

May 2004 Newsletter

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Board of Directors:

President - Mac Green
V. President - Chris Day
Secretary - Chris McElyea
Treasurer - Jim Krupa
Jim Besancenez
Fred Goldman
Janice Ohmes
Dennis Schubert
John Watts

From the Board of Directors:

It is a pleasure to welcome four new members at Lake Valley. They are Keith & June Percival, John & Vicki Madigan, Donnie & Josie Mantle and Richard & Trudy Skaggs. We know they will enjoy their time at Lake Valley. I especially want to welcome my sister and brother in law, June & Keith Percival. After the loss of 3 members our membership total is at 353. We need a few more members so keep encouraging prospective members to join.

A special thanks to member Michael Higgins for conducting and compiling the member survey. We received responses from 199 members. That is a very good return and we appreciate the efforts of all members for taking the time to complete the survey. The survey results arrived shortly before our monthly board meeting so the board did not have the opportunity to study the survey results before our meeting. I cannot report the survey in detail but in summary the strongest point the membership made was that an assessment for food service is not acceptable. Most of the members seem to prefer a grill type operation similar to what we currently have. A full service dining facility does not appear to be an option. I will add that a very high percentage of the membership rates the golf course and atmosphere highly.

As a Board we will follow the wishes of the membership whenever possible.

Copies of the survey will be available for any member to read. Contact Dan or Priscilla if you would like to look at a copy.

Enjoy the great "golf" at Lake Valley.

Thank you for your support.

Mac Green, President

From the Pro Shop:**UPCOMING SCHEDULE:**

April 30 - May 1 & 2 - Southern MO Containers Golf

May 3 - Men's League begins

May 10 - Ladies Inter-City Team Play Event

May 14-16 - LVCC Men's Four ball Invitational Tournament (Course closed Saturday & Sunday).

May 17 - Red Fox Group

May 22 - Rotary Club Tournament

May 24 - Greens top dressing

May 28 - McGraths' "School's Out Event"

May 31 - Lake Valley Scholarship Tournament

June 5-6 - Men's Golf Association Match play Tournament

June 6 - Missouri Rehab Group

Men's Four ball Tournament is nearly full, be sure to get your names in now if you want to participate. This event normally fills up early so be sure not to miss out by waiting too long!

The "Draft" is Coming Soon!

It's time for some captains to step forward and start thinking about who they want on their team. If you missed last year's fun this is your chance to get in on the excitement of this unique event. Sign up sheets will be out very soon. Look for much more information to come in the near future.

Attention Senior Golfers! The weekly Men's and Ladies Senior Scramble Event schedule has begun. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Pro Shop. Be sure to get your name on the list to play. This is a great chance for new members to meet other members and enjoy a pressure free golf experience. Cost for the events remain \$4 per week and includes coffee and donuts before the round. Start making plans now to attend these events on a regular basis.

Men's Monday Golf League - May 3rd will be the start of the regular schedule for the 2004 Men's League. Team registration is currently underway. This is a two-man team event using handicap. This year teams will be divided into two divisions, one will play the ball up as in past years and the other will play the ball down. Be sure to state your preference when you sign up. You and your partner may sign up by calling the Pro Shop or by adding your name to the list in the Pro Shop. There is a limited number of spots available, so sign up soon. All players **must** be members of the Men's Golf Association and have current handicaps in the club GHIN system. Be sure to record all of your scores this Spring to make sure a current handicap is on file. The season will last fourteen weeks and conclude with a play-off night. Once again, substitutes will be allowed if you cannot make a particular night of play, but the substitute must also be a member of the Men's Golf Association and have a current handicap.

Lake Valley Scholarship Tournament - Be sure to mark May 31st on your calendars to be a part of the Lake Valley Scholarship Fund Raising Event. The format is a Four-Person flighted scramble. This event has already awarded three deserving students with much needed scholarship money to further their educations. We need your help in making this event something special. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Dan in the golf shop. More information will be following but be sure to reserve the date to help in this very worthwhile event.

Congratulations to John Saye for his recent Hole-In-One on hole #7. John used a #5 wood from the white tees for his ace. John's perfect shot was witnessed by Dick Farrand, Dave Rudi & George Kuse.

