

August 2016 Newsletter



Pro's Corner

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Greetings to Membership,

Men's Member Guest

The Men's Member Guest is nearing a full field. We have several spots in the morning available. Please don't hesitate if interested in signing up. Please complete application and pay all fees. Entry fee is \$240.00. Date for this event is September 10th and 11th. I will be ordering shirts soon. Anyone who has signed up by August 5th will have their shirt sizes guaranteed. Anyone who drops after shirts have been ordered will have their entry fee refunded minus shirt cost. For those who have filled out application and not paid fees, please do so as soon as possible.

Member Member

Member Member is scheduled for October 21st and 22nd. This is a limited field event. Mark your calendars. We will begin taking entries September 15.

Ladies' Golf Clinic

Ladies Golf Clinics will continue in August on Wednesdays. The scheduled time is 5:30 PM August 10th, August 17th and August 31st. Fee for the clinic is \$10 per student. Please contact the Golf Shop before 3 PM each Wednesday to sign up.

RHCC Club Championship

The Club Championship is set for August 27th & 28th. Entry fee of \$20.00 is due when signing up. You may sign up in the Golf Shop. You may also sign up over the telephone with a credit card. The tournament will be broken into men's flights, ladies' flights, senior men's flights, and super senior men's flights. If we have enough participation, we will have both senior and super seniors divisions. Super seniors begin at age 65.

Ladies' Member Guest

The Day League Member Guest is Tuesday, August 9th. The tournament will begin at 9 am. Registration will begin at 8:15 am the day of tournament.

The Night League Member Guest is scheduled for August 13th. Applications are available in the golf shop.

All the best in golf, Kevin Rhinehart

AUGUST GOLF SCHEDULE

August 2,9,16,23,30	Tuesday	Ladies' Day	9 AM & 5:30 PM
August 9	Tuesday	Ladies' Day Member Guest	9 AM
August 13	Saturday	Ladies' Night Member Guest	9 AM
August 4, 11, 18	Thursday	Men's Scramble	5:30 PM
August 5,12,19	Friday	Couples Golf	5:30 PM
August 10, 17, 31	Wednesday	Ladies' Clinic	5:30 PM
August 27 & 28	Saturday & Sunday	Club Championship	

News from the Course

-As many have seen or have heard, the summer of 2016 has been one of the worse for raising bentgrass greens in our area. Several area courses are struggling to keep putting surfaces alive and open for play. Unfortunately we are one of the courses struggling mightily to keep our greens in decent enough shape to play on them right now.

-First of all, let's look at the background of bentgrass putting greens being grown in the Transition Zone which for agronomic purposes encompasses the areas of the Midwest, the northern half of the Southeast, and some of the coastal Carolinas. These areas are considered to be too warm year round to grow great bentgrass greens at low heights and also too cold to grow good bermudagrass greens as well. So we relevantly are stuck in the middle where one year you could have great greens of either species of grass or the next year struggle to keep them alive. This is just a fact of our geography and weather. This being said, it is my opinion that the best putting surface is covered with bentgrass because it is the smoothest, purest putting grass that there is. Many will agree while many others may disagree; this is my opinion alone.

-We have considered converting our greens to the newer ultradwarf Bermuda grasses such as Champion, which is the variety that Paxton Park picked or MiniVerde that is now covering the surfaces at Calvert City CC and Benton CC. Many factors go into the decision to make the switch to these warm-season grasses. The first of all is playability. Can your greens play consistent if they are converted? Are the undulations and slopes on your greens too severe for fall and winter play when the grasses go dormant? Ours definitely are. We would have to rebuild many of our greens because the golf ball would not stay on the green during dormant play. This leads into the second question of how much fall and winter play does your facility receive? As most know, we have golfers on a consistent basis if the temperature is about 45° most of the time. Again not a good fit for bermudagrass greens.

-So after considering bermudagrass and deciding that it is not a good fit for our club, our option is to stay with bentgrass greens. Once again, bentgrass is a cool-season grass that thrives with high temperatures in the mid-60s and actually starts to decline when temperatures reach 80+ degrees.

-As we all know, we have high temperatures in the 80s in March sometimes and definitely in April and May most years. During the past few years we are in the 90s in June, July, August, and September, sometimes reaching the 100s frequently in July and August. Couple the high temperatures with above normal rainfall and high humidity, and this creates a waterlogged root zone in our greens that bentgrass roots cannot survive in. The higher the water content in the soil, the hotter the soil gets during high heat. The grass and roots get scalded, and there is little to no oxygen left in the soil for the roots to utilize to live.

-High temperatures and humidity also create breeding grounds for turfgrass diseases. We follow a strict preventative fungicide and insecticide spray program. We shorten the intervals between applications when under severe disease pressure and send soil and turfgrass samples to highly accredited turfgrass pathology labs at several universities in the country. Every sample this season has come back to us with a clean review for any pathogens either in the roots or on the foliage of the plants. Sometimes it would be nice if a result may come back with something to pinpoint our efforts on rather than simply heat, rain, and humidity.

-Soil test results have shown a high percentage of soluble sodium in our putting surface soil structure. Our irrigation water is also above average in sodium percentages which is where some of the high percentages in the soil come from. Salts in turfgrass root zones are not good. The plants will begin to take in the sodium instead of the nutrients in the soil and also tend to decrease the ability of the plant to withstand other stresses. So in effect we are putting water on the greens to keep them cooled in the hot weather that is adding sodium at the same time. We are working hard to eliminate the pressure of high sodium levels by flushing greens regularly when it hasn't rained and adding gypsum and calcium to the soils to push the sodium out. This is a process that we have been working on since the soil tests this spring showed the problem, and it will take time to get the levels back to an acceptable level.

