

TEE TIMES C/O RANDY JARET & HUBIE BIANCO
STAMFORD GOLF CLUB
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JULY TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

Ramblings

Well, what do you know, summer is finally here. I even had a sighting of Yolanda, which is proof positive.

As you all know we had a lot of damage from skunks and crows tearing up our grass for grubs. More is written about this in "Turf Talk", so I won't detail it more here. Bottom line is that we are working very hard to get the club back to its original condition. Please be patient and understanding. Also please avoid driving carts and playing a ball in the newly re-seeded areas.

As a reminder, the Invitational is coming up August 14, 15, and 16th. There will be a gold tee flight for those over 65 with an established handicap.

There will be an Open Forum meeting at the clubhouse Wednesday July 22nd at 7:00 to go over any thoughts or concerns anyone might have. This board has consistently made our monthly meetings open to anyone who may have a question, we have put in a suggestion box, and encouraged everyone to ask a board member about any concerns they might have. The Open Forum is an extension of that. There are still those that prefer to talk among themselves, who are as equally misinformed. We invite you as well.

The course has been re-handicapped, thanks Jim, in preparation for new scorecards. These new cards will reflect the new gold tee boxes. The ladies have been asked to decide where they want to tee off on holes 3, 4, and 17 so they can be included on the new score card as well.

Elijah is talking to some of our seniors to put together a gold tee league in the morning. If you are interested, mention it to him.

See you out there,

Tom

TURF TALK

By now you have all noticed that some of the fairways on the course have suffered a lot of damage. There are several contributing factors leading up to this damage. Most of the damage was caused last fall when skunks dug up the turf in search of grubs. The largest areas of concern are on the last four holes of the back nine and numbers, 1, 8 and 13. While traps have been put up around the course this Spring to capture the skunks, none have been caught. Last year 13 skunks were caught, mostly in the area of the 1st and 15th fairways. As of the beginning of June there has been no new skunk activity observed.

The grub problem is not something that happened overnight, but rather over a period of time. The grounds crew has been following the same standard chemical program on the course that has been used for many years. In addition, other chemical treatments have been put down as recommended by the chemical distributor. At some point 5 or more years ago the club made a decision to stop using chemicals for grub control because there was no evidence on the course of a grub problem. In the early Spring of 2014 turf damage from skunks in search of grubs was first noticed on the 1st fairway and near the 13th green. At that time the grounds crew treated the infected areas. In the late Fall of 2014 the skunk/grub damage spread throughout the course. In hindsight, if we had better information we might have been able to address the grub issue earlier.

The big questions facing the club in 2015 season is, "What can be done about the grub problem and how do we repair the course?"

1. In May, the course was treated with a powerful chemical that should kill already active grubs. Another treatment later in the season will help to eliminate the larva stage and any new grubs. The situation will be closely monitored and additional measures will be taken as necessary. It must be kept in mind that it was a long cycle leading up to the damage and it will be a long cycle to get the grub problem under control.

2. While some of the damaged areas have begun to heal naturally, there is still widespread damage that needs to be repaired. The top priority for the club is to repair the fairways and get new grass growing as soon as possible. The course management budget has been greatly increased to speed along the process. By the end of the first week of June equipment and machinery will be brought in and the largest areas of concern will have been thatched, turned over, seeded and a layer of straw mulch applied. The club has purchased a special grass seed mix that is designed to give quick results and with the help of Mother Nature

in the form of rain, grass should start growing within a few days. These areas will be roped off and marked as ground under repair. Please keep golf carts away from the newly seeded areas and practice the "ground under repair" rules. Also because of the extensive damage on the 17th fairway, the ladies red tees will be temporarily moved to the white/gold tee box.

Another area of concern on the fairways is the increase in dandelion growth. Because repairing and seeding the fairways is the top priority at this time, all resources have been geared to that effort. The dandelion control issue will be addressed at a later time.

Due to budgetary constraints the grounds crew was down to two full timers since the beginning of the season. As of late May one part-timer has been added. Because the condition of the greens is also a major priority, the crew has spent a lot of time getting them into shape. The greens seem to have survived the freezing winter conditions well and are in pretty good shape except for some mold caused by the snow and ice.

The watering system for the golf course is an intricate system of pipes and valves that has been in place since the course was built. Over time the system has needed to be repaired for leaks and breaks and this has been done in a piece meal way. In other words, leaks and breaks have been fixed in an as needed basis looking at the small picture and not the big picture. Although the system was drained and blown out last Fall, the system has experienced breaks and leaks mainly due to age and extreme freezing conditions this past winter. Also, the suction part of the water pump for the system was not working properly and needed to be repaired. The pump is working at the present time, but is something that might need to be replaced. The grounds crew has had to spend a lot of time doing the repairs to get the system running so that the greens and tee boxes can be watered. Watering will now be done twice a week for 15 to 20 minutes each time. The fairways will have to depend on Mother Nature to water them.

The new tee boxes on number 3 and 4 have been mowed and are now open for use. The grounds crew has received several requests for widening some of the fairways and the Board of Directors has approved some of the requests. The crew has widened number 2, 5, 10 and 17 to date.

All members and golfers can help restore the course by keeping golf carts out of wet areas and areas of

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TURF TALK CONT.

ground under repair. Simple things like replacing divots, repairing ball marks and picking up broken tees should be practiced by everyone who cares about golf and our course. Leave the course the same way you would like to find it the next time you play.

In closing, while members concerns and frustrations about the condition of the course and mistakes that have been made are understandable, we ask for your patience and support during the course restoration process.



QUEEN OF THE CATSKILLS WOMENS' GOLF TOURNAMENT

This 11th year Queen of the Catskills Women's Golf Tournament will be held at Stamford, Saturday, July 25th. Traditionally a sold out tournament, women golfers are encouraged to submit their applications asap. The field is limited to 72 participants with a 2 woman scramble format. The \$70pp entry includes: practice round, greens fees/cart, continental breakfast, snacks, lunch, and prizes. 8am registration. 9am shotgun start.

Hole in One Prizes on every Par 3 including a \$10,000 award for an ace on #8!!!

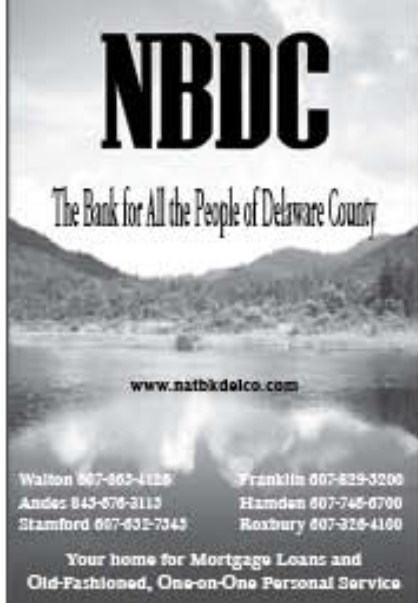
Thanks to the many sponsors who contribute to the success of this tournament which raises funds for the SWGA(Stamford Women's Golf Association). Monies are allocated to the beautification of our course and clubhouse. For more information regarding this well respected event as well as sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lucy Jessen (607)652-2972 lucienne_8@hotmail.com . Entry form is available online as well as in the pro shop.



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