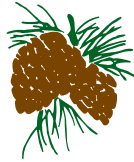


SUSSEX PINES

Clubhouse (302) 856-6283



COUNTRY CLUB

Pro Shop (302) 856-3363

# MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

## **PRESIDENT - Bud Townsend**

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What a difference since the newsletter two months ago. In case you've forgotten, we were up to our waist in snow. Look at us now.

Yes, just look at us now! The course is absolutely beautiful thanks to a lot of hard work. It has not been easy. It has taken countless hours by Rob and his staff plus tons of volunteer work. We can be proud of the work of all the Committees and of their accomplishments, too. When I say ALL, I mean just that. Things are working well as a good team should. I'm sure you will appreciate the efforts when you see the entire club. You will also appreciate the work accomplished when you read the chairpersons' reports that are included with this newsletter.

One thing we can always use more of is new members. With that in mind, I urge each of us to talk up this gem of a country club. Let us all be ambassadors and see if we can't increase our numbers. While some new ones have come on board, we would still love to see a bunch of new faces.

As I'm sure Cathy will mention in her report, we are confronted with some serious repairs at the pool. We have a great number of our members who look forward to the summer just to use that amenity—we can't disappoint this large block of members. I'm sure we will be looking for volunteer help.

I will close this message thanking everyone for all that you have done to make Sussex Pines a club to be proud of.

## **GENERAL MANAGER - Benny Peta**

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I would like to thank all of the members who endured less than expected facilities for the last 2 years. The board of directors evaluated, realized, planned and executed the proper course of action. "Fore Everyone" that has been out on the course or in the club, you can be proud of the results. Robert Crouse and Steve Farrell have played a pivotal role along with the entire employee team in the Sussex Pines transition. The Pro Shop is stocked, the course well groomed and all of the clubhouse interior changes are looking great. If you have a friend that was a previous member I encourage you to bring them back to experience the "New" Sussex Pines. Member support is and will always be our catalysts for success! For members with questions or comments I can be reached @ 856-6283 ext 0 or b.peta@mchsi.com.

## **GOLF COMMITTEE - Barry Kaspro**

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Well, the golf season is in full swing and the course is in beautiful shape, something that we can all be proud of (and bring our guests to!). May and June will include a number of club tournaments and member events. The Men's Member-Member (1-2 May), the Annual Couples Tournament (May 22-23), the Ladies 9-Hole WDGA Invitational (18 May), and the 18-Hole Ladies Member-Member (22 and 29 June) highlight the events. Check the golf calendar on the web site for a complete list.

## **Men's Member-Guest Date Changed**

Because Steve Farrell, our Head Pro, felt he had time constraints in getting everything ready for this year's Men's Member-Guest scheduled for June, the date has been changed to 22-24 July (Thursday – Saturday). It is unusual for us to have this event in the heat of summer (although some will remember the 98 degrees of the 2008 M/G). At a recent meeting, the Green Committee stated it would have to do whatever it needed to keep the course and the greens healthy in the heat, even if that meant that the course and greens might not be in the perfect condition that the Superintendent might otherwise hope to provide at an earlier, cooler date in the year.

## **New Tees for Senior Men**

A recent joint meeting of the Golf and Green Committees approved new tee placements for senior men using the gold tees. The tees will be moved up close to the ladies tees on all the par 5's and on hole number 7. The new tees will measure 5752 yards versus the 6014 yards on the current scorecard, and will be used when the course is eventually re-sloped.

## **Course Re-Sloping**

DSGA has the course re-sloping on its schedule but there is no firm date yet.

## **Handicaps/Score Posting**

Lee Peters, the Handicap Chairman, reports that all is well with the handicap system at Sussex Pines. He emphasizes that all scores are to be reported/typed into the computer in the Pro Shop or entered via the Club website, including 9-hole scores for 18-holers. The computer software accommodates multiple 9-hole scores, even if there are 18-holes scores intervening. It has been noted that some members have not been entering their scores, some for an extended period. It only takes a moment, so please do so.

