

LINKS letter



March 2010

www.banffspringsgolfclub.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7pm Monday, April 12, 2010
Fairmont Banff Springs Theatre,
Conference Centre
2010 *Golf in Jasper Draw*

NOMINATION NOTICE

Nominations for Vice President must be submitted to the Secretary by 4pm, April 12, 2010. Application forms are available on the website and can be dropped off at the Banff School Board Office (325 Squirrel St) or at 122 Glacier Dr.



MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Hello fellow golfers!

I'm sure everyone is itching to get their hands on their golf clubs, as I know I am!! I am also excited to serve the fine people of our club as President for the upcoming season.

The 2010 golf season is almost upon us and should, based on the playing conditions we were blessed with last year, be yet another stellar year.

While writing this, I know that we still have memberships available for what is arguably one of the best deals in golf. If you have any friends that are interested and are keen golfers please spread the word.

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place April 12, 2010 at the BSH. I would encourage all to attend. Not only will you help choose a new Vice President, you will be informed of any upcoming events important to our membership, as well as any updates or changes in the constitution of the Club.

The hotel has informed us that big changes are in store for our practice area, namely in clearly defining the "hitting" area by building a natural buffer between the parking lot and the range itself. This should prove to be good news for those of us who like to keep their game in shape.

I would also like to offer an ear to anyone who has questions, suggestions or even criticism regarding our club. Please feel free to approach me or any of the Executive. If an answer is not immediately available one will certainly be found.

Thanks, and Fore!
Geoff Hunt, President



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hope you all wintered well, and the course for that matter.

Fairmont Banff Springs have held the 2010 Green Fee rates at the same level as 2009; a very kind and generous act. Thank you to the Board and Fairmont for negotiating this agreement.

Invoices will be mailed out at the end of February with payment due date on or before April 1, 2010. As I was doing the invoices, I suddenly realized that I'll be in Mexico from March 27 to April 10, so I would appreciate it if you could send your cheques in sooner and just post date them to April 1 if possible.

At the time of this writing, we have 40 vacancies in the adult membership with 4 applicants on the waitlist and 17 vacancies in the junior program with 5 applicants on the waitlist. If you know of anyone wishing to join the club, please send them my way.

Looking forward to getting back on the course and seeing you all again.

Ken Riordon, Secretary Treasurer.

ca 1941

March, 2010



MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

It has been my privilege and honour to have served on the executive board of the Banff Springs Golf Club. I am pleased to have been able to contribute my time and skills to the board and the membership at large, and look forward to doing the same in 2010 as past president. I would like to thank the 2009 board members for their assistance and contributions while I served as president.

Special thanks to Ken Riordon for his continued dedication and commitment to the club. Since our 'keeper of the greens', Mr. Bob Burrows, arrived on the scene, the course has been described by many a veteran as the best they have seen in the last twenty years. Can't wait for this year! I look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting on April 12th in the Banff Springs Conference Centre Theatre. The hotel has once again kindly agreed to host drinks and we will be having a draw for a Jasper Golf Getaway. You must be present to win! If you have any questions/concerns regarding the Club, please don't hesitate to contact me, or any of the executive. We are here to serve the membership.

Jay Simpson, Past President.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GOLF

We are optimistic and excited to get the course open for golfers by May 7, 2010. Many of you may have been down to the golf course on walks or other business and noticed skating rinks on our greens. Dan Nolin and Chris Coughlin have spent many a winter day out chipping, tamping, spreading fertilizer and other innovative practices to deal with the resident ice on our greens. We are confident with help from Mother Nature we will soon have all greens clear and keep them that way until spring.

What does this mean for course conditions in 2010? As a precaution, we are taking samples from the worst affected greens and bringing them to life in our green house to help us understand what affect the ice coverage has had and what mitigating actions we need to plan for, if any.

We are pleased to announce our decision to not implement our contracted increase of 5% on membership dues for the 2010 season. Given the current economic conditions and our willingness to work with the membership to ensure its' continued growth and prosperity, we felt it important to not implement the increase as per our contract with the membership this season. As I am sure you are aware, and the current course conditions demonstrate, we are committed to the quality of product despite our increasing costs to operate the course. In addition, as you will see later in this report, we continue to invest capital in the course as required.