Hole-In-One Clubs- Be sure to make those special shots pay off by joining the Men's and Ladies Hole-In-One clubs. Sign up sheets are available in the Pro Shop.

Discounts on Golf Carts - Yes, golf cart packages are available to all members. Packages can be purchased in \$100 increments and they offer you a \$2 per use discount on your riding carts. The cart package balances also carry over from year to year and may be refunded should you leave the club. You have nothing to lose and money to gain, so sign up today. Just call or drop by the golf shop to get set up for the coming season.

Pro Shop Merchandise - Be sure to drop by your Pro Shop and take advantage of the monthly specials on merchandise. Each month there will be a different item featured at a special price. Also enjoy the latest equipment technology by using one of our many demo clubs. Be sure to try before you buy!

Tired of Hauling Your Equipment Around in Your Car ? Then sign up for a locker or bag storage slot at the club. We currently have a few spaces available for the coming season. Bag storage slots are offered for only \$45 and lockers for \$20 per year. Call ahead and your clubs will be loaded on a cart and ready to go when you get here. No more lifting and carrying and they won't be in your way when you need extra trunk space in your vehicle.

From the Greenside:

May is going to be a busy month.

Sunday, May 9th, we will have a special Mother's Day Brunch. Be sure to make reservations as this is one of our busiest days of the year.

Monday, May 10th the Ladies Inter City will be here.

The Caring & Healing Hearts will be here for a luncheon & meeting on Tuesday, May 11th.

The Men's Four ball Dinner will be Saturday, May 15th.

The Christian Women's Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 18th.

Men's Stag is Tuesday, May 25th. Bob Dechant is the Chairperson.

Rotary will have a luncheon & play golf on Saturday, May 22nd.

The Ladies BUNCO is Thursday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. Call Priscilla to sign up or sign up in the Restaurant.

Rotary is with us every Wednesday along with the Bridge Group.

The Ladies have lunch and play the Hand & Foot card game every Monday. Call Carol Stone if you want more information.

Joyce Ossler has a bridge group here on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please stop by and have lunch or come to our Sunday Brunch.

Don & Staff

Historian Column:**Evolution of a Golf Course**

Building a golf course today usually consists of moving tons and tons of dirt to restructure the land, installing a fancy irrigation system, laying 18 holes worth of cart paths, and constructing a magnificent club house. All of this before the first shot is ever hit by the public.

Things were quite different when LVCC was built in 1967-68. For starters, LVCC was built on a very tight budget, so only the necessities were included. Aside from constructing tees and greens, very little was done to modify the land. Creeks ran where they normally ran. Holes were laid out around groups of trees. Most cart paths were dirt or gravel. I toured the course about 8 years ago with Gary Kern, the Golf Course Architect who developed our long-range improvement plan, and he commented that Floyd Farley, the original architect, "did a good job of finding the holes." When I questioned him, he said that in the "old" days architects were challenged to take a piece of property and find the best way to lay 9 or 18 holes on it, whereas today their first thought might be "I want a lake in front of the green" and bulldozers are brought in to build a lake.

Lake Valley was constructed with blue-grass tees and fairways, and the watering system was a high-pressure line which ran down the center of each fairway. Watering required a worker to manually insert a sprinkler head, let it water for a while, then move the head to another location. As a result, during the hottest months we would often have a grounds crew worker work all night moving heads so that the entire course would be watered before the next day's play. There was absolutely no water in any of the roughs, and by August it was common for players to aim for the rough off of the tee in order to get considerable extra distance. Of course, one of the risks was that the ball frequently took very wild and unpredictable bounces. The area between #14 and #16 fairways was always extremely dry and rough, and I recall one year a member commenting that the cracks in the ground were "big enough for a snake to fall in", and he was pretty accurate!

Things began to change in 1984. We contracted with a company to sprig the back 9-holes with Bermuda, and it was quite a mess for a while. The process involved a kind of verti-cutting of the fairways to make them receptive to the Bermuda sprigs, followed by a machine that basically tossed thousands (millions?) of pieces of Bermuda into the air, followed by extensive watering. In time we established our own Bermuda nursery - the driving range - and sprigged the front nine holes ourselves.