## **Placement of Rakes In and Around Bunkers and a Word About Divots**

For technical rule reasons, the USGA recommends rakes be placed outside of bunkers, rather than in them as has been the practice at Sussex Pines. In the past the rakes were placed inside the bunker to eliminate the need for maintenance personnel to dismount from their mowers to remove the rakes. At a recent Golf/Green Committee joint meeting, it was unanimously agreed that that henceforth rakes should be kept outside the bunkers, in as unobtrusive position as possible so as to minimize interference with play.

In addition, the Superintendent requests that divots should not be replaced on the golf course. They simply die and can create problems. Use the green colored sand-seed mix provided in the gas riding carts and the soon-to-be-provided bottles of sand for hand carts.

## **GREEN COMMITTEE - David Quinn**

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Spring is here and great play has begun. A special thanks goes out to all the members who came out to help with the TWO clean-up days we had on March 27th and April 10th. It really helped to put the finishing touches on a daunting task the grounds crew was facing after such a rough winter. Also to Gerry Desmond and his crew for the various special projects they have tackled over this past year. We can thank him for improved drainage on both sides of the course plus a "new" improved pond and drainage on #10 and 18.

The big tree on #4 is being treated for insects and fed with the proper nutrients in hopes of keeping it alive. Sussex Tree Service will be back this week or next to finish pruning and put the finishing touches on that job. Thanks to the members who donated to help raise the funds to complete this job.

Often it's the little things that really matter! So please remind your guest and show that fixing ball marks, filling divots, and raking bunkers is the way we (the members) treat our course.

## PRO SHOP - Steve Farrell

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I don't know about you, but I'm having a hard time remembering the snow just under 2 months ago. What a beautiful April we had. The golf course is starting to look beautiful, thanks to Rob and his staff. If you did not attend this year's Demo Day & Grand Re-Opening celebration, you missed a wonderful time. We had 8 vendors representing over twelve (12) product lines. Our Demo Day looked as good as any PGA Tour event driving range that I've ever been involved with. Thank you to all who attended. If you were unable to attend but are interested in anything we had, come by the Pro Shop and talk to me. I am taking trade-ins to help you with the cost of your new purchases. I use the PGA Trade-in website to get a value for your clubs and apply that to your member bill once I receive the check. We can see what your needs are, and I'll do everything I can to make sure you get the best product for your swing.



You may have noticed recently that my Pro Shop Staff is getting bigger. I have recently hired some staff to help us for the summer. Stop by and meet my Intern, Jacob Roeder. Jacob is a Professional Golf Management student from Maryland Eastern Shore University. He is fulfilling one of his requirements of three internships to complete his degree. Jacob will be working weekends until the end of May. Starting in June, he will be full-time until the end of August. I will be assisting him with his PGA requirements as well as helping him grow as a golf professional. He's a smart young man who has a bright future in this business. He will be heavily involved with my Junior programs, Tournaments, as well as the Men's & Ladies groups. Please make it a point to see Jacob in the near future.





More positive news from the Pro Shop regarding our golf carts. It was with no sorrow at all from me that we have said 'Goodbye' to the old golf carts and replaced them with new Yamaha's. We held onto the Yamaha's from before giving us a complete fleet of the same name car. As many of you noticed, we try to keep the carts in great shape. I promise that these carts will be well taken care of on our end; we ask the same from everyone. If we can keep them out of the woods or other rough areas, keep the seats free from cigarette burns (which one new cart already has), and just take care of them, these carts will last us a long, long time. See me if you have any questions.

May starts our summer golf clinics. We will be starting Ladies Golf Clinics on May 4th and continuing most Wednesdays throughout the season. There will be some date changes due to my schedule. We will offer member golf clinics on Saturdays as well. These clinics will be of the same structure as the Ladies. Cost is \$10 per clinic. Please sign up in the golf shop if you will attend. If the attendance gets too big, we can create another class. The clinics will be on one topic per week and will provide everyone with a chance to learn something they may not have known.

Stop in the Pro Shop to see our Tournament Sign-Up Book. This book will have every event we will have for the season and a place to sign up for the events. One event I encourage everyone to look at playing in is the Friday Nite Shootout!! We will have these on select Fridays. It has 10 people teeing off of #1 and playing down to 2 people teeing off of #9. One person gets eliminated on each hole. It's a fun event with the first one being May 7th. We have many other not-so serious events throughout the season. Come out and have fun with us.

