

The Tee Times

The official newsletter for the Stoughton Country Club



Nick Cappozzo is a young PGA member and son of Dave Cappozzo who joined the Club last year.



Josh Livingston of the Stoughton Country Club and a Cherokee Country Club Junior PGA participant watch SCC U17 player Taylor Faust hit the approach shot on hole #1 during their July 16th match.

Welcoming Young Golfers

PGA Junior League is a Great Fit

When you ask people who live in the Stoughton area to associate a specific color that defines the city, most will say “purple” -- the school colors of the Stoughton Vikings. That’s why a common question that comes up at Stoughton Country Club May through July is:

“Who are all these kids and why are they wearing orange and blue?” The answer is that these are the official colors of the PGA Junior League which SCC has been proud to be a part of for several years.

At its core, PGA Jr. League is a group of golf teams from area communities who learn and play golf through a series of practices and games, utilizing a nurturing and social scramble format.

PGA and LPGA professionals from around the area, including Stoughton Country Club, serve as captains and are responsible for creating a welcoming environment for all that encourages skill and character development.

“The Junior League gives girls and boys an easy and friendly way to learn the game of golf and, at the same time, grow the game,” says Brad Calaway, SCC general manager and one of the instructors involved in the League.

There are two age groups in the Junior League; U13 which includes young people ages 10-13, and U17 ages 14-17. In 2021, the Junior League has a total number of 20 members.

In addition to Calaway, instructors include Darcy Kelly, Assistant Professional, and SCC member/volunteer Andrea Klein. Brad gives kudos to PGA Professional Steve Hlavacek and SCC member Marla Frey for getting the league started at Stoughton.

“One of the main reasons I joined the club was because of the Junior program,” says SCC member Nolan Baker whose daughter Aja is in the U13 group. “The program offers a great one-on-one experience with the coaches. It also promotes an atmosphere of working together with teammates and learning from good and bad decisions.”

“Our goal is to grow this program and develop a traveling team or two,” says Brad. Other courses that participate in the Junior League are Bishops Bay, Cherokee, Pleasant View, Edelweiss, Monroe CC, Lake Windsor, Lake Ripley, The Oaks, Door Creek and Nakoma.

For more information on the PGA Junior League for the 2022 season, call or stop by the pro shop.

Junior Club Championship

The first week in August is an exciting family time at the Stoughton Golf Club for family members with children as August 6th marks the day when the SCC's youngsters have their own Junior Club Championship.

It's a time when the club's PGA Junior members can show their families what they've learned over a year of playing and practicing under area coaches – and it's a chance for SCC members' non-PGA youngsters to have a day of competition on the course in an event devoted just for them.

"It's still another way to grow the game and bring SCC families together by providing an event for the 25 to 40 youngsters from our club membership who would like the chance to compete," said General Manager Brad Calaway. "It's really a great event."

It's important to note that the Junior Club Championship is separate from the SCC's PGA Junior program and that all SCC members' kids under 18 are welcome to compete in the free event, he noted, adding that it's not too late to sign up!

The SCC's family members will compete by age bracket, starting with 16- to 18-year-olds teeing off first and playing 18 holes, followed by 13- to 15-year-olds starting a half an hour later. The 10- to 12-year-old group will play nine holes; and youngsters 9 years old and under will compete in a drive-chip-putt competition.

"I love this event because it's a great way to show our appreciation to our families by providing an event just for their children," said Calaway.

Golf Tip of the Month

Calculating the precise distance for a putt is, as we all know, is part science, part art and requires a huge amount of practice. As we also know, there's no way to practice for the unique challenge of each green's slope and tough read – and even the turf's moisture, which alters the ball's roll, can change during the course of your game.

But nonetheless, warm-ups can help you get the "feel" of that day's turf and help re-establish your putting "eye" before a game.

Here's a basic drill I would like to offer as you warm up on the practice green:

- Choose a practice hole and divide the area around the hole into quadrants. (For lack of a better description, envision lines north, south, east and west from the hole.)
- Set your ball three feet from the hole, then practice putt from each of the four directions.
- Move the ball out to six feet and repeat.
- Then, move it out nine feet and again practice putt from each direction.

