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## The Tee Times

### May 2013 Issue

Gary Schilling: Online Editor

### Ramblings From The President

The 2013 season is upon us, though it doesn't look like spring yet. It was 6 (count them, six) degrees this morning and we are expecting 8 inches of snow tonight. Just thought I'd share the weather report with those of us who spend the winter months a bit closer to the equator.

Despite Mother Nature, Kenny and Larry Frazee have been working on the equipment, prepping it for the season. The course itself made it through the season without injury. We could use a few volunteers for various start up tasks. Please give me a call if you can help: 652-9123. Thanks.

Kees and Yo helped monitor the e-mails again this winter. As always, they are a great help to the club...A special thanks goes out to them.

The final touches are being completed on the deck rebuild project. It is turning out great and within budget. For all of you who helped contribute by participating in the fund raiser tournament...I owe you a beverage (on the new deck).

Well, I have to put another log on the fire, but hope to see you out there soon.

Tom Bartodziej

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### Turf Talk

By the time you read this, play will have already started. One of the first things you have noticed is that some trees around the 6th green have been removed, opening the green to the sunlight. Hopefully the area will not be as wet this year.

Kenny Cole and his crew did a lot of clean-up work around the course after hurricane Sandy. Debris was removed and a number of dead trees were cut down. All this work, along with minimal winter damage has kept the golf course in pretty good shape for the start of the 2013 season.

Although Kenny checked the course periodically during the winter, he didn't officially start work until March 25th, when water lines were charged and the club house was opened up.

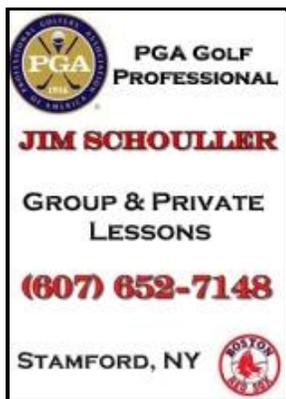
One of the things the grounds crew will be doing during the Spring is to replace some of

the watering heads around the course and checking for damaged water lines.

Once the course is up and running Kenny and the Board will make an assessment of the needs of the club and decide what improvements can be made.

Til' Next Time...

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## 2013 Stamford Golf Club Events Calendar -- [Click Here](#)

### Ladies Inter-County League

The Spring meeting for the Ladies Inter-County League is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 at the Cobleskill Golf and Country Club, at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served.

Stamford will be hosting the 2013 Inter-County Championship on August 7th.

The 2013 Inter-County schedule is as follows:

- June 20 - Nick Stoner
- July 11 - Canajoharie
- July 25 - Cobleskill
- Aug 7 - Stamford (Championship)

### Free Play Cards

The Golf Club is continually trying to find ways to attract more outside play. This year the Board of Directors will be issuing a free play card for two green fees with cart to each club membership. It is hoped that each member will give out the free play card to someone who hasn't played at Stamford Golf Course before, in the hopes that they will come back and play again or maybe even consider joining the club.

### Men's Tuesday Night League

The Men's Tuesday Night League got under way on May 7th and to the surprise of everyone, it didn't rain. It seems like for the last few years Tuesday night meant we would be playing in showers or threatening thunderstorms.

This year there are 19 teams signed up. The first league night competition was designated as handicap night and "get out the rust" for many. Before play started, there was a meeting held at the practice putting green where the rules for league were reviewed. Some reactions to the rules were, "Rules? We don't need no stinkin' rules" and "Rules? We never played by any rules before."

Good luck to all the teams and have a good time.

## Appreciation Weeks

The Stamford Golf Club is proud to announce we will be offering appreciation weeks that will be running throughout the season. Enclosed below is the schedule for the appreciation weeks, as well as for upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you all!

### Appreciation weeks:

June 10th - June 23rd: Veterans and active military  
 June 24th - July 7th: Teachers, and faculty, including staff & administration  
 July 8th - July 21: Law enforcement/Corrections  
 July 22 - August 4th: Health and Social Services  
 August 5th - August 18th: Firefighters/Emergency responders  
 August 19th - September 1st: Civil service

### Upcoming events:

June 8th and 9th: The Stamford Golf Club Men's Open  
 June 15th: The Headwaters Tournament  
 June 16th: Fathers day 2-person modified best ball event  
 June 24th - June 28th: Stamford Jr. Golf Clinic  
 June 30th: Stamford Golf Fun Raiser 4-person scramble

For any additional info and details, please contact us at 607-652-7398, e-mail us at [stamfordgolf@verizon.net](mailto:stamfordgolf@verizon.net). We look forward to a wonderful summer, and welcome all to join us!

## The Pro Shop

Greetings from the Pro Shop Manager, Elijah Treski! I would like to start with giving everyone a heartfelt and sincere thank you for welcoming me into your community with open arms. Everyone has been kind, thoughtful and helpful in helping me get acclimated to my new environment quickly and comfortably. A very special thank you to the Board of Directors for taking the time to interview me and ultimately deciding to bring me into the fold.