### **Men's Member-Guest**

Due to time constraints, we have decided to move the Men's Member-Guest to July 22-24th. Take note that we changed it to a Thursday-Saturday format with the practice round being on Thursday. The format has changed to a match play format within your flight. The announcement and registration form will be mailed shortly. The deadline to register will be July 1st, no later. We need the time to arrange the gifts and prizes for the players and to prepare. The event will be open to the first 48, 2-man teams. I promise this will be a great event you will not want to miss.

## **Putters**

Many of you noticed a putter display in my shop but don't know what they are. I am very excited, and can't wait to tell and show you what I have learned about teaching putting - from famous short game guru and Todd Sones ([www.toddsones.com](http://www.toddsones.com)) - and about his company called Coutour Golf. Simply stated, it is the first truly-fitted custom putter company available to every player.

It's no secret that tour professionals set up to the ball properly - and ALL putt with putters that are customized to them. Amateurs set up with putters not fit to them, putters that won't allow them to set up properly, yielding very poor fundamentals - and results.

Many players have realized the benefit of being custom fit for their irons, and have even used the launch monitor technology for their drivers. They have spent a lot of time and money getting the ball to the edge of the green. But when it comes to their putter, they settle for a putter off the shelf. When you think about it, it doesn't make sense. The bottom line is your putter is the most valuable club in your bag, accounting for about 40% of your score. A properly fitted putter, coupled with a good setup will get you on your way to achieving good fundamentals and will lower your score around the green.

I am really impressed with the second-to-none quality of the 4 Coutour models - each milled in 3 different weights -so that your fitted putter will be correct in both length and (totally overlooked) swing weight. Check out [www.coutourgolf.com](http://www.coutourgolf.com) and then see me for a personal appointment ASAP! I will be setting up putter fittings throughout the summer.

## **Shop Specials**

I am running two specials for the month of May, with one of them being continuous throughout the season. 1st is 'bring in any shirt with a logo and receive \$10 off any non-sale shirt in the Pro Shop.' Any logo anytime, \$10 off. 2nd special involves Cleveland CG15 Wedges. Purchase any wedge and receive \$10 off, including the Niblick. We will post other sales at different times as well, so stop in to see what we're up to.

If you have questions regarding anything with the Golf Shop, Tournaments, Course Conditions, Swing Thoughts, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop in and see me. My door is always open.

## **Quote of the month**

"You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex-wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work." - Lee Trevino

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE - Nancy Riale**

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Our clubhouse welcomes all new and long time members to the spring and summer of 2010. Sussex Pines C.C. is excited and ready for what we believe will be a great season for our club. Both our new Green Superintendent and Golf Pro have done an outstanding job in making this all happen. Let us not forget our general manager, Benny Peta, Chef Michael, Robin and the entire staff as every employee has worked diligently. It was great to see so many members and guests come out for the re-dedication of our club on Friday, April 23rd. You could feel the electricity in the air throughout the entire day and evening. We have up and coming events so let's get started.

Spring and summer hours are in effect as stated in the last news letter and are posted at the clubhouse & web site. Our annual Mother's Day Brunch will be served on Sunday, May 9, 2010, service will be from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Menu includes omelet station, soup station, hot buffet table, children's station and dessert station. This event is by far is one of the highlights of the season for our clubhouse. The individual items are too numerous to explain, however you may view the menu at the clubhouse or our web site. Reservations required with proper dress code in the Sussex Room. Price: \$19.95 adults / \$8.95 children under 12 plus service charge. Please note that we will serve only cold sandwiches from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the grille room. All services will close as promptly as possible at 3:00pm to allow our staff to spend time with their families.

Seafood Bake Special will be served on Friday, June 8th. Reservations will be required for this event. Our regular menu will be available as well. Menu and price will be posted at the clubhouse and on the web site.

We have added some new items to our lunch and dinner menus along with daily lunch and dinner specials. Our house salad has changed to different greens due to numerous comments and requests from the membership. The nutrition value may be different however the requests encouraged us to make a change.

