

Newsletter for 2009

Last year at this time we were telling you about the BIG DIG that was going on here and that we were doing that in order to get more irrigation water for the golf course as we had just experienced the driest summer (2007) on record. Well, that sure did a big turnaround last year. 2008 was probably the wettest summer on record. For those who get our emails we noted that last summer we had 54 rain days which equates into just over 25% of our season. Guess we didn't need the big dig after all. It's a good bet that we will one day. We had good intentions of molding the banks of this pond last summer, but it never dried out enough to work on it. It is not our intention to leave it looking like it did last summer.

The club storage was quite a challenge to get organized last year with so many people having 3 wheel carts. But we did manage to accommodate most who had requested it. For those who we did not get in, your name is still on the list and hopefully we will be able to get your cart in this year. With the number of people who are giving up their electronic caddies and opting for the 3 wheel carts, the building housing the electronic caddies is opening up so there may be an option there in the future for storage. There has been some rumblings from people about why club storage is not open the same months as the golf course is. We have determined that the majority of people do not start storing their clubs until about the first of May, when the leagues start and then in the fall most clubs have been taken home by Thanksgiving. Yes, the season is getting longer and in the future we may address this issue closer. The amount we charge is based on the number of weeks it is open and how much we have to pay the club storage attendants. Most years we break even on this.

Al Dettman has been a member here for a very long time and during that time he has been involved with the Tuesday Night Mens League. This league was first started by the GE and since Al worked there he got involved. Last summer he decided to retire from running this league. We want to send out a Big Thank You to Al for all he has done for this league and the golf course over the past 30 or so years. Well done Al!!

Those who play here Sunday mornings certainly know Jacques Bourque, who has been our Sunday starter for several years. Due to personal reasons Jacques has decided to step down. We will miss him and therefore are looking for someone to replace him. This person will be required to work Sundays between 7AM and some days as late as 3PM depending on the traffic. Also we would like this person to do the starting on Friday afternoons from 1 until about 4. Two different people could do this or share the job. If anyone is interested in this please let us know. We are also looking for more rangers. To those who have offered to work in the past could you please let us know again. You can email us at pinecrest@nexicom.net or leave a message on the machine from now until April 1. Note that all rangers must be Smart Serve Certified. This can be done through their web site at www.smartserve.org. On the subject of rangers we would be remiss if we did not mention the tragedy at the Muskoka area golf club last summer where the group of young men were served too much alcohol and then allowed to drive, resulting in their deaths. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission has charged several people in this and we want to again bring your attention to the problem of drinking and driving. Depending on the outcome of this event there may be some

profound changes made to the liquor laws. We will be monitoring this very closely.

Last fall a young man approached us about updating some of the pictures on our web site. We took him up on this offer and he did a very good job. We have 20 new pictures on the site now as well as 5 panorama shots. Check them out and tell your friends too.

One of the longest running tournaments at Pine Crest is the annual Two Ball tournament held in August. For various reasons we had to cancel this event last year. We have decided to revamp it this year and make it a more relaxed informal event. The price will be lowered and format completely changed. When all the details have been finalized we will post the information on our web site. We will also post the information for the Wes Dixon tournament and the really popular Pine Crest Senior tournament on our site.

Some dates to remember

Mens Opening Day May 2
Ladies Opening Day May 9
Junior Opening Day May 24
Wes Dixon June 20 and 21
Mens Club Champ #1 June 27
Mens Club Champ #2 June 28
*Senior Club Champ #1 June 27
Senior Club Champ #2 June 28
Ladies Club Champ #1 June 27
Ladies Club Champ #2 June 28
Junior Club Champ #1 July 12
Mens Club Champ #3 July 18
Men Club Champ #4 July 19
Ladies Club Champ #3 July 18
Ladies Club Champ #4 July 19
Senior Club Champ #3 July 18
Senior Club Champ #4 July 19
Junior Club Champ #2 July 29
Mixed Two Ball Aug 8
Pine Crest Senior Invit Aug 13
Junior Closing Aug 22
Ladies Closing Sept 20
Mens Closing Oct 3

* Senior Mens Club Champ is being expanded to 4 rounds. Now when you sign up you will have to designate whether you are in the

Senior section OR the Mens Regular section.