We have some new and exciting changes in the Pro Shop this year, starting with a few member perks. I will be offering no labor or service charge on re-gripping clubs and re-spiking cleats. Simply pay for the grips and spikes and I will take care of your needs quickly and efficiently. Members are entitled to a 20% off discount on all items in the shop that are not already on sale (loose balls and tees not included).

The Pro Shop will accept clubs from members to be sold on consignment. Once the club is sold, the shop will retain 10% of the sale.

One of my focuses is to encourage our members and community to make their new equipment purchases at our Pro Shop. My goal is to compete and even beat the "Big Box" stores prices. In many cases I can include shipping and handling and still stay complete. I actively work with numerous major product manufacturers like Titleist, TaylorMade, Cleveland/Srixon, Callaway, Nike, FootJoy, Bridgestone and Cobra golf. New this year will be demo clubs and wedges available to use on the driving range. I am presently working on a package to offer demo clubs to be used for a round of golf as well. We presently have 3 Cleveland drivers and 2 wedges to choose from and will be looking to expand to other companies. More details will follow. Check in at the Pro Shop regularly.

We can special order any items for our members and guests and from any companies that we currently work with. If you don't see the new TaylorMade R1 or Nike Covert Tour driver in the shop and really want one, contact me and I will proactively work on getting you the best price possible.

This year I will be conducting numerous fund raising raffles in the Pro Shop to help raise funds for the clubhouse and course improvements, as well as special raffles during events and tournaments to spice things up. I encourage all our members to check in with us at the Pro Shop regularly to see what new and exciting offerings we have.

There will be many more special offerings and members- only exclusive promotions, so

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**Jim & Jean Kopp**

check in with us. Once again, thank you everyone for making me feel right at home here at the Stamford Golf Club. I am thrilled, motivated, excited and humbled to have such a wonderful opportunity to make a positive impact with the community I was raised in.

Thank You All,  
Elijah

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## Golf Humor

A business executive looked at the young man and said, "I want a caddy who can count and keep score. What's 3+4+5?" The young man thought a minute and replied, "11."

The business exec said, "Good. You'll do perfectly."

John's drive landed smack in the middle of a large ant hill. Rather than move it he played it where it lay. He took a mighty swing and dirt, sand and ants exploded from the spot, but the ball didn't move. John took another swing with the same results – exploding dirt, sand and ants, but the ball didn't move.

Only two ants survived the attack and one said to the other, "Whoa, what are we going to do?" The other ant looked at him and said, "I don't know about you, but I'm getting on the ball."

An old man came up to the two golfers and asked if he could caddy for them. When the men said, OK, the old man picked up both bags and ran to the tee box. The two men were amazed and asked the old timer how old he was.

"I'm 94," replied the man, "but this is nothing. I'm getting married tomorrow."

One of the golfers asked, "Why would you want to get married at 94?"

The old man replied, "Who said I want to?"

Ed called up Tom and asked if he would like to play golf. Tom replied, "I'm the king of my castle and I can play anytime I want. Hold on a minute, I'll see if I want to."

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## This and That

The ladies Tuesday night league will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 28th with play for those who want to play afterwards. The league officially starts on Tuesday, June 4th.

If you haven't already done so, stop by the Pro Shop and introduce yourself to our new manager, Elijah Treski. Elijah wants to remind all members that they will receive a 20% discount on all in stock items. The Pro Shop will no longer be able to give the discount for special order items.

Don't forget to sign up for the 2013 President Cup competition. First round play begins in June.

Bonnie Lockett scored the season's first hole-in-one when she aced the 8th hole. Bonnie was playing with Evie Johns and Mary Sherwood. Congratulations Bonnie, your bar bill will be in the mail.

Word has it that an eagle was scored on number 2, or maybe I have it wrong and it was someone saw and eagle on number 2. At any rate, you will have to ask Elijah from the pro shop for the answer.

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## Pace of Play

Pace of play has become a hot topic on the pro tour as well as on every private and public course in America. To speed up play, the PGA has begun enforcing the slow play rule and assessing a one stroke penalty for slow play during tournaments, as witnessed during this year's Masters Tournament. A slow pace of play can ruin many a golfers day when they have to continually wait to hit their next shot because the group in front of them are playing at a slow pace.

All of us are guilty of playing slowly at times. We get caught up in our game and don't realize we have slowed down our pace of play. The best indicator that you need to speed up play would be if the group in front of you has pulled away and there is a full hole open between you and them. Another indicator that maybe you should think about speeding up would be that the group behind you is having a bar-b-q in the middle of the fairway waiting for you to finish the hole.