Our banquet business has been successful so far this year. We have already had two weddings and have five more bookings in 2010 for the future and beyond. The foyer and hallway to the Sussex Room are completed with a new painted color. Half of the Sussex Room is also finished, with full completion soon. There is work being done behind the scenes in the clubhouse, pro shop and golf course that you the members will be proud to partake of and showcase to your friends and neighbors.

In order for us to become a successful country club we need you, the members, to continue to support your club as you have in the past. Help us to get the word out by bringing guests out for a round of golf with lunch or dinner. We have the best package deals in Sussex County with a great clubhouse and re-dedicated course to prove it. Bring someone out and let them be the judge of what we have to offer new members.

We look forward in see you at the clubhouse very soon...

## **POOL COMMITTEE - Cathy Macklin**

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The pool committee will be having a cleanup day on May 8th at 9:00am. The club will furnish lunch for all those who come out to lend a hand. All are welcome to join us. We are in need of the following cleaning supplies: power washer (s), brooms, trash bags, any and all cleaning supplies. We also need paint rollers and pans for paint. We would like to thank Bob Ricker of Baker's Hardware for supplying paint to repaint our fence around the pool. We would like to thank Dave Zorb and the members who work with him during the winter months to do small jobs around our club. Their committee will be undertaking the pool house itself. It is need of several repairs. This group will be joining us on this day also.

As of this time we have been able to secure cushions and a few umbrellas. We will continue to work on upgrading our pool for this summer and keep our members informed as we progress throughout the summer.

We look forward to seeing you at the pool.

## **LADIES' 9-HOLE GOLF - Carole Farrell, Newsletter Chair**

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What a great day! The weather was perfect for our Opening Day Scramble. It was a lot of fun with 26 of our 9-hole members playing golf and 29 attending the delicious luncheon. Our new Pro, Steve Farrell, spoke to us about some new and exciting changes.

We have a number of upcoming events, including the 9WDGA Tournament at Cripple Creek on 3 May, and the 9/18-hole Charity Scramble to benefit Sussex Pines on 18 May. Please keep in mind our Member Guest Tournament on 14 September.

It is important to check the weekly sign-up sheets because the starting times may differ from our schedule booklet.

With the great improvement in the weather, we hope to see everyone out enjoying our beautiful golf course!!!

## **LADIES' 18 HOLERS - Sandy Harrison**

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Our opening day for Ladies 18 Holvers, was April 10. Our snowbirds are coming back, our course looks great, spring is in the air, time to look forward to great golf.

The WPGA tournament schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the ladies locker room. The WPGA Mixed Tournament, on June 12, better ball of two format, will be held in Ocean City.

We have a Women's Member Scramble, which will held on Tuesday, May 4th. The Sussex Pines Couples Golf Tournament, in the Stapleford format, at a cost of \$85, will held May 22nd and 23rd. The Ladies 18 Holvers Member/Member will be held on June 22nd and 29th. Choose a partner and sign up. Don't forget Ladies Day on Tuesday. Please sign up and take part.

Our Team matches started off with Sussex Pines and Maple Dale, on April 22nd, which we WON. Sarah Jane Beckwith, our team captain, will do an excellent job leading them to a winning season, We wish them Good Luck!

Just remember to sign up to play, don't forget our dress code, keep a good attitude and have a good time playing golf. PLEASE repair your ball marks on the green and keep your course looking great.

"I'm not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced." - Lee Trevino

## **MISGA- Jack Hilbeck**

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The MISGA season has started and our golf course is ready for our first 2010 home Mixer on May 13th. We have six home Mixers and 24 away Mixers this year. Sign-up sheets are in the Pro Shop along with the 2010 MISGA schedule. Remember, in order to play in the Sussex Pines MISGA Finale you must play in at least three (3 home mixers).

### **MISGA Schedule:**

#### **May:**

Maple Dale, May 10, away

Home, May 13, Thursday

Cripple Creek, May 27, away

#### **June**

Nutters, June 1, away

Home, June 10, Thursday

Home, June 24, Thursday

The home and away Mixers start at 9 a.m., cost \$35 to \$40, which includes golf, carts, lunch, and prize money. If have not joined MISGA this year, send your membership application and a check for \$25 to our treasurer, Sonny Macklin. Membership Applications are on the bulletin board in the Men's Locker Room

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - John Gregg**

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Since our last newsletter, the Membership Committee has been meeting weekly to prepare for the Open House on April 23rd and 24th. The Open House appears to have been a great success.

