



THE
WALKER COURSE

■ AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY ■

Upcoming Events

May

- 04 Clemson Soccer
Tournament (pm)
- 06 Mulligans Fore Maggie
(pm)
- 6-8 Spring Golf Outing:
Alabama
- 09 CAFLS Tournament
(am)
- 13 Closed / Maintenance
- 17-18 MEMBER-
INVITATIONAL
- 20 Blue Ridge CoOp
Tournament (am)
- 24 Member's Grand
Opening Pool Party
- 25 Arthrex Tournament
(pm)
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday
Open 9 am

June

- 01 Demo Day (pm)
- 03 Course Closed
- 8-12 Clemson Golf Camp
Week #1
- 10 Course Closed
- 15-19 Clemson Golf Camp
Week # 2
- 17 Course Closed
- 24-27 First Tee National
Championship
- 29-30 CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIP

BRENT JESSUP

PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

MEMBER INVITATIONAL

Your 28th annual Member-Invitational tournament is right around the corner on May 17th & 18th. This event is open to teams with either one member and a guest or two members playing together as partners. Both players must play from the same set of tees. Guest practice rounds are available Monday through Friday the week before the weekend for a cart fee only. We get underway Friday evening with a “players only” cookout on the Solé Patio at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm teams will head out for a 9-hole captain’s choice adventure that will count as your first-round score. A special course set-up is in the works.

The Saturday round begins with a shotgun start at 9:30 am. Each “team” will play “best net” on the front nine and “best gross” on the back nine. Following play, a short game competition will take place while scores are tabulated. The awards ceremony will take place in the *Solé On the Green* bar area with drinks and snacks. Winners will be awarded in each tee division. Entry fee is \$220 per team and includes everything except the practice round cart fees and the optional “skins” cash pot game Friday evening. There is no tournament round on Sunday, but players are encouraged to stay around and play Sunday for only a cart fee, (Advanced tee times required). GHIN handicap indexes are required for all players. Additional details are listed on the sign-up flyer in the golf shop. Call now to sign up before the deadline Tuesday, May 14th.

Pool Party Grand Opening: Friday, May 24th

The Conference Center Complex is hosting a grand opening pool party celebration for our *Walker Course* “members only” on Friday evening, May 24th. The festivities start at 5:30 pm with a bar-b-que picnic at the new swimming pool, then corn hole games and open swimming until 8 pm. We do need you to RSVP to **Ally Emerson** no later than May 21st if you plan to attend. This will help us prepare enough food and drinks for everyone. RSVP to: allye@clemsun.edu

Pool Reminders

Pool manager, **Ally Emerson** has asked us to remind everyone that large blow-up pool floats are not allowed. Only “kids arm floaties” and personal lifesaving devices are allowed in the pool.

If you have not signed your pool use agreement and picked up your member access card, you will need to do that at the swimming pool during regular business hours. We hope you are enjoying your member benefit access to the pool with extended hours and days of operation!

Match Play Championship

Your match play championship begins this month with the flights and match brackets being posted on May 7th. Stroke differences will apply based on your course handicap on the day of each match. Make sure to call your first opponent and get that first match scheduled and played by June 23rd. Good luck to all.

June Alerts

As always June is a busy month even without students here. We kick off June with our annual Demo Day on Saturday afternoon, June 1st. Then Clemson University golf camps take up two weeks of afternoons and two Wednesday mornings. Right after the camps finish, we are closed June 24-27 as we host our second *First Tee National Championship*. We are looking for volunteers to drive shuttles. Let us know if you can help. Your understanding and help is greatly appreciated.

Interclub Updates

Last month the interclub season rolled into full action. The *Walker Course* “senior” interclub team won a return home match against *The Preserve at Verdae* for the second time this season, 46-34. This month, the senior team plays a match at *The Patriot Golf Links*.

The “super senior” team played their second match of the season at *Smithfields CC* and will play three matches this month: May 2nd at *The Patriot Golf Links*, May 16th at home against *Smithfields CC* and May 23rd at home against *The Patriot Golf Links*. Play hard gentlemen!

Couple Twilight Results

Last month we hosted our annual spring Couples Twilight Nine & Dine tournament. Twelve couples competed in the captain’s choice format. The winning team of **Janal Walton, Larry Walton, Kathy Jessup, and Brent Jessup** won by a single stroke with a score of 32 (-4) over the team of **Lynda Brown, Eddie Brown, Janna Smith, and Chuck Smith**. Following play, everyone enjoyed drinks and an ample food tray of finger foods and snacks at Solé. Congrats to all the winners and to everyone that played!

Jack Mansmann Ace!

Congratulations to **Jack Mansmann**! He scored his first hole-in-one at *The Walker Course* on May 1st on the infamous, temporary par three, 18th hole. Witnessing the 147 yard, eight-iron shot were **Steve Trojan, Bill Sint, and Rusty Childs**. He was not a member of the Hole-In-One Jackpot Club, so we still have a nice jackpot awaiting the first “club acer.” None-the-less, a great shot!

Club Championship Reminder: June 29 & 30

Just a reminder this year’s stroke play CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP has been moved forward to Saturday and Sunday, June 29th & 30th in front of greens aerification maintenance. Please mark your calendars and don’t miss this member championship.

