

# THE LAKES GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2024



Significant progress has been made in the last month on the structures of the new clubhouse and cart barns.

Members, Patrons, and Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful Easter holiday, complete with bunnies, BIRDIES, and eggs. As we all look forward to the wonderful Carolina spring weather, there is much action on the course. The fairways should start to show signs of life any day now, and I can't wait to see the effect of the irrigation improvements we have made.

We continue to move forward with projects. We seem to have gotten the irrigation system under control. Although we do have plans to expand and improve the system as time goes on, we at least have water in areas that have been dry for all of recent memory. My plans this year include quite a bit of sod import, to repair some of those incredibly stubborn bare areas and tee boxes. Number #3 fairway and tee, #13 fairway, #6 Tee, #10 tee, and a few other scattered spots will hopefully be rectified by our efforts. Please be aware that there will be some roped-off areas when the sod goes down.

Our amazing employees are pushed to the limit, trying to accommodate the increased play, the start of the growing season, the preparation for transition to the new clubhouse, and the normal associated chaos of a growing club. If anyone wants to, or knows someone who wants to join our team, please come in! As always, I encourage everyone to try and be part of our neighborhood club by actively caring and promoting others to respect the course, by staying outside of the blue lines around the greens, staying on the

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cart paths on the par 3's, (and when dictated by water), and general good golf etiquette. And please stay on the cart paths at the tees and greens. My intent is to do my part to improve our course, and I will do my best to entice everyone to participate in that vision.

The new clubhouse is taking shape nicely, and the construction crews are 'full steam ahead' on getting us set up in our new establishment. With any luck, we will be sipping beverages in our new establishment by the fall. People have been asking two major questions... Will you have food? and... Will you be serving liquor? Well, we will be serving hot dogs, and likely prepared sandwiches to start; sorry, no grill yet. And we are planning on seeking a 'Brown Bag' permit, to allow members to rent a locker, in which to store their personal beverage. The ability to operate a full-service grill and full bar are simply out of our reach right now, but we will make what accommodations we can, and leave those options on the table for down the road.

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

## LOCAL RULE UPDATE

On Hole 8, if your ball comes to rest in the ditch on the right side of the hole (just right of the cart path), you are allowed to take a free drop (within one club length of the nearest point of relief, no nearer to the hole). **This will apply whether or not there is water in the ditch.**

## GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

Know the rules of golf, and use them to your advantage if you can!

There are many situations where you are usually entitled to a free drop. These include:

- If your ball or your stance are obstructed by a man-made object, such as a cart path or sprinkler head.
- If your ball or your stance are in casual water.
- If your ball becomes embedded in its own pitch mark in the fairway.
- If your ball lands in certain abnormal ground conditions, such as a hole made by a burrowing animal.

[The USGA's Rules Hub](#) contains a link to the official USGA rules of golf as well as clarifications and other resources



## Turf Talk

As the course colors change from tan to yellow (pollen) to green the next color you should see is red. Yes, it's time to start rolling out the mowers. We will also be doing some spraying getting the turf ready for the growing season.

We will be spraying tees, fairways, and greens surrounds with pre-emerge herbicide and fertilizer. The greens will be treated with fertilizer and fungicides throughout the growing season. Some questions have been asked about the poa annua on the greens, I have tried to control with herbicides this winter unsuccessfully. As the temperatures rise, the weed on the greens will burn out and give way to the desirable putting surfaces. Hopefully next winter's application will clean up this noxious weed.

There will be some upcoming tee renovations on Holes 3 and 6 soon. While these renovations recover, we will use some temporary teeing grounds. Also, as the turf comes out of dormancy and actively grows, we will be moving the tees back to the original teeing grounds.

Looking forward to warmer weather and keeping the mowers rolling around the course for the growing season. Good luck with playing well and lower scores. As always keep in mind "Fairways and Greens."

-Jason Young,  
Golf Course Superintendent

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Friday Night Captain's Choice**

Every Friday at 5:00pm

Must sign up in advance with the Pro Shop - space is limited!

#### **Match Play Tournament**

Starts April 13 and continues through May.

Men's Golf Association members only, sign up in the Pro Shop.



Email [webmaster@thelakesgolf.com](mailto:webmaster@thelakesgolf.com) with comments, questions, or submissions for the next newsletter.

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