Above all, she says, don't rush it. Take your time, set up and focus. As they say in sports, you play like you practice!

*Darcy Kelly
Golf Instructor and Golf Shop Assistant*



Golf Joke of the Month



A young man and a priest are playing golf together. At a short par 3 the priest asks, 'What are you going to use on this hole, my son?' The young man says, 'An iron, father. How about you?' The priest says, 'I'm going to hit a soft seven and pray.'

The young man hits his iron and puts the ball on the green. The priest tops his iron and dribbles the ball out a few yards.

The young man says, 'I don't know about you, father, but in my church when we pray we keep our heads down.'

Heard any new family-acceptable golf jokes lately? Send to GM Brad Calaway baypro2@gmail.com or Paul Pitas at pmpitas@charter.net – or just recount them to golf pros Steve or Darcy as they try to help you correct your swing!

Meet the Staff - General Manager Brad Calaway

Each month, we'll try to feature at least one member of our dedicated staff to introduce (or re-introduce) to you as they're the ones who work so hard to make your Stoughton Country Club a great place to belong.

This month, it seemed obvious to start with your relatively new general manager, Brad Calaway.

Two years ago, as long-time manager and golf club pro Steve Hlavacek – an institution at the Stoughton Country Club – was looking to scale back his role, the SCC's board of directors chose an experienced veteran to start taking the reins.

They chose Brad Calaway, a PGA golf pro, who knows the art and science of golf course groundskeeping, golf club finances, managing club employees – as well as holding a deep understanding of golf's "culture."

"I was excited by the opportunity to come here because Steve had such an excellent reputation within the Wisconsin PGA section," says Calaway, who was also excited because, in a way, he was returning home.

"I'm from here," he says, recounting his days growing up in McFarland and playing for the McFarland High School golf team. One of the SCC's veteran members, Rod Bakken, "was one of my favorite teachers and three of my 1987 classmates are members, Ken Mayr, Kim Newman (Grant) and Tim Custer."

It's been a long road between high school and his return to the area as SCC's general manager.

Calaway joined the PGA apprenticeship in 1991; became a PGA member in 1997; and spent six years as



the Head PGA Professional at golf course in Ohio before moving back to Wisconsin with his wife Lynn to start their family – and launch a career in golf management.

He then managed Meadow Springs CC in Jefferson, the Windwood of Watertown, Jefferson's public course (formerly Meadow Springs) and, finally, Willow Brook in Whitewater. It was there that then-SCC Board President Dave Bisbee reached out to him as a candidate for interim golf pro and manager as Hlavacek, SCC's veteran pro and manager, was preparing for an extended medical leave.

It was a challenging first year, he says matter-of-factly.

Just as he was taking the reins last March, COVID-19 roared to life, shutting down just about everything, including restaurants. Golf could still be played, but Calaway had to manage a new and unfamiliar staff, and keep the SCC open and financially healthy while at the same time trying to keep everyone safe.

"It wasn't just keeping people safe," he notes. "It was just as important people felt safe."

Then the unusual happened: SCC memberships started taking off – and this month are nearly a third higher than last year.

"No one could have predicted this, but it makes sense," he says. "Golf was a safe outlet. It's a sport played outside and players are naturally spaced if they're walking or using separate carts. I think people also found they had more time to play because of the enormous amount of time saved by not having to commute."

Now, he says, his challenge is to retain those new and current members. "I'm confident we can do this. We have a great product at a reasonable price and I pride myself as a manager on providing excellent guest service to members and their guests."

But probably most important and most impressive at SCC, he says, is the enormous support the club receives from its members.

"This place has enormous future potential and I'm excited about the possibilities," he says, envisioning an expanded pro shop, and possibly even a golf fitting and golf simulator facility – and the opportunity to celebrate the club's Centennial next year.

"Steve and I are already planning celebrations, member golf events, special dining experiences and live music. It's going to be a wonderful season for a truly historic club."

From the Grounds Crew

We are officially in the dog days of summer – and for golf courses, that’s always a struggle.

