



The Grove

July 2024

The Official Newsletter of the Buffalo Golf Club

Kevin Starr, Editor

Organized in 1912 100+ years and counting www.bgcgolfclub.com

President: **Alan Mis** Vice-President: **Brian Fries** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea** Secretary:
Kevin Starr

Board Members: **Frank Altieri, John Barrett, Mike Bass, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Nick Lowery, Matt Mariconda, Chuck Sentman**

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

Qualifying begins on July 1 and runs through July 21 at 4 PM. The qualifier is a 36-hole medal play event and is played scratch in classes A, B, and C. Qualifying in the Senior division is an 18-hole medal play event and uses full handicap.

36 Hole Medal Play Rounds Must Be Played on Separate Days

Up to fifteen members will qualify for the Club Championship Tournament in each division A, B, C, and Senior (age 70+ by the time the qualifier starts). The champions from the past three years receive an exemption and do not need to play qualifying rounds, provided that they are still in the same handicap class.

Handicaps from the handicap book the week of July 1st will determine A, B, or C class.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4. Scratch play in Classes A, B, and C. (Players with the best nine scores in each class will play a second round on Sunday). Seniors play one round only (Sunday) with full handicap.

The family picnic is Sunday, August 4 following the Club Championship Tournament (approximately 3:00 PM). Members should sign the sheet in the clubhouse if they plan to attend, indicating how many guests they will bring. Please limit your guests to immediate family members only. We need you to sign up so we know how much food to order!

It is very important that members sign the sheet in the clubhouse indicating their plans to attend AND that they remove their names from the list if they find out that they will be unable to be there.

HARVEST CUP QUALIFIER

Qualifying begins on Monday, July 22 and runs through Sunday, August 11 at 4 PM. Two-man teams – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO QUALIFY UNLESS YOU CAN COMMIT TO PLAYING MATCHES THROUGH OCTOBER 6.

For the qualifying rounds, each golfer uses 85% of their handicap from the handicap book in the clubhouse. The score on each hole for a team is the net best ball.

For the team match play rounds, each golfer uses 90% of their GHIN handicap on the day of the match. (If any of players has the GHIN app on their phone, GHIN can calculate the playing handicaps and the strokes allotted to each player using the "Handicap Calculator function.) The score on each hole for a team is the net best ball.

BIG WINNERS AT THE JUNE 23 LUCKY MEMBER STAG

2025 Membership Dues – Dean Becker and Fred Varga

Everyone present won a prize.

PARTY ATTENDANCE

There has been a gradual decline in participation at the BGC social events / meetings. There has been about a 30% decrease at the club's stags and even more of a decrease at the club championship picnic. The Board would like to know if there are any things we can change to have more members attend again. Is it the food? The venue? Family or work commitments? The day of the week? The prizes? Are the presentations too long or irrelevant? Something else? Please email Alan Mis (alan.mis@outlook.com) if you have any comments about this and/or any suggestions regarding our social events, or talk to any of the Board members.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Play is progressing in this year's President's Cup. The semifinal matches are: Bob Halter vs. Bob Vaccaro Jr. and Claudiu Mihai vs. Mike Bass.

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Check the bulletin board in the clubhouse for the latest updates.

SAD NEWS

Mike Bass informed us that his brother, Gene, was tragically killed in a drive-by shooting at his home in Fort Worth, Texas on June 28. Please give your condolences and prayers to Mike and his family.

SWEEPS OVERVIEW (thank you to Al Mis and Mike Bass for the following Sweeps summary)

- Separate tournament that runs weekly
- Enter as many times as you want during the week, but only one prize per person
- Entry fee is \$1 per round played (\$2 for special mega-sweeps weeks)
- Sign the book and deposit your entry fee before playing your round
- A/B combined in one division, C is separate division
- Fill out green sweeps scorecard, have it attested, and deposit in the blue sweeps box
- Payout is 60% of entry fees in each division to first place, 40% to second place
- If we get pots with good amounts of money (usually during mega-sweeps), sometimes we are able to pay out three or four spots
- See Mike Bass with questions or to collect your winnings

Sweeps results are now being posted on the BGC website. Sweeps participants can view the results by clicking the Sweeps Results link on the BGC home page. Please be patient if there are startup glitches with this new web page.