We are also adding a 5th Pot of Gold in September. You will note that the Mens Closing Day above has been moved for this reason.

Rick Giardino is starting a "Hole in One" insurance club. What this means is that those who want to partake will put \$2 into an envelope and leave it in the Pro Shop. Any member (who has paid the \$2) who gets a hole in one during the summer will get half of this pot to buy drinks and celebrate and the other half will go towards merchandise in the Pro Shop. After each hole in one the whole process will start again. So, if we have \$200 in the pot and someone gets a hole in one they will get \$100 to celebrate in the bar and \$100 towards pro shop merchandise. We generally have about 6 or so members in any given year getting holes in one so this could be a great thing for those who do get the elusive ACE!!

Cart Paths....These were put in several years ago to allow cars to be on the course on wet days. Some people are not getting the drift here on this. When the course gets as wet as it was last year cart paths MUST be used exclusively. Mostly it was non members not complying with this but we thought we would refresh your minds on this too. When it is "cart paths only" it means that you DO NOT drive around a big puddle on the path...your drive THROUGH it slowly. When your drive on the grass it forces up mud and dirt on to the grass and makes a big mess when it dries. Driving on the path (gravel based) does not allow this to happen, therefore debris is not being forced up to the surface. We know it is instinctual to drive around a large puddle...common sense tell us that, as well as not really knowing just how deep the puddle is, but when on the golf course driving on the car paths is the only way to go. We hope you understand this and pass this information along to anyone you see not following the posted designation for the day.

Beverage Car....In order for the car to get around the golf course and see everyone

and keep them hydrated it must keep moving. Therefore the beverage car will have the right of way. The beverage car attendants have been instructed to disrupt your game as little as possible. Generally it is gone and away from your group within seconds.

Last summer our Junior captain started a Junior League on Tuesday mornings. It was well received and had good attendance. It ran from the first Tuesday in July until the last Tuesday before Labour Day. The kids really enjoyed it and we will be again offering this Junior League to all junior members. We also started a new thing for the Junior Opening day...all junior members that sign up for the Opening Day tournament can bring one friend who is not a member for free, to play with them in the tournament. The friend would still have to pay the entrance fee for the tournament which is about \$10.00. Green fees are waived for the non member in this.

Again, any member wishing to have charging privileges on their accounts must submit a "Credit Card Authorization" form before the account can be opened. This form allows Pine Crest to automatically pay the members accounts on the 15th of the following month. A lot of people took advantage of this option the last couple of years.

In the fall we started to level a few tees. # 1, #9 and #17 were on the books and only #17 got done before the weather went bad. #1 and #9 will be finished in the spring. There is also a new pond beside the 14th Green on the right side. You may remember that this area was always on the wet side, well now it's really wet!! Lets hope the weather Gods will be in our favour this summer and hold off on some of the precipitation we got last year. From January 08 until December 08 we (at the golf course) received 849mm of rain (34") and 290cm of snow (9.6'). Far too much!!

Last year we changed the dates we would be open for you to come and pay your membership...we decided to eliminate the 5 day membership marathon in favour of having the shop open starting on a specific date and

remaining open until the course itself opened. This eliminated any congestion experienced in previous years and worked out very well, except for the fact that the course was late in opening. We will be doing that again this year. The shop will be opening on Wednesday, April 1 and the hours will be 1PM-6PM everyday.

Now a word from John Kindred, Our Pro.....

I hope this annual letter finds all of you well. After this long cold winter I am sure you are all anxious to get back out swinging in some warm weather.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members for your continuing support of myself and the club and a big welcome to our new members.

The Golf Clinics have been very successful in the past years and I will again offer them this year. The clinics are for the first 12 people to sign up in the Pro Shop. Mondays at 5PM is for the Business Girls who would like a short tune up prior to their Monday night league. Monday and Thursday night will be for Men and Women and they will start at 6PM. Cost for this clinic is \$15 per night per person. Junior Clinics are Saturday morning at 9 and only cost \$5.00. I will also continue a Saturday morning clinic for Members and Guests at 10:30, again the cost is only \$15. All clinics include Range Balls. Private lessons are also available, these can be booked with the Pro Shop staff anytime.

I will continue to offer club fitting so come and check with me before you make that club purchase. I look forward to seeing you all again in the spring, so until then, stay warm!!

John Kindred