Tom Shealy (1938-2024)

Long time Walker Course member, **Tom Shealy** passed away last month after a brief illness. **Mr. Shealy** was a graduate of Clemson University and enjoyed a 36-year career with *Eastman Chemical Company*. He served Clemson as a member of the Board of Visitors, President’s Advisory Council, and co-chair of the Class of 1956. In retirement, he moved back to Clemson in 2007 and was “associate commissioner” of the senior men’s (Tuesday/Thursday) golf group. He is survived by his wife **Betty** and two children, and five grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

April Status

We have experienced a nice gradual warm up this spring, allowing the turf to have a nice gradual green up. This is much better than the up and down warm/cold cycles we had last year where the grass tries to green up then gets set back into dormancy. Our biggest issue right now is the wear and tear from cart traffic as we have record amounts of play. Please help us out by avoiding the “cattle trails” where everyone enters and exits the fairways and use a true 90-degree rule. These weak spots will be pushed with extra fertilizer once the nights warm up a little more. Tees, which are also worn down due to so much play, were given an extra application of fertilizer to get them recovering quicker and ready for aerification.

During April, we made several applications to the greens, a fungicide for fairy ring, a wetting agent for improved water infiltration, and regular spoon feeding of nutrients. The greens were vented with ¼” solid tines at mid-month as scheduled.

Areas on holes 2, 11, 15 and 17 where we had scars from flooding (2) or tree & stump removal (11, 15, 17) were prepared and sodded.

We ran into some equipment issues which caused a delay on the rock wall around 18 pond. The work has begun again at month end and a crew will be out there now until completion. All work is scheduled to be completed by June 1. Once the pond is done and we no longer must play the temporary green, the temporary cart path will be removed, and sod laid.

May Goals

During the month of May, we transition to more summer routine maintenance, which means lots more mowing of tees, fairways and roughs as the nights warm up and the bermudagrass starts to take off. In addition, we will be treating the course for fire ants.

On Monday May 13, we are scheduled to aerify the tees. Hopefully we get some warm nights, the fertilizer kicks in and they recover quickly.

We will also be getting more aggressive with greens maintenance. We will be grooming the surface more often and beginning to topdress on a regular basis. The greens will also be treated for nematodes in early May.

May is also when we have staff turnover as student workers leave for the summer and new workers come on board.

Autonomous Mower Demonstration

One of the hottest new topics in the turfgrass maintenance world is autonomous mowers. With labor, specifically the lack of labor, being the number one issue in our industry, many companies are looking to autonomous mowers to fill the labor void. While attending the GCSAA Conference and Trade show in February, I attended a seminar on the current state of this technology and saw many different vendors selling these mowers on the trade show floor. All the major equipment manufacturers are working to bring robotic mowers to market. Husqvarna is one of the leaders in this field and they will be coming here to provide an onsite demonstration the week of May 20th. So don't be surprised to see an orange mower, a little larger than a Roomba, out on the course.

Thanks to our Graduates

Congratulations to our four graduates, Trey Adamek, Jacob Pierce, Robert Lee, and Michael Wheeler. Trey will be joining the Carolinas Golf Association, Jacob is taking an assistant superintendent's position at Kiawah Island, Robert is staying on at the Walker Course as an assistant superintendent, and Michael is going to work in the finance industry.

Please join me in thanking these 4 young men for their service to the Walker Course during their college career and wishing them best of luck in the future.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pro-Shop

Operating Hours:

Monday
(Seasonal)
Tuesday—Sunday
7:30 am—7:00 pm

Practice Range Hours:

Monday
(Seasonal)
Tuesday—Sunday
7:45 am—6:30pm
(Weather Permitting)

Brent Jessup
Head Golf Professional
656-7516

Don Garrett
Course Superintendent
656-1814

Azenda Thompson
Accounting
656-0595

Golf Pro-Shop
656-0236

Club House Grill
656-7518

Sole On The Green
656-7444

The Martin Inn
654-9020

The Madren Center
656-7155

Membership by the Numbers

Individuals: 191
Family: 88 Life: 27
Non-Resident: 75
Young Alumni: 17
Inactive: 4 Legacy Life: 12
Total Membership: 414

New Members

Dave Carney	Andrew & Beth McCord	Jack McGregor
Brian & Amy O'Rourke	Joe Rigter	Brad & Emily Owens
Nathan & Emily Ewoldt	Emmett & Candy Murray	Thomas & Shannon Shaw* (* Rejoin)

Member Resignations

Patrick Butcher

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Clemson Soccer Tournament (pm)
5	6 Mulligans Fore Maggie (pm) Spring Golf Outing: Alabama	7 Spring Golf Outing: Alabama	8 Spring Golf Outing: Alabama	9 CAFLS Tournament (am)	10	11
12	13 Closed / Maintenance	14	15	16	17 MEMBER- INVITATIONAL	18 MEMBER- INVITATIONAL
19	20 Blue Ridge CoOp Tournament (am)	21	22	23	24 Member's Grand Opening Pool Party	25 Arthrex Tournament (pm)
26	27 Memorial Day (Holiday) Open 9 am	28	29	30	31	