

# The Tee Times

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*The official newsletter of the Stoughton Country Club*

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## Stoughton Country Club Returns “Classic Golf Tournament” for Women



*Stacy Stolen drives as she participates in the re-created Womens Classic*

The Stoughton Country Club’s “Ladies Classic” has returned as part of an effort to expand events, programs -- and the joy of competition -- for the club’s women members who are so integral to the success of the organization.

That, says board member Beth Murphy, is why the SCC’s board of directors felt it was so important to bring back the Women’s Classic.

“The men already have a large number of events,” including a “Classic” tournament and the President’s Cup,” says Murphy, a long-time member of the club and its only female board member.

“But our women members also play a big role in the success and positive culture of our club. So, it’s really important we also do what we can to offer events for women – and that’s why we brought it back. These events are great as they help all members – and especially new ones -- get engaged in the club, including its golf events, social activities and its offerings such as its bar and restaurant,” she said, adding that the club’s “culture” is how friendships are established and why it’s important to women as well.

Over seven weeks, the Classic will see 26 women golfers in 13 randomly drawn teams compete in a “four ball” tournament for a total of \$500 in prizes at the SCC’s Golf Shop. (First place is \$300 worth of shopping rights, second \$125, third \$75.) *Continued on Page 2*

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## Chip N Sip Celebrates 15 Years



Left to right are: Cheryl Duffey, Pam Horn, Diane Erickson, SCC golf pro Steve Hlavacek, Maureen Kiess, Beth LePine and Katrina Keller.

Since 2006, Stoughton Country Club has provided a fun and instructional program designed to promote and strengthen women's golf at the club and improve golf membership retention.

"Years ago, we found that many beginning and established women golfers were not necessarily comfortable learning about golf in a formal setting," says Steve Hlavacek, PGA Professional and Chip and Sip instructor. "We thought that offering instruction in the form of 'chippin' combined with some wine 'sippin' would provide a fun venue."

Steve gives kudos to long-time member Gloria Jenkins for helping start up the program.

It's estimated over 300 members have participated in Chip and Sip since the beginning. There are currently six sessions scheduled throughout the golf season with each one focusing on a specific part of the game. The cost of each session is \$15 with monies largely going to a non-profit, most recently the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation.

Of course, Steve adds that a very small part of the fee covers the cost of the wine!

Cheryl Duffey is a longtime member of Stoughton Country Club and frequent participant of Chip and Sip.

"It's just fun; a great opportunity to meet new members, learn something new about golf and enjoy some wine! What's great is that you can sign up and pay for whatever lesson you're interested in without committing to an entire series."

Check out the monthly Tee Times or call the pro shop to find out the Chip and Sip schedule.

## Golf Joke of the Month



A man was practicing working on his swing at the range as a retired golf pro watched.

"You're standing too close the ball," the pro said. So, the man adjusted his stance and took another swing.

"You're still standing too close to the ball," the pro said, raising his voice slightly. The golfer stepped back and swung again, and again, and again, with the pro offering the same advice each time.

Frustrated, the golfer yelled at the pro: "What the bloody hell are you talking about?"

The old golf pro countered: "You're swing isn't bad, but you're standing too close to the ball AFTER you've hit it."

Heard any new family-acceptable golf jokes lately? Send to GM Brad Calaway [baypro2@gmail.com](mailto:baypro2@gmail.com) or Paul Pitas at [pmpitas@charter.net](mailto:pmpitas@charter.net).

## Women's Classic Tournament

*Cont. from page 1* Every match is a foursome in which two teams will face off until they've all played each other - and they're handicapped so everyone is playing on a level "golf course." Every woman plays her own ball ("four ball") but the woman with lowest score on each hole wins a point for her team (a tie is a half point). When it's over, the winning team is the one with the most points - and wins the big golf shop dollars.

"The team approach to this tournament is a great way to start to expand women's golf events because some women aren't always as comfortable with one-on-one competition," said GM Brad Calaway, who has organized women's golf events at other courses he has managed.

"I've found that an event allowing women to compete in teams means less individual pressure for them - and it means a lot more fun. That doesn't mean we won't have a "President's Cup" for women in the future. But we'll see how this goes first and hopefully we can then grow our women's golf events over the next few years. It's just a great way to get all people more involved in the club."

# SCC Members on the Way to a “Hole” New Course Record?

Stoughton Country Club members are a “hole” lot better this year, “holing” what may be a course record with four holes-in-one in the first few months of the season.

Lucky? So talented they make their own luck? Fortuitous pin-position perhaps?

“Whatever the reason, this is unusual,” says general manager/golf pro Brad Calaway. “Most years, we may see eight holes in one the entire year. We’ve now had four with most of the season yet to play. It’s been amazing – but I can’t really explain it.”