On Friday, with the Club Demo, the driving range was crowded from noon until after 5:30 with members and regional golfers looking at the clubs brought out by the vendors. On Friday and Saturday we collected 137 names of potential members with whom to follow-up. Saturday we gave hourly prizes, like lunch for two or dinner for four, and three Grand Prizes of Full Social Memberships. One of the Social Membership winners will upgrade to a Single Shareholder membership. Another has already

upgraded and paid for a Full Family Shareholder membership, the 3rd, had just joined The Rookery and has accepted the Full Family Social membership. I expect them to join SPCC as golfers at the end of this year. The committee will be following up with the registrants in the coming weeks.

Since January 27th, we have had four (4) resignations, gotten ten (10) new memberships, had one (1) family go on a Leave of Absence for health reasons, had four (4) members upgrade to a higher membership category and two (2) members downgrade to a lower membership category. We also have 16 inquiries about membership which are still pending final resolution. Some of these look very hopeful.

Your Membership Committee is working very hard. But we always need your help. Our club has a great reputation for its hospitality. Like any community, our politics, religion, and backgrounds vary, but everyone who visits our club is welcome. It's up to each one of us to make our visitors and guests feel welcome with a smile, a greeting, or whatever the situation calls for. Also, as we all know, our best source of new members is you, our existing members. How do you do this? Take responsibility for being the "somebody who ought to do something" and do it. Also, always say good things about the club. You've heard it: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything"

NOTE: It has come to my attention that a rumor is circulating saying we're giving away unlimited golf from now until the end of June. NOT SO!!! There is a MoneyMailer coupon, authorized by the Membership Committee, which allows a twosome to play a round at no cost, with tee time and coupon, once between now and the end of June. Our great staff in the Pro Shop is tracking the redemption of these coupons very closely to make sure people are not taking unfair advantage of our offer.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE - David Quinn**

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The Club's 2010 budget is off to a good start. The budget is solid and barring any unforeseen catastrophe we should be okay. The budget is based on acquiring at least 25 new members, which, based on past experience, is obtainable. We are actually operating on budget or a little better, and quite a bit better than last year at this time. I want to stress that it is imperative that we get additional members and continue to have YOUR support during these tough times. The best source of new members is always our current members – that's you, not them, spread the word.

Many members are wondering how can the club afford to buy new golf carts and new grounds equipment if the club with our financial constraints. The fact is the club is NOT spending any more money on these items than it was already spending. This equipment has always been leased (and therefore in the budget.) We will end one lease and pick up another at the same monthly payment as we are currently paying.

Revenue in the house is greater this year than at the same time last year. Members' continued support in our Grille Room and for our special events (Oyster Feast and Easter Brunch) plus more banquet bookings have made a tremendous difference.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT COUPLES - Joe and Cass Hall**

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Could we have had a more perfect evening of golf, fellowship and dinner together? We surely set the bar high for the rest of the season, but I trust all of you to step up for our next Mixer on May 14th and make this just as memorable!

A big thank you to Steve and Rich for all the effort they displayed on this extremely busy day. It did not go unnoticed. Also, a big thank you to Chef Michael, Robin and her staff for our delicious dinners and of course the desserts! Thank you also to our 50-50 "sellers", Bob Hylbert and Bob Freed

Please join us in welcoming to Scott Lanham to our club and "Hello", to Ernie Tramdosh, who was a guest of Ron and Stephanie Scales.



**WINNERS:**

**1st place**

Scott Lanham

Sarah Jane Beckwith

Bob Freed

Judy Freed

**2nd place**

Horace Daisey

Terry Daisey

Tom Love

Carol Love

**3rd place**

Gary Allison

Cinda Allison

John Sobieski

Ellen Sobieski

**4th place**

Ronald Lewis

Brenda Lewis

David Quinn

Debby Quinn

Ronnie Scales

Stephanie Scales

Ernie Tramdosh

Mary Berl

Great job everyone! See you May 14th Sign-up sheet is in the Pro Shop