



# Avon Go Round

AVON VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB NEWSLETTER

• July 2008 •

## • President's Report •

Since early spring we have had nothing but great comments on the conditions at the Club this year. Hopefully we will be able to keep these going through the summer. In the next week we plan on starting some improvements around the tee boxes on four and seven. The old fences will be torn down and a new hedge will be planted in its place. We will also be placing some pavers on holes where the wear patterns have worn the grass away. For the most part we have planted the seasonal flowers around the course, now comes the hard part of keeping up with the weeding. The weeds always seem to out grow everything. We will also be replacing a number of trees shortly and hauling out some old stumps.

We have done several outside tournaments and are well into the start of club events. The sign up for the Avon Invitational has been slow though. Please encourage your friends to sign up soon to make it a success. The first Junior's night started July 3rd and was well attended. The Fun night on July 5th had a great attendance and Fun was had by all. Take a look at some of the grass skirts on the guys in the pictures. Even our staff got involved in the dressing up. Jason will not live this down. Great job Lorraine. Men's night attendance is averaging about 110 per week and usually increases in July and August. Ladies night is also doing very well and I'm told it is turning into a Social event as well as a tournament which is great for those who are not as competitive.

We have struggled with staff changes in the dining and bar cart area lately but we have added several new faces and hopefully we will be able to move forward. Please take the time to introduce yourself to the staff

members. We have changed some of the opening and closing times as well to go along with the sales flow. It is not possible to cover all the golfing hours especially when at times our staff outnumber our customers in the dining area. We are trying to be as flexible as possible though so if you have any comments please pass them along.

A number of people have asked how our membership numbers have been this year and whether we still have openings. The answer is yes we do have openings. Almost all the clubs I visited and talk too have openings and most are relating the drop to the higher cost of fuel and travel for members. We have taken on a number of outside tournaments to make up the difference in revenue and this will hopefully put us in great shape financially.

The semi annual meeting will be held during the third week in July. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting which will be held in the dining area of the club.

It is an information meeting and if you have any questions please send along a note so we can have the answers prior to the meeting if possible. Enjoy your golfing while you can. At least two people have reminded me the days are already getting shorter. But it is getting warmer as well.

*Mike Hartlen, President*

On behalf of the AVG&CC Board of Directors, I thank the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to the Club. Your contributions are appreciated.



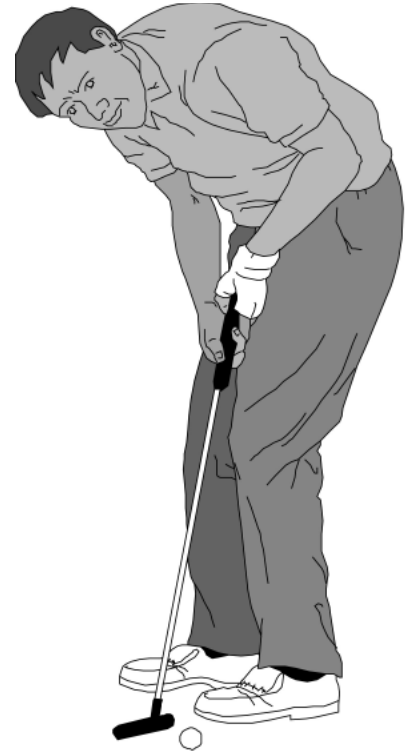
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Secretary/ House and Administration Director .....	Brian Johnson
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Membership Director.....	Marg Chipman
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Junior Development Director.....	Scott Lessel
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PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

Ross MacLean  
Paul Reynolds  
Bill Benedict

# • Pro Shop Update •

Beginning in July will be our junior clinics which are open to all juniors and pee wee members. These clinics start July 6th and will run until August 24th. They will take place at our practice area and will be starting at 9 a.m. every Sunday morning. Also starting in July will be our Ladies clinics. These will start on July 3rd and will run until July 31st. These clinics will be starting at 6 p.m. Thursday evenings and will be a pay as you go. So don't worry if you miss a class you can always join in the next week.

We have had a couple of members try our new Nike 360 fitting cart and the feedback has been great. Our launch monitor has been able to give great feed back

about how you hit the golf ball. The members who have used it have seen an increase in distance -- in some cases up to 30 yards. We have the clubs to fit any player so please give them a try.