In the winter of 1987-88 we installed the present Rainbird irrigation system for \$353,848.00, which was more than it cost us twenty years earlier to buy the land, build the course, pool, and club house. This new system consists of a pair of parallel lines down each fairway with automatic heads. The system is completely computer controlled and allows the superintendent to determine the areas to be covered, when individual heads should come on, and how much water each head should disburse. During peak times it is not uncommon for us to irrigate over 300,000 gallons of water overnight. In time we have added heads to the system so that we now irrigate most of the areas of "rough" on the course as well, giving us great playing conditions throughout the year. LVCC has been a tremendous example of a "work in progress" that continues to improve with age.

Dennis Jones, Historian

Ladies Golf Association:

Hope all of you had a good winter!

Our Kick-Off Breakfast turned out wonderful. The food was delicious, thanks to Paul. The service was also great because of Rosie & Don. I want to thank all of you for coming. We had 32 ladies show up. Four new ladies signed up, which were, Shirlee Casatta, Vicky Schubert, Kathy Spaulding and Bev Reynolds. Welcome to our League Ladies! We had lots of fun playing the Mystery Par 3. The weather turned out beautiful.

Hope to see more of our Ladies every week until they are all back from their winter homes.

Marge Sromek, President

Men's Golf Association

The Kick-Off Event was great fun....even with the weather and wet course! Thanks to a good breakfast and complimentary "bloody mary's!!(thanks to Dale & Sara McElwee-Lake Dental along with Linda & Jack McGill-Winnelons for sponsoring those "red nectar of the gods" drinks!) Thank them yourself when you have the chance!

Monday Night League...have you signed up yet?? See the Pro Shop! Play begins Monday, May 3rd. So far, we are seeing about 60% + of the teams electing to play the ball down!!!!

Thursday night, May 20th will be our first monthly "Men's Night" special, fun 9 hole format promised! We will meet and greet after for Burgers & Brews. More details in Pro Shop shortly.

"Match Play" kicks off June 5 & 6. Saturday play: Stroke play 100% handicap to determine Sunday qualifiers for first round of "Match Play".

"The Draft"....it's not too early to sign up to be a "Captain"!! (Drawing will again determine prize winner, last year it was a cart package). One captain per 4 players and you get to select your own team, prior to the auction of teams at the Draft Party on June 24th.

Thanks to Alex and his crew, the course continues to look GREAT!

"Golf & sex are the only things you can enjoy without being good at them...Jimmy DeMaret

See you on the course!

John Stephens - MGA

The Rules Corner:

I would like to start this month by saying "thank you" to Dennis Jones and Doug McDaniel for their efforts in presenting the Rules of Golf Seminar in April. We had a great turn out for this very informative presentation. The slides and videos really brought the information home for the membership.

This month we need to discuss the new native grass area that is being grown in the area between holes six, seven and eight. What happens if your are unfortunate and your ball strays off it's desired course and lands in this area?

First thing to know that this native area is not a hazard as some of the other local courses play their native areas. This means that you can play from the native area if you can locate your golf ball. If you cannot locate it within five minutes then you have a lost ball and must proceed back to the spot of the original stray shot and continue play from there adding one stroke penalty. However, the fun begins if you do find your ball. When you locate your ball you will hopefully have a lie that you can get a club on and can hit the ball out to safety. But we probably all know that this is not likely. What about the other case of finding the ball with it being in the worst lie you have ever seen? You can declare your ball unplayable and proceed under rule #28 to obtain relief from this very unfair situation (after all your ball is only 50-100 yards off line). Remember that this option does require a one stroke penalty be added to your score for the hole. But that one stroke may be a lot less than if you tried to play it out of there. The decision is yours, so use your best judgement on what might happen if you try to play the ball from the native area.

One more thing to think about if your ball goes into the native area is to play a provisional ball just in case you do not find it. This may keep you from having to make a very long and unpleasant trip back to the spot of your last shot. Be sure to check rule #27 with regards to the proper procedure when putting a provisional ball into play. I think this is an area that we will all need to become familiar with in the near future. Good luck and good golfing!

Dan