Three of the four holes in one were within a week of each other on #13 by Steve Slinde, Larry Harlow and Mark Herbst, who also had the good fortune of playing with his sons Garrett and Caleb who were present to witness their father’s golf expertise—right around Fathers Day, no less.

But perhaps the most unusual Eagle occurred on #10 when veteran SCC member Lou Wilczynski holed his with his first swing of the club.

“The last Thursday of every month, we reverse the course so it starts on the back nine with hole #10,” Calaway says. “He scored a hole in one with his first stroke of the day. I’ve never seen that before.”



Steve Slinde



Lou Wilczynski



From Left to Right. Caleb, Mark and Garrett Herbst – a Father’s Day gift!



## Golf Tip of the Month

The club’s golf instructor and golf shop assistant Darcy Kelly offers this July tip for improving your golf game: Maximize the effectiveness of your practices. Here are a few pointers:

- Start with your pre-set routine. (Grip, alignment and balanced stance).
- Go for quality, not quantity. Use a small bucket of balls instead of the jumbo so you’re taking your time with each shot. Take breaks to clear your head.

- Keep it fresh. Mix up what you’re doing to add focus to each practice shot. If you’re on the driving range, start with your shortest club and work up to longer irons and woods which are more difficult.
- Practice your short game! Practice your short game! Practice your short game! (Long drives are impressive, but it’s the putting, chipping, pitch and sand shots make or break our scores!)
- Practice on your weaknesses. Enough said, right?

# July Golf Event to Celebrate “The Law”

One of Stoughton Country Club’s more colorful members will have his personality on display one final time July 24 as hundreds of SCC members and friends have signed up for a day-long celebration of Don Law – a day that starts with shotgun golf and free vodka shots – and ends with a free barbecue to the rhythms of an Elvis impersonator.

Don, who died in April of COVID-related complications at age 63, was a character who was hard to miss, with his baby blue shirts, his pineapple club head covers, and his boundless humor and positive energy, noted GM Brad Calaway.

“He was that kind of guy...larger than life,” said Lori McNally, a friend and partner of Law for several years. “This is how he would want to be remembered.”

“Just as Don wanted, the dinner and beer are free,” said Lori, a senior vice president for SAP, a German cloud-based software company. “There will even be shots served on holes 6 and 13, just as he used to do during some of our golf events.”

“Those who wish, however, can donate to the Ernie Els Foundation for Autism, an organization he believed in. Don loved golf, so this is a way to honor him and his life.”

“Every time he came off the course it was the same joke. If he won, he’d say ‘the course met the Law – and the Law won.’ Or, if he lost... ‘the Law lost.’ But he was always so upbeat, it was funny every time,” said Calaway.

Don was also a successful businessman



Lori McNally

who owned Edible Arrangements stores in the Chicago area and Madison – and many times donated money and fruit from his business to help support Stoughton Country Club events and fundraisers.

His generosity was sparked in part from his love of golf that he’s had all his life -- ever since he was a kid when his grandfather took him golfing but refused to give him the left-handed clubs he needed until he proved he was interested in the game,” Lori said.

He was interested, to say the least.

“He had friends everywhere including guys from high school and college and his softball buddies who would get together every year for 40 years for their “Open Cooler Golf Classic.”

His love of golf was infectious, she said.

“I’m not a golfer – and never have been. But we looked all over the area and fell in love with this club. I’ve made so many friends because it became part of our life.”

“What’s most important during the event on July 24th,” Lori asked rhetorically?

“I can’t stress this enough. This not a sad day or a memorial, it’s a celebration – a party in his honor. That’s how Don would want it.”



## From the Grounds Crew

It seems that the weather has been changing every other week this golf season.

This June was the hottest June on record and July looks like it is not going to be any better. The hot weather stresses the turf and causes us to water differently and spray more fungicides.

Also, the turf growth slows down once it gets too hot which in turn causes slower healing when it comes to cart traffic damage, ball marks, and divots. Here's what we'll need to do together to help protect the turf as July's heat radiates into August:

- We can reduce cart traffic by up to 50 percent if everyone rides together whenever possible. There should not be more than two carts per foursome.
- Increased irrigation means softer greens which means increases in the number and depth of ball marks – and it lengthens turf healing time. As such, it is important for every golfer to fix not only their own ball marks, but any ball mark they see.

- Same idea on the fairways. Softer fairways mean divots also become more numerous and deeper. As such, please make sure you take time to fill your divots with sand or, if you have a deep intact divot, replace and top-dress it with sand. Do the same for any divots you find left unreplaced or top-dressed.
- To aid you with your member-assisted repairs and maintenance, we have purchased a new green sand bin and placed it near the #4's tee for anyone who needs to refill their bottles.