If anyone is interested in helping with course marshalling please drop into the pro shop. We are looking for marshal's on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. If one of these days works for you and you are interested in helping the club with the pace of play, please sign up.

*Andrew Isenor  
Head Golf Professional*

## GOLF TIP ~ PLAYING IN WINDY CONDITIONS

- Make sure you take more club for each shot: this will lesson the spin on the ball.
- Widen your stance by 3 inches or more: this will increase your stability.
- Ball position will be back in your stance: placing the ball 2 inches back in your stance will lower the trajectory of your shot.
- Make sure you make a smooth swing: think of making a smoother swing which will allow you to maximize your desired yardage on each shot you take.

*Make sure you practice and remember...  
there are no pictures on the score card  
so hit the club you feel is the right one -  
this will allow you to play better in the wind.*

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**"Golf is a game in which  
the ball lies poorly and the  
players well."** ~Art Rosenbaum



*Have a great  
golf season*

**Darrell  
Dexter**  
Leader,  
NS NDP

# • Food & Beverage Report •

It's hard to believe we are into July already. Hopefully this fine weather will continue and become encouraging for all golfers to use our F & B services, both in the building and on the course. We try our best to incorporate suggestions received and from time to time you will note changes to the menu. Our chicken wings are now a higher quality, without any price increase. I do want to assure all that our pricing is competitive with other food establishments and GOLF COURSES in the area. We are always going to get negative comments, however, I will say that so far this year a lot more has been positive. THANK YOU.

A number of our staff are college students. You will see new faces as we are trying to get full time staff for the complete golfing season. I ask you to give any new staff your understanding and patience while learning their jobs. I can't remember, but I believe at one time we were young and learning our way. I have heard that member(s) have been using unacceptable language towards our staff. I am sure the Board will not tolerate this and should it

continue, I will recommend disciplinary action against such persons.

I know this is like an old tune, but I ask all to please obey the laws of the Province as it relates to our F & B services. I believe some members think they are rules that we ourselves have made up. This is obvious as staff has told me there is a complete disregard of the "NO SMOKING" regulations by some members. Hopefully, the guilty parties will read this and it will not have to be dealt with further.

Our staff is trying their best to provide you with the best possible quality product and service. Please support their efforts and why not bring a friend or neighbour in for a visit. "Enjoy the food and moderate drinking". All the best for the remainder of the season and remember that we appreciate your continued support.

*Pat Dooley*  
*Food and Beverage*



*Donation to Hants Community Hospital Foundation on behalf of Avon Valley membership at Hants Community Hospital Golf Tournament held June 13th at Avon Valley. Left to right: Mike Hartlen and Claudia Rafuse*



*Staff at Fun Night. Pam McCarthy, Jason Bennet, Kaleigh Cruckshank, Keira Rooney*

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# • Grounds and Greens Report •

Well July is here and our course is in great condition. Let's all do our part in helping to keep it in the best possible condition by following these simple but very important rules.

1. REPAIR ALL BALL MARKS ON GREENS
2. REPLACE ALL DIVOTS
3. KEEP POWER CARTS 30 - 35 FEET OFF TEES and GREENS
4. RAKE ALL SAND TRAPS
5. PLACE YOUR GARBAGE IN THE GARBAGE CONTAINERS

I mention these simple rules in each and every report because I continue to see, at times, they are not always being followed by our members and guests.

Now that my committee is in place we will be holding regular meetings with our Superintendant and it is our goal to start work on some course improvements, other than the general day to day maintenance.

**YOUR SUGGESTION and COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED.** Please drop them at the Pro-shop Attn. GROUND and GREENS COMMITTEE.


We have always welcomed your words of thanks, but from time to time there have also been some complaints. Please be assured that all complaints are taken very seriously and a full review is conducted with all concerned.

There is now a new ball washer on the men's #9 tee.

ENJOY JULY... bring a friend for a game, try our dining area or deck, check out the great pricing in our Pro-shop, tee it up, hit it straight, but most of all, enjoy playing at one of the best courses in the Maritimes. And remember – golf is meant to be fun.