All kidding aside, the beauty of golf is that just about anyone can play. We might not play well, but we can play. Some are low handicappers, some are high handicappers and some are just golf handicapped. Some play fast, some play slow and some play at a moderate pace. The one thing we all have in common is we think we are playing fast.

We don't have a starter or a ranger here at Stamford, so the pace of play issue is something we all need to be aware of. A slow pace of play is a whole lot of little things that, when added up, slow down the play for everyone. Here are a few things to think about for helping to speed up play:

If you are the driver of the cart, drop off your passenger at their ball before proceeding to yours. If you are the passenger, take more than one club to save time going back to the cart for another one.

If you're playing in a foursome, don't travel in a pack by going to one players ball, then the next one, and so on.

Limit your search for a lost ball to three minutes or less. If you take longer and you are holding up the group behind you, let them play through.

Never hold up play because you're in the middle of a conversation. Put the conversation on hold, take your stroke and then continue your conversation.

Begin lining up your putt and the break as soon as you walk onto the green. When it's your turn step right up and take your stroke.

First player in the cup picks up the flagstick and replaces it after the last person putts out.

Walk off the green quickly and don't fill out your scorecard until the next tee box.

Most importantly, be courteous about your pace of play. If the group behind you is playing at a faster pace than your group, let them play through. They will appreciate your good etiquette and you will enjoy not being rushed.

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### Why Do We Play This Dumb Game?

How many times after a poor round of golf have you asked yourself the question, "Why do I torture myself and play this dumb game?" That's exactly what my playing partner, Harry, was asking after we played our first round of golf for the 2013 season.

We had just finished putting out the 18th green and headed for the parking lot to unload our golf cart. To say that the both of us had just played the poorest round of golf ever played by mankind would be putting it mildly. When we got to the parking lot, Harry unstrapped his new Nike golf bag from the cart and placed in the bed of a Ford pick-up, a truck that neither one of us knew who the owner was.

"Hey, what are you doing Harry? That's not your truck," I said.

"Don't really care," Harry responded. "I won't be needing these clubs because I ain't playing no more. I was living a stress free life after I retired and then I took up golf. What am I, crazy?"

"Yeah., you are a little crazy," I replied, "but you were crazy before you took up golf. Remember the time you took up horseshoes and one of your throws bounced off a tree and went through the front picture window of your neighbor's house? Now, that was crazy."

"I'm serious. I'm thinking about giving up golf," Harry continued with a glum look on his face. "It's a game of public humiliation. I don't consider myself to be spastic, in fact, there is some athleticism left in this old body, as ever so slight as it may be. So why can't I hit the darn ball straight? I took lessons from a PGA pro and that helped until every high handicapper I played with critiqued my every shot. They gave me so many so called tips that I completely forgot what the pro taught me. I've had to put up with people telling me that if I want to hit the ball farther, hit it and run backwards. Or, even worse, they say to hit from the red tees. I must have some reputation on the course because all the golfers who play in front of me wear hard hats. I've hit every tree on the course with my errant shots, some more than once. I even embedded one in the side of the porta-pottie by the ninth green. It's embarrassing. The crows see me coming and start cawing out warning signals to all the wildlife in a five mile radius."

"Take it easy, Harry. It's only a game. You take it too seriously." I said with a concerned look on my face. Harry was having a melt down and I didn't know what else to say.

Harry took a deep breath and continued. "The darned game makes me so mad at times that I've thrown clubs in disgust and I've used so much profanity on the course that I've used four letter words that I didn't even know I knew. And you know what's really scary? I talk to my clubs as if I want them to be my best friends. I talk to the ball too. I tell it where I want it to go. I hit it and then I shout to it to turn left or right or to bite. I'll tell you what bites. Golf bites. I play in the rain. I play during lightning, in the snow, even during hurricanes. I'm telling you, I need professional help because of golf. Do you realize that I actually make promises to God. I say things like, Lord, if you make my game better I promise to be

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a better husband, a better father. Heck, I'll promise to donate more money to church if I can just hit break 90 and hit the ball straight."

I was thinking about what Harry was saying and I realized that golf is a wonderful game if you can stomach it. I knew I needed to calm Harry down so I said, "Come on buddy. We don't have to play for a living, if we did we would starve to death. Golf is a game that should be enjoyed to whatever level our ability allows. Just go out and enjoy the friendships you make on the course. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors with all its colors and views. Enjoy those picture perfect shots you make, as few as they may be, and laugh at the lousy ones that make you look silly. We're here to have fun, remember? Besides, it sure beats staying home working on the honey-do list."

Harry gave me a blank stare then walked over to the Ford pick-up and retrieved his new set of clubs. I heard him mumbling under his breath as he tossed them into the trunk of his car. After slamming the lid closed, Harry got behind the wheel, revved the engine a few times and hollered out the window, "Hey, what's our tee time for tomorrow?"

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