-Along with our staff we have a golf course consultant on staff that was the superintendent at Valhalla Golf Club for close to 20 years and hosted multiple major championships and a Ryder Cup. Mark Wilson retired from Valhalla and went into consulting about 6 years ago. Mark visits once a month, and we review everything to do with the operations of the golf course but specifically greens management. Mark and I are also in contact over the phone on a daily basis. We have also had several area golf course superintendents either on site to have more eyes on our problems or sending pictures, lab and soil test reports, etc. hoping that this will increase our chances to survive this terrible summer.

-Please be assured that our staff is doing everything in our power to keep what grass we do have alive and get to a point where we can start a comprehensive recovery program on the greens. There is still quite a bit of grass that we hope will recover as the days get shorter and we get a break in the weather. We will also have to re-seed the bentgrass and begin a grow-in process of the new seedlings when we feel that we have a pattern of weather that will allow for quick germination of the seed and new seedlings to grow without having to apply too much water to the roots of the existing grass.

-The timing of seeding and any effects that it will have on play will be discussed among the golf course committee chairman and the board of directors soon, and the membership will be notified of any decisions as soon as possible.

-Thank you for your support and understanding during these tough times. I am solely responsible for the management of the golf course and further understand that many can have their doubts about my abilities when we lose grass and some others do not. I have learned over many years of golf course management that it is very hard to win this battle when you are up against Mother Nature and the results that you produce are a direct result of what she throws at you. My staff and I will keep working hard for you and will have the golf course back in good shape as soon as we can.

David Farris, Golf Course Superintendent

Board of Directors' Meeting

The August meeting of the RHCC Board of Directors will be Monday, August 8th, at 6:00 PM at the Rolling Hills Clubhouse. All members are invited to attend.



RHCC Ladies Day League Member Guest

The Day League Member Guest is **Tuesday, August 9**. Any member of the Ladies Golf Association, whether Day or Night League, is welcome to play. Sign-up forms are available in the ladies lounge.



RHCC Ladies Night League

The weather may be HOT, but the golf is FUN on Tuesday nights! The RHCC Night Ladies League roster continues to grow with 53 members this season. The Leagues welcomes all RHCC lady golfers to join us on Tuesday nights. There is plenty of golf left to play this season and lots of socializing; so if you have not joined the Night Ladies' golf league, please do so—it's only \$25. The format for play on Tuesday night is a scramble format. You may pick-your-own team, or we will pair you with others to play. Please call the Pro Shop (270-554-3025) by 4:30 on Tuesdays if you wish to play. Dinner follows play on most Tuesday nights.

Night Ladies Member/Guest Golf Tournament:

Save the Date—August 13!

The Night Ladies League will be hosting their annual Member/Guest golf tournament on Saturday, August 13. Format for the tournament is a two-lady scramble. Registration forms for the tournament are in the Ladies Lounge in the Club House, and you may leave your completed entry form/payment in the Night Ladies M/G envelop on the bulletin board in the Pro Shop. The Registration Fee for this years' tournament is \$75 for LGA Members and \$85 for non-LGA members which includes breakfast, lunch, dinner/dance, and a gift for each tournament participant. This year's theme is a "Sadie Hawkins" theme, so ladies be sure to ask your favorite beau to Saturday night's dance. A.J. Martin from the Electric Morning Show is our DJ for the evening so we are going to have a great time!

Night Ladies League Hosts "Sadie Hawkins" Dance

Saturday, August 13

All Members Welcome!!

Club members are invited to join the Night Ladies League members and their guests in the RHCC ballroom on Saturday, August 13 for a "Sadie Hawkins" dance! The dance begins at 8:00 p.m. A.J. Martin—Rolling Hills favorite DJ—is our DJ for the evening. Dress for the dance is casual, so ladies put on your "Daisy Dukes" and ask your favorite beau to the dance on Saturday night, August 13!



"FOLDS OF HONOR" GOLF BAG

Purchase a ticket for a chance to win this "FOLDS OF HONOR" Golf Bag. Tickets are available in the Golf Shop and are \$20 for one or \$50 for three. Drawing will be held at the Labor Day Scramble, September 5th. All proceeds go to the Folds of Honor Foundation, awarding scholarships for the children and spouses of America's military men and women killed or disabled while serving our country.



PICKLEBALL

Monday nights in August - 6:30 PM

RHCC Tennis Courts

Pickleball is here at RHCC, and we couldn't be more excited. Haven't tried it yet?? NOW is the time. Every Monday night at 6:30 -- Men and Ladies are invited!! Paddles and balls will be provided and also available for purchase. Please wear tennis shoes. PICKLEBALL-- try it once and you'll love it forever!!

Men's Night - Thursdays

Men's Night Golf League continues on Thursday nights at RHCC. Sign up for Men's Scramble each Thursday night by 4:30 PM. To compete in the season-end Finale, you must play in at least 8 Thursday night scrambles. Contact the Golf Shop for more information.



We are excited to welcome these new members to Rolling Hills Country Club.

Eric Parsley
Keith & Marilyn Chapman



Swimming Pool News

School will be back in session beginning this week, August 5th. We will have lifeguards on duty at the pool each school day starting at 3:30 PM until closing. Lifeguards will also be on duty on the weekends. RHCC members may swim at their own risk during regular pool hours when lifeguards are not on duty, but an adult must be present.