Heat and humidity and warm night time temperatures have the turf hanging on by a thread. The moisture and the heat are the perfect environments for the diseases that threaten closely mowed turf. That same combination also weakens our defenses as fungicide applications don’t last as long.

As a result, the grass growth slows down, especially root growth, causing us to water more often. And even with careful watering, the grass simply doesn’t heal as fast as it did a month ago.

So, here’s the plan: At the end of August, we will start aerating the greens. This involves pulling small cores of soil out of the greens, cleaning up the extracted soil, then spreading sand over the entire green and dragging and blowing that sand into the holes. We do this to relieve compaction, improve air and water movement through the soil, and to break up and dilute the thatch layer that can accumulate.

By aerating at this time of year we should have a quick recovery time and be able to enjoy good greens throughout the fall. Usually, it takes two to three days to complete the aeration process -- and while we’re doing this work, nine holes may be closed at a time.

In September, we will be starting the rebuild of the #4 green. It’s an expensive and time-consuming process.

First, the sod will be stripped off the current green and set to the side on plastic tarps. The green will then be cored out and regraded according to our professional specifications. Drainage will then be installed and covered up with a green construction mix. After all that, we’ll return the original turf we removed from the green and complete the rebuild of the #4 green for play next season.

During the construction process, hole #4 will still be open for play as we’ll mow a temporary green into the fairway. It’s not ideal, of course. But the game must go on!

As you can see, we have a busy end of summer and early fall. I am looking forward to the cool nights and dry air of late September and October which, in my opinion, is the best time to enjoy the course.



*Mark Livingston,
Golf Course Superintendent*



DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 6th:** Junior Club Championship
- August 7th:** Wedding
- August 8th:** Hehr Brunch & WPAA Practice Around
- August 9th:** WPAA Golf Outing
- August 10th:** Ashrae Golf Outing
- August 13th:** Rehearsal dinner in Lake Kengosa Room
- August 14th:** Justman Reception
- August 16th:** First Lutheran Church Golf Outing
- August 17th:** Gunderson Funeral Home Luncheon
- August 20th:** Rehearsal Dinner in Lake Kengosa Room
- August 21st:** Class reunion of 1966
- August 27th-29th:** Club Championship
- August 30th-31st:** Aerification of Greens
- September 11th:** Class reunion of 70 & 71
- September 12th:** Shillelaih Open
- September 13th:** McFarland Chamber Golf Outing
- September 15th:** Women’s Solheim Cup
- September 14th:** Stoughton Hospital Golf Outing
- September 18th:** Wedding
- September 23rd:** Men's Bash
- September 25th:** Wedding
- September 27th:** Fastenal Golf Outing
- September 29th:** Women's Fall Frolic

SCC Members Send Powerful Message of Support for Women's Health



This year's Women's Health Golf Outing early in July raised \$3,000 to support the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation dedicated to helping improve the health of Wisconsin women statewide. LR, WWHF founder Former First Lady Sue Ann Thompson, organizer Terri McNamara, SCC board member Beth Murphy and the foundation's current executive director, Tommi Thompson. (Yes, she's the daughter of Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin's longest serving governor).

WWHF "does a great job," said McNamara. "We used to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. But with WWHF, all the money stays in Wisconsin."

Notes from the Board of Directors

First of all, we'd like to announce that Jill Ott is Stoughton Country Club's newest board member, elected at our last meeting to fill an open board seat.

She'll join Beth Murphy to serve as the second female board member, which we feel is important for our club, about a third of which is comprised of women.

It's obvious, but bears repeating and emphasizing, that our female members are an important part of our club community. They utilize our pro golf instructors and instruction programs much more than men—and they're a vital part of our club's social membership—our golf family and community culture.

Ensuring our female members have a strong voice is a priority at Stoughton Country Club. We have elected many female board members in the past, as well as past female board presidents.

But Jill's appointment is nonetheless a proud statement by all of us that we're committed to ensuring all of our club members feel well represented. Jill is a geriatric rehabilitation occupational therapist by profession; She and her husband Craig have two children, Trevor (19) and Gracie (18), In her spare time, Jill says she likes to "attempt to golf and spend time with family and

friends."