*Kirk Stephen, Chair*

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# THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF GOLF COURSES

**Well-managed golf courses provide substantial ecological and community benefits.**

## Golf courses are:

- Community greenspaces that provide recreational opportunities and also offer and enhance wildlife habitats.
- "Air conditioners" that produce vast amounts of oxygen while cleansing the air of pollution and cooling the atmosphere.
- Water treatment systems: Healthy turfgrass is an excellent filter that traps and holds pollutants in place; courses actually serve as catch basins for residential and industrial runoff; many courses are effective disposal sites for effluent wastewater.
- Among the best ways to reclaim and restore environmentally damaged sites, such as landfills.
- Businesses that contribute substantially to communities through employment, taxes, property value improvement and enormous charitable support.

## Science is on our side.

- Independent university research supports the fact that well-managed golf courses do not pose significant risks to environmental quality, wildlife or human health.
- The modern pesticides and fertilizers used to maintain healthy golf course turf have been thoroughly tested and are considered safe when used according to label directions.
- A pesticide product today has typically undergone more than 120 studies at a cost of \$50 million before it is registered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Today's golf course superintendents are educated professionals who care about environmental quality.

- Most of today's superintendents have college degrees and substantial continuing education.
- Superintendents are the nation's leading practitioners of integrated pest management, a philosophy that reduces the potential environmental risks of pesticide usage.
- Virtually all golf courses employ at least one state licensed pesticide applicator who is trained in environmentally sound pesticide use.

## Are golfers at risk?

- No. There is no scientific evidence that golfers face any chronic health risks from the pesticides used to maintain courses.
- Once a liquid pesticide product is applied and the turf is dry or the product has been watered in, there is very little chance of exposure to golfers or others who enter the area.
- Golfers with possible chemical allergies are always encouraged to contact superintendents to find out what products might be in use.

## The entire golf community is committed to being a model environmental industry for the 21st century.

- The United States Golf Association is pouring millions of dollars into independent research to study issues such as water quality and wildlife habitat.
- GCSAA has made environmental education a major focus of all of its education and information programs.
- The nation's golf course architects now design courses that reduce the need for pesticides, water and costly maintenance practices while preserving habitat and environmental quality.
- The Allied Associations in Golf have developed a set of "Environmental Principles" that offer guidance for responsible development, design, maintenance and facility operation for the future.

## We are working to correct misconceptions about golf.

- Much of the environmental criticism of golf courses seems to be linked to local opposition to community growth.
- Local "anti-growth" sentiment has often led to unscientific claims about pesticide usage and other highly charged issues such as wetlands and wildlife habitat.
- These isolated development disputes have led to public misperception.

*Submitted by Dean Woodman*

# • Ladies Report •

## Ladies Spring Peeper Results May 10th

### Winners:

#### 1st Gross (75)

Chris Vey  
Iris Lyghtle  
Mary Millett  
Linda Cooke

#### 1st Net (48)

Donna Lavers  
Lena Milligan  
Judy Smith  
Dawn Cullen  
Marg Chipman

#### Closest to the Pin#5

Mary Millett

#### Closest to the Line

Lena Milligan

#### Closest to the Critter

Marca MacKinnon

Lucky draw for a pot of pansies – Wendy Clark

**NEXT LADIES TOURNAMENT**  
Ladies Club Championship  
Aug 9th & 10th  
*Don't forget to sign up to sign up for  
match play if we do not have enough  
interest we will have to cancel*

## Doris Brown Memorial Tournament June 14th

### Trophy Winners:

#### Gross

Gail Hong & Cindi Creaser

#### Net

Bev Digdon & Debbie Digdon

#### 2nd Low Gross

Brenda Bourque & Heather Pearson

#### 3rd Low Gross

Sharon Harvey & Jody Isenor

#### 2nd Low Net

Dawn Cullen & Judy Smith

#### 3rd Low Net

Heather Hubbard & Joan Baily-MacKenzie

#### Closest to the Hole #5

Heather Hubbard

#### Fewest Putts

Cathy McGinnis & Lorraine Purcell



*At left: Gail Hong and Cindi Creaser. Below: Bev Digdon and Debbie Digdon.*



We had 27 entries in the Spring Peeper & 34 in the Doris Brown

We thank all the ladies who came out to play (in very cold and windy conditions) and would love to see more ladies out. Ask anyone who played – we fed them all no matter how bad or good they scored

*Lorraine Purcell*

*Director of Ladies Golf*



# • Match Report •

Results from the Men's Four Ball held on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 & 22.

