



The Grove

MAY 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**

LUCKY MEMBER/FLAG DAY STAG

The date for the Lucky Member/Flag Day Stag will be announced soon. Check the clubhouse and the BGC website for more details as the date approaches.

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 your membership dues).

Members may 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.)

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

PRESIDENT'S CUP AND MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

The President's Cup Qualifier runs from May 13 through May 27. Brackets will be posted after the qualifiers close. Do not enter the President's Cup tournament if you will be unavailable to play matches regularly through July 21.

The Match Play Championship Qualifier will run from May 28 – June 9.

TOURNAMENT SCORECARDS

Scorecards are in the mailbox on the patio wall. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING WHICH CARDS TO USE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT.**

Read the section in the BGC Tournament Rules section of the program book that outlines tournament procedure violations that will result in disqualification (in addition to USGA playing rules that result in DQ). Attested tournament cards should be deposited in the locked mailbox on the patio. **Please make sure that all signatures and other information on the scorecards are legible.**

INFORMATION REGARDING USE OF RED TEES

Remember to notify Matt Mariconda at 716- 316-7347 or mattmariconda@yahoo.com or Alan Mis before playing your first tournament if you are 70 or older or will turn 70 during the season and plan to compete from the red senior tees.

More Information on Red Tees

- 1) Members must inform the Tournament & Rules chairman before playing their first tournament of the season that they intend to use the senior/red tees.
- 2) Members must use their red tee handicap when playing from the red tees.
- 3) After a member begins using the senior/red tees, they may not change back to the white tees until the following season.
- 4) Scratch tournaments must be played from the white tees.
- 5) Members may play from either white or senior/red tees during non-tournament rounds, but must accurately record the tees used for handicap purposes.

When playing tournaments that have handicaps allocated hole-by-hole (match play vs. par, Stableford, etc.) use the handicap rating shown on the **tournament scorecard** (or the white tee hole handicap ratings from the Grover scorecards). The red tee handicap ratings shown on the Grover scorecards are for female golfers.

SWEEPS

Look for the Sweeps registration book in the clubhouse. Remember to sign the book and put your entry fee in the blue Sweeps box (in an envelope) before teeing off if you want to compete in Sweeps. Mike Bass will be running Sweeps again this year.

HANDICAPS

Tournament handicaps will be updated approximately every two weeks as in past years. Remember to check your handicap in the clubhouse before submitting your tournament or Sweeps scorecard. Remember to post your home and away scores in GHIN! This is a USGA requirement to ensure that

everyone has accurate handicaps. If you don't have access to a computer or smartphone, write your scores in the handicap book in the clubhouse.

USGA made several changes to handicap guidelines this year. See the program book and last month's newsletter for additional information regarding these changes.

PROGRAM BOOK

The updated 2024 Program Book is available on the BGC website. No printed copies will be distributed this year.

https://www.bgcgolfclub.com/ProgramBooks/2024_Program_Booklet.pdf

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND RULES

A two-page summary tournament schedule is available for download via the BGC website, and printed copies are in the clubhouse.

https://www.bgcgolfclub.com/PDFs/Tournament_Schedule.pdf

An updated copy of the tournament rules, local playing rules, and handicap regulations are in a binder in the clubhouse. Additionally, the BGC Tournament Rules are posted on the BGC website.

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

ANNUAL INVITATIONAL

The 66th Howie Biondi Invitational Tournament will be **Saturday, August 10** at Grover. Joe Attea, John Barrett, and Ken Hupkowicz are co-chairs. Sign up early! The cost will be \$70 per person for golf, golf cart, prizes, and a great party afterwards. Best deal in town!

BUFFALO GOLF CLUB COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The BGC is once again considering starting a community outreach program. Here is some preliminary information. We're 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

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

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.

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.**

INFORMATION RE: THE TEE TIME RESERVATION SYSTEM

TO BOOK A TEE TIME: <https://erie.chelseareservations.com/>

INFORMATION RE: LOTTERY SYSTEM:

<https://www3.erie.gov/parks/parks/sites/www3.erie.gov.parks/files/2024-05/2023-lottery-system-description-feb-2024-update.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- If you have not received your BGC bag tag yet, see one of the Board members when you're at Grover. The bag tags are in the clubhouse BGC locker.
- The County Cup tournament vs. the Elma Meadows Men's Club is scheduled for July 20-21. BGC team members will be selected based on handicap index on July 1. Handicap flights are slightly different from our BGC handicap classes (9.9 or less, 10.0-17.9, and 18.0 and higher).
- We are still waiting for definitive information on the status of the "restaurant" in the clubhouse. We've been told that last year's vendor will be back.
- From the Facebook page of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz:

Did you know our Erie County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Grover Cleveland Golf Course is not only the site of the 1912 US Open but also designed by Walter Travis and then Donald Ross? Yes it is, and very soon we will be expanding some of the green complexes to return them to Ross's design. Stay tuned!

And – here is an email from Grover greenskeeper Jim Wasiura to Alan Mis regarding the course improvements in progress at the course:

Good morning Alan,

This Spring we are going to make some minor changes to some of the collars and expand some of the Donald Ross greens closer to their historic shape/size, so you will see scalped turf for a period of time on the edges of some greens.

The contractor who does our drain and trap work will be connecting new drainage on #12 to the line on 9 and doing some finish work on that drain. They are doing 5 more traps this season and will be doing some irrigation work to replace irrigation heads that lose water and create wet spots. They have built a washpad over the winter that recycles and treats the equipment washwater so that rinse water doesn't pollute water sources and we will begin using it within a few weeks.

I don't have a timeline for completion of the drain/trap projects but the contractor is starting the work within the next two weeks and they move quickly once they start.

I hope you and the Men's club have a great season.