HOWIE BIONDI BGC INVITATIONAL

Saturday, August 10. The cost of \$70/person includes golf, cart, dinner, and prizes – best deal in town! There is also a dinner-only option for \$40/person. The dinner will be held at the Harris Hill Volunteer Fire Hall, 8630 Main Street in Williamsville. The event will have an 8:00 AM shotgun start; the tentative time for dinner is 3:00. The application form is attached as a separate document and can also be downloaded from the BGC website:

<https://www.bgcgolfclub.com/PDFs/InviteForm.pdf>

CLARIFICATION RE: USE OF RED TEES BY SENIOR MEMBERS

Use the handicap stroke allocation and par for each hole as printed on the BGC tournament cards when playing tournaments that require this information. The stroke allocation and par printed on the Grover scorecards is for women (par 72), but NYSGA has the course rated as par 69 for men from the red tees.

Remaining 2024 WNYPLGA (Publinks) Schedule

Application forms are available on the BGC and WNYPLGA websites. There are also paper copies available in the clubhouse.

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. It is our understanding that 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.***

BGC BOARD ELECTIONS

Nomination sign-up sheets will be in the clubhouse in early August. All members are welcome to run for Board positions. Terms ending this year are Alan Mis, Matt Mariconda, Brian Fries, and Mike Bass. Talk to current Board members if you are interested in running and would like to know more. Board terms are for three years. Elections will be held in September.

COUNTY CUP VS. ELMA MEADOWS

The County Cup tournament vs. the Elma Meadows Men's Club is scheduled for July 20-21. Both rounds will be held at Elma Meadows this year. (This tournament is normally held at the same course as the Erie County Amateur Championship "ECAC" tournament.)

BGC team members will be selected based on USGA handicap index on July 1. Handicap flights are slightly different from our standard BGC handicap classes (9.9 or less, 10.0-17.9, and 18.0 and higher).

CHALLENGE CUP VS. SOUTH PARK

September 14 and 15. The BGC team will be made up of the club champions, match play champions, and the lowest handicap golfers in each class.

REMINDER RE: RECORDING SCORES

Record ALL scores for handicap purposes unless the tournament format excludes the score or a temporary medical condition caused an unusually high score. Match play scores should be entered into GHIN. (If you pick up on a hole, use the score that you most likely would have made if you holed out.)

HOW NOT TO HAVE YOUR SCORECARD DISQUALIFIED

Please be careful. Checking tournament scorecards is a tedious and time-consuming process; be sure that all names and numbers on the card are legible. Tournament chairs are not able to play the role of detective.

UPDATE RE: GROVER COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Email from Jim Wasiura, Grover groundskeeper, to Alan Mis:

Been very busy, too hot too soon. Our contractor just finished changing out irrigation heads that were leaking and creating wet spots, should be a noticeable difference. Schenk house progressing. Installed drainage on wettest spot on #12 and that was connected to drain line on #9. Not sure of timeline but 5 more traps should get renovated this season. Hope you have a good summer.

NEW BUFFALO GOLF CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome the following new members who have joined during 2024:

Frankie Cefalu, Greg Freeland, Joseph Higgins, Vincent Lombardo, Pat Manzella, William McKay, Willie Moore, Adam Noonan, Matthew Noonan, Tom Noonan, Tom Noonan Sr., John Peterson, Paul Rubino, Joseph Sammarco, Gavin Sloan, Robert Stevener, Harrison Swados, Stephan Vukelic, Roger Walters

New members who have not yet received their BGC bag tags should see any Board member when you're at the course. (They are stored in the BGC locker.)

Thank you to Jim Sheldon for submitting this oldie but goodie:

THE GOLFER'S CONFESSION

A man goes to the confessional. "Forgive me Father, for I have sinned." "What is your sin, my child?" The priest asks back. "Well," the man starts, "I used some horrible language this week and feel absolutely terrible." "When did you do use this awful language?" said the priest. "I was golfing and hit an incredible drive that looked like it was going to go over 250 yards, but it struck a phone line that was hanging over the fairway and fell straight down to the ground after going only about 100 yards." "Is that when you swore?" "No, Father." Said the man. "After that, a squirrel ran out of the bushes and grabbed my ball in his mouth and began to run away." Is THAT when you swore?" asked the Father again. "Well, no." said the man, "You see, as the squirrel was running, an eagle came down out of the sky, grabbed the squirrel in his talons and began to fly away!" "Is THAT when you swore?" asked the amazed Priest. "No, not yet." The man replied. "As the eagle carried the squirrel away in his claws, it flew towards the green. And as it passed over a bit of forest near the green, the squirrel dropped my ball." "Did you swear THEN?" asked the now impatient Priest. "No, because as the ball fell it struck a tree, bounced through some bushes, careened off a big rock, and rolled through a sand trap onto the green and stopped within six inches of the hole." "You missed the f**king putt, didn't you?" sighed the priest.