Meanwhile, we have started to remove more of the ash trees that have been hit by the emerald ash borer. Unfortunately, this will be an ongoing process for the next couple years as we have more and more of the trees succumb to the pest. We have planted trees in anticipation of the ash tree removal, but there will need to be others planted to replace some of the trees in the more in-play areas.

Finally, I just wanted to inform/remind everyone that we will be aerating greens the last week of August. We usually shut

down the holes one "nine" at a time and try to complete one through nine in a day. If things go well, we should be done in just a couple days.

Finishing the greens up at this time of the year gives them the best chance to heal up fast and get back to desired playing conditions.

Enjoy your golf experience as summer's hot and unpredictable weather continues!



Mark Livingston, Golf Course Superintendent

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**July 13th:** Chip-N-Sip

**July 16th:** PGA Junior League Match

**July 16th:** Jr. Lessons

**July 17th:** Wedding

**July 23rd:** Jr. Lessons

**July 24th:** Don Law's Celebration of Life

**July 27th:** Stoughton Chamber Golf Outing

**July 30th:** Jr. Lessons

**August 3rd:** Chip-N-Sip



**August 6th:** Junior Club Championship

**August 7th:** Hehr Reunion

**August 9th:** WPAA Golf Outing

**August 10th:** Ashrae Golf Outing

**August 14th:** Justman Reception

**August 24th:** Chip-N-Sip

**August 27th-29th:** Club Championship

# View from the Club House Office GM Report



There's an old saying, possibly from Aesop, who once warned us all to be careful what we wish for. I wonder if Aesop was a golf course manager?

Our golf memberships have grown to 310 as of this month, up from 221 at the start of last year; Social members are now at 85, up from 63 last year. That 395 total membership count represents 110 new memberships, a growth of nearly 39 percent in one year!

And you're showing up on the course which has seen a near steady-stream of golfers who played 3,915 rounds in June, a third more than the 2,764 rounds played in June 2020.

In other words, it's been crazy busy!

**Kitchen Update** While people continued to discover our club, our kitchen facilities were damaged by fire. Chef Troy and his staff are working their tails off to make due as best they can, preparing food using the basement stove and kitchen and our patio outdoor grill. Our servers are walking miles each day, carrying food up the stairs to the dining area.

Please be patient. We know you're accustomed to - and deserve - hot food served on time. But please know our servers are working hard to defy the laws of physics - keeping warm the food that is prepared outside and carried from areas not all that close to your table.

The kitchen reconstruction remains a work in progress and we're ready to install new equipment. We're still working with the building inspector as well as our insurers with whom we're negotiating multiple, complex claims. We're moving. There are no hold-ups. But this will take time.

Just to repeat: Our goal is to re-open our kitchen "the right way" as a new world-class facility that will serve our club well for decades to come. So, we're deeply appreciative of your understanding as this slow process unfolds.

**Weather Update** We at the SCC owe a great deal of gratitude to Mother Nature. After a month of draught and high heat in May and early June, we were blessed with a torrential 2-inch rain in mid-June and another "soaker" at the end of the month that brought bursts of fresh green and colorful beauty to our course, especially in

colorful beauty to our course, especially in the non-irrigated roughs and borders of the course.

That saves a lot of money we'd otherwise pay to irrigate our course. But more importantly, rainwater is always a vastly superior way to water, feed and aerate our tee boxes, fairways and greens.

**Cart Update** To help serve our expanding membership, we're adding eight new leased club carts this month. They're identical to the 16 club carts we already lease, complete with upgraded comfortable seats, tinted windshields, cooler brackets and alloy rimmed wheels.

Speaking of carts... We'd like to get back to our club's pre-COVID cart usage days: In other words, we'd like you all to again double up in your carts, instead of one person per cart which we've been doing. The reason for the request is fairly straightforward: The higher the cart traffic, the more damage it does to the course. Thanks!

It's going to be a great month looking forward. Enjoy!

*General Manager Brad Calaway*

## Welcome New Members!

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Todd & Carol Schommer         | John Rusin                     |
| Corey Singer                  | Caylie Kotlowski               |
| John Hicks                    | Kyle Holverson                 |
| Justin & Jamie Spaulding      | Drew & Alysha Kratochwill      |
| Tim & Susan Custer            | Thor Rosten                    |
| Tom & Connie Lebakken         | Jeff & Nona Havey              |
| Lou Petritz & Judie Caribeaux | Bob Baker                      |
| Craig Hanson                  | Dan Forler & Kristen McLone    |
| Olaf & Karen Haugen           | Nolan Baker Daughter Aja Baker |
| Jimmy Peltier                 | David Norqual                  |
| Dan Herlache                  | Tom Binger & Max Binger (Son)  |
| Renee Yarcho                  | Lisa & John Wozniak            |
| Tom Feuling                   | Peg Stine & Karl Johnson       |
| Jerry & Kristen Carstensen    |                                |