We are excited to inform you that the Driving Range is getting an upgrade this spring. In excess of \$100K is being invested to improve this area. The main work will involve separating the parking lot from the driving range with a wide berm, planted with trees and shrubs, to give future privacy to the area. The lower parking lot (not currently used because it's in front of the hitting stalls) will be broken up and restored to grass. The driving range will be extended to the trees along hole 18 adding two (2) additional driving range stalls and four (4) additional teaching stalls in what will become our private teaching area. The current 'starters' shack will be moved down to act as a building separating the driving range from the teaching area and providing our golf professionals a place to work out of. The existing range shack will be used to store range balls. The lower putting green will be removed and an interlocking parking area created for golf carts to reside while people walk to their hitting stalls. The existing far right end of the range will be used by the range picker to deliver range balls in a safe means to the ball washer. We will be replacing, as the summer arrives, the yellow range balls with white range balls. Future capital money is being discussed to replace the hitting mats and provide a better target area on the range. Needless to say, we are very excited about seeing this area significantly improved and providing persons taking lessons a private area from which to be educated.

No Green Fee Increase for 2010!

The FBSH has agreed to hold all membership rates at 2009 levels (as opposed to the planned increase of 5%) based on the economic climate and the reduced number of members in 2009. Thanks to Steve Young and Francisco Gomez for their support!

In addition to the Driving Range Project, we are working on improving the aesthetics of the Clubhouse Restaurant area. A design plan has been submitted offering up means to upgrade the feel and appearance of this area. In excess of \$50K has been earmarked for this effort and we await final concept approval before knowing exactly what will be completed. We hope to be able to share more on this project at the AGM in April.

A few years ago we embarked on a project to make an impact on the shopping experience provided in The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Retail Store. This winter we have completed the final phase of this plan and are pleased to unveil this spring what we believe will be a superior shopping experience to members and guests in our golf store. New fixtures have been

installed in the ladies section and a Golf Equipment section (golf bags, golf balls, golf gloves, shoes and golf clubs) created in the corner beside the cash counter. Finally, a hat display shelving unit has been installed on the right side of the counter professionally displaying our headwear product. Simon Jones and Cameron Craig have spent hours working with our engineering team at the hotel to bring this dream alive – well done.

For two years now, we have spent money to ensure the course is safe from potentially dangerous trees that are in the playing area of golfers. We are pleased to announce that once again 25K has been approved to take down another 1,000+ trees that are considered potential hazards.

In 2010, golfers who use motorized golf carts will be excited to learn we will have a brand new fleet. The upgraded Club Car Precedent car is being introduced to our facility and will replace the prototype carts we have used since 2006. In addition, the turf team are having their utility vehicle fleet replaced with 16 new Club Car utility vehicles.

We are excited to announce that the check-in process will be made easier for members through a cooperative effort in 2010. We will be pre-checking in members for their rounds so their starter chits and any cart rental chits are waiting for them upon arrival at the golf course. While we would enjoy seeing everyone visit our golf shop, the new procedure will provide members the opportunity to get set up for their round without having to endure line-ups in the golf shop. This time saving change will only work, however, with the cooperation of members at time of booking. We will require that we know all members who are playing in the foursome so they can be checked in and known to the guest service staff. Anyone wishing to rent carts or bringing guests, by indicating this at time of booking and ensuring we have your credit card on file, will have them pre-charged/checked-in ahead of time and payment slips awaiting you upon arrival. We believe these changes will provide everyone a better and less stressful shopping experience and allow people to get out golfing in a more expedited manner. How does this affect my booking? Currently, many members book under one name for their tee-time. This will still be allowed, however, we will be requesting that 2-days prior to your tee-time you advise us of all names that are playing in the group. If this is not provided, then the tee time will be changed to reflect only the golfers who are known in the tee time 2-days out. We feel this is paramount to us pre-checking people in and to providing the needed controls against people getting on the course, without checking in, or falsely as members. We believe the outcomes of these changes will be beneficial to all.

At the AGM in April we will once again set up a mini-trade show to offer up some great deals, to showcase some of the new equipment/lines available in the shop and, to meet the staff. Don't forget to leave a little time for this activity when planning your time at the AGM.

We are excited to announce the following projected Opening/Closing dates for this year (all subject to weather):

COURSE	OPENING	LAST DAY OF PLAY
Tunnel Mountain 9	May 7	October 11 (Oct. 4 onward)
Mixed Rotation (Tunnel/Sulphur)	May 12	October 4
Stanley Thompson 18	May 14	September 30

Upcoming BSGC Bylaw Amendments

1. Junior Program re-structure

As always, our intent is to open the Driving Range early in May. This decision will be made based on the progress of the capital project. We hope to have a more precise prediction of this for the AGM in April.

