ultimately lower your score.

In the future, don't be surprised if your instructor recommends taking the time to go out onto the golf course to put your new and improved fundamentals to the test. All it takes is one or two good results from a normally very challenging spot on the course to convince your self that all your effort and energy are well worth it. Good luck!

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Dinner 5:30-8:00			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Dinner 5:30-8:00			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Dinner 5:30-8:00			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Dinner 5:30-8:00			
28						