



# The Grove April 2024

*The Official Newsletter of the  
Buffalo Golf Club*

**Kevin Starr, Editor**

Organized in 1912 100+ years and counting

[www.bqcgolfclub.com](http://www.bqcgolfclub.com)

President: **Alan Mis** Vice-President: **Brian Fries** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea**  
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Board Members: **Frank Altieri, John Barrett, Mike Bass, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Nick Lowery, Matt Mariconda, Chuck Sentman**

## SPRING STAG INFORMATION

The Spring Stag is ON! We hope to see you on Saturday, April 27 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Harris Hill Fire Hall, 8630 Main Street in Williamsville. Thank you to Paul Szydlowski for arranging for us to use this venue! The event will be catered by Buffalo's Best Catering by Kim. Two important notes:

- We will need help cleaning up at the end of the stag. Please consider staying for a few extra minutes and helping with the process.
- As for parking: there is **NO PARKING** in the small lot (the one by the flagpole) by the front entrance or on the grass. The lot on the west side of the fire hall will fill up fast, so if it's full when you arrive, you're going to have to find parking nearby. Please refer to the diagram below.

The stag would be a great time to pay your yearly dues (although earlier would be better) and to catch up on details regarding the start of our 2024 season.



## **2024 BGC MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Regular membership** - \$120. The hole-in-one jackpot fund is an additional \$5. **Therefore –members who pay regular dues and participate in the hole-in-one jackpot will owe \$125.** New member initiation fee will remain at \$25. Members who were granted a leave of absence for last year and who did not pay dues for the 2023 season will not have to pay the additional \$25 initiation fee if they are reactivating their membership for the coming season

**Social membership** - \$60

**Life Members** - \$65. Life members who participate in the hole in one jackpot will have \$70 total payment due.

The club's cost to provide USGA handicaps through GHIN has increased to \$30 per member this year (25% of our membership dues).

**Many BGC members choose to pay their dues at our Winter or Spring Stags. This is an option again this year. Members may also mail their dues checks to BGC Treasurer Joe Attea, 284 Blackstone Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Checks should be made out to The Buffalo Golf Club. Joe will also accept payments via Venmo - @Joseph-Attea. (Make sure to use this exact Venmo address. There is another Joe Attea on Venmo that has inadvertently received some members' dues payments due to typing errors.) Please consider paying your dues before the season starts. This will help streamline our membership process.**

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***Also – be aware that unpaid members cannot play in tournaments or attest the scorecards of paid members!***

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**First tournament** – starts May 1 (will be adjusted, if necessary, based on Grover's opening date and weather conditions)

**Sweeps** – will start the same week as the first tournament

**President's Cup Qualifier** – May 13 - May 27

**Match Play Championship Qualifier** – May 28 – June 9. The Senior division will use full handicaps for the Match Play Championship.

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## **HANDICAP POSTING IN NEW YORK STATE BEGINS APRIL 15**

Please remember to post all of your home and away scores on GHIN. You should also post your away scores for rounds played in warm-weather states (and countries) during the winter months.

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### **HANDICAP CHANGES**

The USGA and R&A made several changes to handicap rules and guidelines effective 2024. The most noteworthy changes are outlined below.

1. **9-Hole Rounds** – 9-hole scores may be entered as a total score or hole-by-hole score in GHIN. USGA will calculate an "expected 18-hole score" overnight and use that score to calculate your new handicap for the next day. Previously, 9-hole scores were held until a second 9-hole score was entered and the two scores would be combined to produce an 18-hole score. Your GHIN record will show that a 9-hole score was used for this round. 9-Hole rounds are only valid for handicap purposes if you play all 9 holes. Previously, you could use a score for handicap purposes if you played a minimum of 7 holes.
2. If you play an 18-hole round, but skip some holes or don't finish the round, you must enter your hole-by-hole score in GHIN, leaving the unplayed holes blank in GHIN. USGA will calculate an "expected score differential" for the unplayed holes. They will then use the scores for holes you played combined with the expected score differential for unplayed holes to calculate an 18-hole expected score for your round. If you are one of our few members that do not enter your scores into GHIN yourself and you don't play all 18 holes,

you will have to put your scorecard into the handicap book so the BGC handicap chairman can enter a hole-by-hole score. Remember that if you play any holes alone, those holes must be treated as unplayed holes for handicap purposes.