This tournament is a gross scoring tournament with one prize recognition for the low net in each division.

**First Division:**

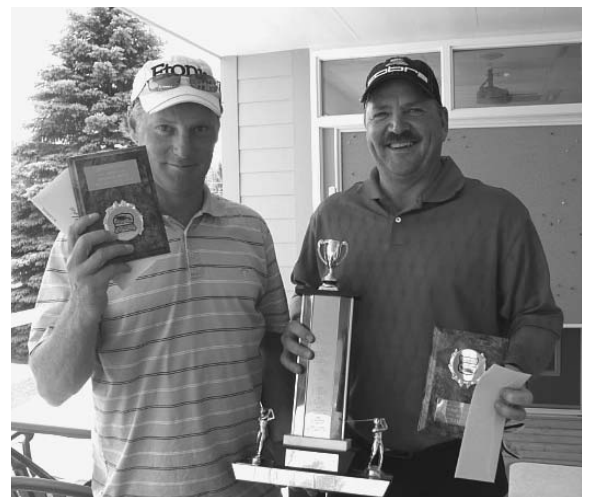
1st. Gross:	Tom & Billy Smith	141
2nd. Gross:	Wayne Northup & Rod MacPherson	144
3rd. Gross:	Joe Richard & Ross MacLean	147
Net Winners:	Josh Dykens & Brian Webber	126

**Second Division:**

1st. Gross:	Larry Cullen & Randy Millington	154
2nd. Gross:	Fred McInnes & Dave Tarr	156
3rd. Gross:	Rob Francis & Barry Briand	159 <sup>®</sup>
Net Winners:	Harold Campbell & George Lamontagne	123

**Third Division:**

1st. Gross:	David Wile & J.Gordon MacDonald	170
2nd. Gross:	Kirk Stephen & Dave Evan	175
3rd. Gross:	Randy Bourque & Tony McNeil	175 <sup>®</sup>
Net Winners:	Steve Maybe & Tim Hutcheson	129



Dan Ross and Mark Pryde.

Wayne Northup  
Match Chairman

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# • Avon Valley Senior Men •

Winners on the following dates were:

**June 5:** Team competition: M. Beech, D. Wile, B. Ivey, J. Carter  
Poker: C. Belliveau, W. Bonin, A. Baker, G. Stewart  
Prize amount: \$25.50

**June 12:** Team competition: L. Cullen, J. Moignard, T. Purcell, C. Woodman  
Poker: J. Conway, C. Belliveau, R. Williams, A. Burroughsford  
Prize amount: \$21.00

**June 19:** Team competition: D. McNeil, G. Chisholm, J. Haysom, D. Isenor  
Poker: J. Carter, G. MacDonald, C. Kinsman, A. Burroughsford  
Prize amount: \$19.50

**June 26:** Team competition: J. Carter, R. Dickey, J. Conway, J. Moignard  
Poker: A. Baker, D. Pollard, D. Budge, B. Barry  
Prize amount: \$22.50

John Moignard, Treasurer, reports that as of June 25/08, there are:  
62 paid members for 2008 and the bank balance is : \$1,370.24

*Submitted by: M. Stenton  
June 26, 2008*

## **RAYMOND E. HARVEY, C.A.** **Chartered Accountant**

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## **Chuck Porter, MLA West Hants**

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# • July 2008 •


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Ladies Night 1	2	Fun Night 3	4	5
6	7	Ladies Night 8	9	Fun Night 10	11	Outside Tournament 12
13	14	Ladies Night 15	16	Fun Night 17	18	MacPherson 2-Ball 19
MacPherson 2-Ball 20	21	Ladies Night 22	23	Fun Night 24	25	Mixed Club Championship 26
Mixed Club Championship 27	28	Ladies Night 29	30	Fun Night 31		

# • August 2008 •

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	Ladies Night 5	6	7	8	Ladies Club Championship 9
Ladies Club Championship 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Avon Valley recycles all cans and bottles. Please remove the tops of all plastic bottles and put all recycling in the proper containers. Your help is appreciated.