Last year was the first year of updating a course calendar on the member's site to assist in making plans based on course availability. I admit we did not do a great job in keeping this updated. This year we will focus on ensuring this tool is used for the purpose it was created - to assist members in planning their golf season. We will begin to update in May.

We were sad to learn that Scott Holland will not be returning to The Fairmont Banff Springs as a teaching professional this season. Scott has been an integral part of the golf course for many years and in that time taught many juniors and people from the community the game of golf. Scott will be missed and we wish him well in his future endeavors. We are in the process of recruiting and selecting people to fill this void and are confident we will have staff in place to run the junior program and teach the many lessons offered throughout the season at the facility in the near future.

As a reminder, the golf team runs the W. Thomson boutique in the hotel, located at M1. We encourage you all to drop by and see the magnificent deals and offerings we have and to say hello to our staff.

The staff are eagerly hiring and preparing for the golf season and looking forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting golf season and excellent golfing conditions. We wish you all the best for the remainder of the winter season.

Steven Young, Director of Golf

March, 2010.



Hello Fellow Members.

I hope everyone has had a good winter season, and is as anxious to start swinging the clubs as I am. Looking forward to another fun golf season. Right now, one event we have setup is the opportunity to play in an AGA Pro AM being held here on Wednesday, May 26th. More details will be available after I meet with Steve Young to set up the entire schedule for this summer.

We will be doubling up the number of competitors in the 1st Flight this year to 16. Last year it was brought back, and feel there is a lot of competition in the Men's Division. For those not familiar, these are the next 16 positions after the Championship Flight, and is a match play format.

Men's night registration will continue to offer both the phone sign up and online sign up. Sign up will cease at 6 p.m. on Monday evenings. The Draw will be recorded on the phone message and posted on the website (as opposed to emailing it to members, as was the case last season).

Again, before we start the season, I will set up a Men's info session to go over the season schedule and answer any questions you may have about the events, formats, rules, or whatever else may come up. I will have this date and location by the AGM.

Until then, if you have any questions, suggestions, or any other golf related 'stuff', please contact me. My contact info is on our website.

Chris Lambe, Men's Captain.

Hole in One Display

Ken believes we have records from 1997 to present. If you know of a hole in one, please email Ken with details: name of golfer; hole, and date (at least the year). For inclusion in hole in one display planned for Clubhouse.

New Members

There is currently no waitlist for new members. The Executive encourages members to solicit potential new members. In 2009 the Club did not fill all membership spots. New Member application forms are available on the website.

UPCOMING DATES

March 22	BSGC Executive Meeting
April 12	Annual General Meeting
May 1	Driving Range opens (tent.)
May 7	Tunnel open (tent.)
May 12	Sulphur opens (tent.)
May 14	Rundle opens (tent.)
May 26	AGA ProAm
Aug. 22	International Pairs Qualifier
Sept. 12	International Pairs Qualifier
Sept. 30	Rundle closes (tent.)
Oct. 4	Sulphur closes (tent.)
Oct. 6	Year End Banquet
Oct. 11	Tunnel closes (tent.)



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR CAPTAIN

Hello Juniors.

Well, there is lots new for 2010!

We've decided to eliminate the 'level based' program, and base the Junior program on age categories, and participate in the CN Future Links program. We will have three age groups. 8-12 years can play on Tunnel with supervision, 13-15 years can play without supervision, 16+ will be considered Stanley Juniors. Underage players will be able to apply to move up groups.

We will have three teaching pros for the juniors this year, which will give the juniors more one on one time with the golf pro's.

Tuesday nights will remain lesson night, and we will also be adding skill contests to lesson night.

Thursdays will be golf nights. We will be introducing month long games, which will make it easy to track improvement. As well as playing time with the pros. Also each junior will be able to receive video analysis.

More information to come as confirmed.

Any questions:

michael.fedoration@fairmont.com

Mike Fedoration, Junior Captain.



MESSAGE FROM THE LADIES' CAPTAIN

Hi Ladies.

I hope that you are all looking forward to

a great season of golf. We are working on our schedules and should have everything in place by the end of March. You can check the calendar on the website. We will keep this updated as dates are identified. I look forward to seeing all of you at the AGM on April 12 and to a wonderful season of golf.

Laurie Anderson, Ladies Captain.



Chris Lambe and Jay Simpson at the 2009 International Pairs competition at Crown Isle Resort, Comox, B.C.

No entry fee this year!

Sign up with a partner and have a chance to represent the BSGC in Comox, BC in October 2010, all expenses paid!

Special thanks to Ian Macdonald for his leadership and dedication while serving the club as V.P., President, and Past President on the Executive during 2007, 2008, and 2009.