3. The minimum length for a course to get a slope and rating has been reduced, so it is possible that par 3 and "executive" courses could be rated by USGA. If a course does have a rating, you should enter your score for handicap purposes. Keep in mind that many of these course managers may opt not to pay to get a rating for their course, in which case you cannot enter the score into GHIN.
4. Remember that if you don't finish a hole (as happens frequently in match play or non-tournament rounds), you should use your "most likely score" for that hole for handicap purposes. Use your best judgement to determine what score you would have most likely achieved.
5. For more information or to learn more about the World Handicap System, visit <http://usga.org/whs> or check the handicap guidelines on the BGC website, program book, and in the clubhouse.

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### **MEMBERS 70 AND OLDER**

If you are planning to play from the red tees, you must declare your intention to do so by contacting Alan Mis or Matt Mariconda BEFORE you start playing in the weekly tournaments. **(Members who declared red tees last year do not need to declare again this year, unless they are changing back to white tees.)** If you turn 70 during the golf season, you may switch to the red tees after your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by notifying Alan or Matt before playing your first tournament from the red tees.

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### **BUFFALO GOLF CLUB COMMUNITY OUTREACH –**

The BGC remains interested in starting a community outreach program. Here is some preliminary information. We are very interested in hearing your suggestions and level of interest in participating.

#### **What is Community Outreach?**

An outreach program aims to help, uplift, and support those who are in need of assistance.

Examples of Community Outreach include:

- Food Drive
- Cleanup
- Blood Drive
- Coats for Kids/Adults
- Volunteering for a good cause
- Assisting a family in need

Let us know if you have any other suggestions for a community outreach endeavor. The BGC is also looking to sponsor an American Red Cross or ConnectLife Blood Drive at the course on a future date. We will need volunteers to assist and Buffalo Golf Club members to consider donating blood.

If you're interested in taking part in a Buffalo Golf Club Community Outreach endeavor, have thoughts on other community outreach endeavors, or if you know someone who could benefit from an Outreach, contact Greg Kaszubski, at [gpk109@icloud.com](mailto:gpk109@icloud.com)

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### **PROGRAM BOOK**

As with last year, the BGC program book will be digital-only. Members will be notified when it is available online.

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### **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

Copies of this year's tournament schedule will be available via the BGC website. There will also be some hard copies in the clubhouse.

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## **BGC ONLINE STORE**

Check the website for a link to the BGC Online Store. BGC logo merchandise is available to purchase; there are frequent specials that make this worth a look.

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## **UPDATE ON GROVER COURSE WORK, etc.**

This spring, there will be continuing work on improving the drainage on particularly troublesome holes. Work will also continue on additional bunkers. As of the publishing of this newsletter, Erie County has not yet announced an opening date for the County golf courses. In addition – the vendor who ran the food service at Grover says that he'll be reopening the concession area this year.

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## **2024 WNYPLGA (Publinks) Schedule**

Application forms are available on the BGC website. There will also be paper copies available in the clubhouse.

*In previous years, BGC covered the tournament entry fee for WNYPLGA tournaments at Erie County courses. Because WNYPLGA decided to move the tournament that has historically been held at Grover Cleveland to the Audubon Golf Course, the Club will not be covering entry fees this year. Members who play in any WNYPLGA tournaments will be responsible for the full cost. We will reconsider if WNYPLGA holds any tournaments at Grover Cleveland in the future.*

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Saturday May 18th, 2024 - A & B Flights - Bill Boyle Memorial Two-Man Best Ball at Dande Farms Golf Course

Saturday June 22nd, 2024 - A & B Flights- Charles Barton Team Championship at Hyde Park Golf Course

Saturday and Sunday July 13th & 14th, 2024 - AA, A, B, C Flights -Individual Championships at Sheridan Park Golf Course

Tuesday July 23rd, 2024 - Flights by Age & Handicap - Senior Championship at Hickory Stick

Friday August 16th, 2024 - Flighted by Age of Team - Senior Two-Man Best Ball at Audubon G.C.

\*\*\*Saturday August 24th, 2024 - A, B, C Flights -Two-Man Scramble at Elma Meadows

\*\*\*Re: Tournament at Elma on 8/24: team entry fee on application form is \$117. Golfers with Elma season pass are only responsible for the \$20/person entry fee and the \$25 cart fee (\$12.50/person for a shared cart). Total of \$65/team if both golfers have the Elma season pass. **WRITE PASS NUMBERS ON THE APPLICATION FORM.**

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