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## Tales From The Bardroom

**The scene:** *bedroom of Will Slakesbeer, Bard of Falmouth-upon-Avon, and his wife Ann Hatherways. They are a-bed, she reading, he toying with an old book.*

**Will:** Now dis is a great ol' book. It was writ over a hunnert years ago but it leads ya ta see jist how far away from its roots has got dis game a' golf.

**Ann:** How so, dear?

**Will:** Well back den near eve'ting was hand-made. Nowadays y'has about t'irty to fifty manufacturers let alone yer cloners. An' where even a few years back y'had jinerally irons two t'rough nine an' pitchin' n' sand wedges, now y'has irons named by degree alla way from eight to practually a hunnert n' eighty. Y'had yer woods, jinerally driver, t'ree, five, all made outa yer persimmon. Now alla yer woods is made outa metal, but they still calls'em woods- `n dey can all be had by degrees, too- `n different composites, different shapes- includin' square, fer da lord's sake! An` sizes sometimes even measured in litres, whatever dey is. An' da shafts- ol' times y'had yer hick'ry, dat was it- until steel comes along. Now y'has steel wit' all kinds a different names, y'also got yer ordinary graphite, some mystery stuff called scandium, yer grafffaloy, yer steel-fibre graphites, dere's no end t'it all !!! Den dere's flex, dere's so many different degrees alla way from spaghetti ta ramrod. Den dere are dese new t'ings called hybrids: don't possibly knws what more dat could mean, you mix `n' match all yer choices, ever'tings a hybrid.

**Ann:** Why let it bother you, Will? After all are they all just not tools with which to hit a silly little ball? How important can it be, what they are called or how they are made? Aren't they better than the old ones?

**Will:** Ye-ee-ess, probally. But y'loses yer his'try, yer romance, an' even yer poetry, if ye will. Fer example back over a hunnert years ago it was more pers'nal- yer clubs had real names: in addition to yer drivers an' putters ye had yer brassie, yer spoon, yer cleek, yer bulldog, yer baffie, yer mashie, yer sammies an' bennies, yer spade, yer niblick and no end of all combinations of des, like brassie niblicks an' spade mashies an da like. Imagine da possibilities fer da poets...

Dere is a golfin' lassie  
Who smites a mighty brassie-  
Two hunnert yards along to'ords da green!  
An' den she hits her baffy-  
An' sticks it jist like taffy,  
As closist to da hole ye've niver seen!

I could go on here, but da point is, try as ye might ye'll NEVER find a useful rhyme fer "scandium" or "graffaloy" or "hybrid".

**Ann:** Well you're the golfer dear, it's all the same to me. They're all mysteries and wonders to me, your golf sticks, no matter what you call them.

**Will:** (after a few seconds half-mumbling Ann's last words to himself): Ye've given me a great idea, m'dear, I've got ta git ta work on `er right now!!!

*...Continued next month...*

**FOOTNOTE:** Fer an explanation of what dese (an many more) old club names mean, ye can git online an' enter <http://www.hickorygolf.com/pages/clubdescriptioncss.html>. Or ye could jist Go Ogle an' click on cleek. Anyway, let's do it- fer fun, an to get some o' da heritage back inta da game.

*Will Slakesbeer, Bard of Falmouth*

# • Junior Development Report •

The first Thursday “fun” night was held on the evening of July 3. We had 14 eager participants. The weather was gorgeous! I think everyone had a good time, and the highlight of the night was an eagle by Matt Lyttle on #4 and a very solid 38 for nine holes! The golf was followed by a meal, and prizes for everyone in attendance.

On July 8 we are hosting the Avon Valley Junior Invitational, and hopefully we will have a good turnout and the weather will be kind. On July 6th Andrew’s first clinic was held and there was a very solid turnout.

In the weeks ahead a rules and etiquette clinic is planned, hosted by Peter Cooke. Robert O’Hara of Galaxy Battery has graciously offered to sponsor the

event by putting on a barbeque for all of the juniors in attendance. Thank you Mr. O’Hara!

On June 26 a junior fundraiser was held during the Halifax Water Commission tournament; \$345 was raised! A big thank you to Blaine Rooney for allowing us to have the fundraiser, and an equally big thank you to Michael Lawrence for helping out!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Lessel*

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