She knows the club, the course, and our all-important golf and social culture where family and friends gather. Welcome Jill!

To emphasize that point even more, we'll be experimenting this month with a new "Women's Day" on Wednesdays - August 11 and 18th - during which no men will be allowed to play after 11 a.m. (If you play those mornings, you must have completed your round by that time!) And women will have exclusive use of the bar and restaurant that day.

The idea here is to mirror our current "Men's Days" held every Thursday when

women must complete their play by 11 a.m. as well as clear the restaurant and bar by that time -- though they're free to use practice area #4 and golf pro shop.

Our current "Women's Days" consist of course time reserved exclusively for women. But men are still allowed to tee off after 3 p.m. as well as use the restaurant and bar afterward. So it's really a "Women's Day Lite."

We will revisit the women's day policy after this two week trial We hope you enjoy it!

John Quam



Rick Conroy

Congratulations to John Quam who scored a Hole in One on #6 using a PW from 133 yard, and to Rick Conroy for his eagle on #13 with a 7 iron from 147 yards. It's been an amazing year for SCC golfers. Heavily used public courses rarely see more than six to eight holes in one per year, says GM Brad Calaway. As of the last week in July, SCC golfers had already holed six holes in one, and the season is roughly only half over!

View from the Club House Office GM Report



There's a proverbial light at the end of the tunnel!

This month marks the end of our early-season kitchen fire tragedy - and, we hope - the beginning of Stoughton Country Club's launch into a new, modern era of culinary excellence!

We recently learned that the state inspection of our fire-damaged kitchen is scheduled for August 6.

This means we've been able to start "deconstruction" - tearing out the old, damaged parts of the kitchen. Then, once that inspection is completed, we can start installing the new state-of-the-art equipment we've ordered.

Here's the light at the end of the tunnel for you members: We can now predict with reasonable certainty that by Sept. 1, we'll be able launch our new, state-of-the-art kitchen that will serve our club well into the new century.

It's been a tough summer. As such, I'd like to personally thank our members, our board of directors, and our staff for their patience, perseverance, hard work and

trust as this has been a difficult challenge for everyone, especially our staff and Chef Troy who worked tirelessly to continue providing an array of quality dining options - and doing so from our out-door grill and basement kitchen facilities.

I'd also like to personally thank our board of directors for their wisdom in taking the time to re-build the kitchen "right" instead of trying to re-open "right-away," which would have meant the difficult job of remodeling the kitchen piecemeal over time, likely resulting in missed opportunities for kitchen facility excellence.

Come September's newsletter, we should have a great story for Chef Troy to offer about our new kitchen.

How exciting is that?

I'd like to welcome Sheridan Wynne to our management team as she'll play a key role in our future club's success.

Sheridan, a server with years of experience in the bar and restaurant business, is our new activities director and lead server - a job that, done well, will grow the club's culture, its membership and even its finances.

Of those three, the most important to me is the club's culture.

True, events generate income and help draw new members by making the club an attractive place to join. That's obviously important.

But in my experience, I've found that fun, engaging events are critical to the success of all great golf clubs. Events bring club members together. They bring specific groups together, such as events for women; they bring golf families and friends together; they make the course a true "club" by enhancing and growing its

welcoming community "feel" - a place to which members truly enjoy belonging. Stoughton Country Club is a great club.

But like all clubs, it's only as good as its members who participate it and support it. Well-run events deliver far greater value than the income they generate or new members they might draw.

That's why we're so excited to have in place our new events coordinator.

Welcome Sheridan!

As a final note: This issue is devoted to our young golfers. Young golfers help "grow the game" which is a PGA nationwide goal. Our kids' participation and excitement helps reinforce the family feel of our club and golf culture.

And just to be philosophical for a moment.... Young golfers are important to the future of both our club -- and our society.

While I've never seen a study on this, I've yet to meet a young, enthusiastic golfer who didn't later grow up to become an excellent citizen and contributor to our economy and our society.

It's not just the golf. It's the family behind the golf - and good clubs should always help foster good families.

General Manager Brad Calaway

