

THE LAKES GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



December 2023

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



From The Lakes Golf Club

New Pro Shop Winter Hours:

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Tee times now begin at 8:00 am in the Winter to give our maintenance crew time to prepare the course for play. Thank you for your understanding.

Members, Patrons, and Friends,

Merry Christmas Everyone! Four calling birdies in one day would be a welcome change, at least for most of us. We've had a pretty chilly winter so far, but the die-hards seem to keep plowing through. And the occasional nice day brings out the crowds. So, I guess we're doing ok. The good news is that, for the next six months, every day will get longer... so more time to golf!

We continue to move forward with projects, as we can, during the winter. We got the new Flagpole up!! (On hole #6.) And this one has a light! The irrigation improvement project seems to race forward, then stumble, then race forward again. We are just down to a few pesky leaks and loose fittings on the front nine. I think we will all feel better when we get to the back.

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As our employees and staff focus on keeping the fire pit going, from handing out Gatorade, they continue to work to keep the course running along, even on those “hibernation days”. As the guys out on the course spend time cleaning up and preparing for spring, instead of cutting grass, it is important to know that nothing is growing back from any damage done to the course, so please fill those divot holes (to keep things level and smooth) and stay on the cart paths at the tees and greens.

The new clubhouse construction is finally building up steam. Our Contractor, Kendall, is a bulldog. He has been pushing through some of the stubborn paperwork with the veracity of a Honey Badger. My efforts (for 2 years) seem juvenile in comparison. We are down to one permit remaining, reportedly being reviewed by the county and expected to take less than a week to stamp. Then we can start to put things in the holes we dug.

I ask that you all continue to be an active participant in the improvement and maintenance of our community course. LET’S PLAY GOLF!

Respectfully,

Roger Dutton, Managing Partner

Golf Handicap & Information Network (GHIN) Updates

GHIN Fees

In 2024, the annual GHIN fee will be increasing from \$25 to \$30 per registered golfer. If you maintain a handicap with The Lakes as your home course, in order to keep your handicap active with the USGA and CGA, **your GHIN fee must be paid to the Lakes Golf Club by February 15, 2024.** If your fee is not paid by then, you will be placed on inactive status until it is paid. You will be billed in January if not already paid. Thank you for your understanding.

Changes to the World Handicap System

The USGA has announced changes to how scores will be counted towards your handicap starting in 2024. Two of the main changes are:

- 9 hole scores will no longer wait to be combined with another 9 hole round, they will count toward your handicap immediately once they are posted.
- Rounds of 10 to 17 holes can be posted, and an expected Score Differential will be applied to the unfinished holes to give an 18 hole score that will count toward your handicap. Scores must be posted hole-by-hole in this case.

For more information, visit the USGA’s web page:

[Revisions Coming to World Handicap System in 2024](#)



Turf Talk

We are now in the Winter season. The turfgrass has gone dormant. We will now deal with Frost delays for the next several weeks.

Just some information about how I deal with Frosts. I am less concerned with doing damage to the turf at this time of year. Any black footprints will turn dormant and grow back out in the Spring. I will be enforcing delays more strictly as we get closer to Turf Greenup in the Spring. This is because any damage done at that time will delay Greenup.

I do ask that at this time all golfers strictly adhere to course rulings. Due to the Turf being dormant any recovery will not take place until the Spring. Any damage done will be visible until that time.

Best of luck with your golf games in 2024. Always remember "Fairways and Greens".

-Jason Young,
Golf Course Superintendent

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

Putting Practice

As we all should know, the short game is what can make or break a round of golf. We know putting practice is boring, but it will pay dividends in the long run.

The first style of practice is setting four balls around a hole, each three feet from the hole. After sinking all four balls, move them back another foot and repeat the process. The catch is, if you miss a putt, you need to start back from the beginning. The point of this practice drill is that even though most golfers take advantage of "gimmies," these short putts help with visual alignment and having a smooth and controlled putting stroke.

A second putting practice drill to help your stroke is using a gate. Create a gate by sticking two tees in the ground a little farther apart than the width of your putter head, with your putter head in line with the cup (preferably a straight putt). Stroke the putts through the gate without hitting the tees.



From myavidgolfer.com

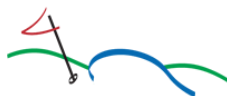
Upcoming Events:

Friday Night Captain's Choice

Every Friday at 2:30pm, must sign up in advance with the Pro Shop

Super Bowl Tournament

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 9:00am, must sign up in advance with the Pro Shop



Email webmaster@thelakesgolf.com with comments, questions, or submissions for the next newsletter.

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