

# THE LAKES GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



September 2023

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the very first issue of The Lakes Golf Club Newsletter! This will be a place where we share news about course improvements and clubhouse developments, golf tips, and other important information. A new edition will be emailed monthly to all members and friends of the course, and will also be available on our website.



The sixth hole, featuring newly rebuilt sand bunkers. Bunkers were rebuilt on several holes throughout the course to improve drainage and shaping.

Members, Patrons, and Friends,

It is my pleasure to be part of the first monthly newsletter for The Lakes Golf Club, under new management. I hope this forum continues with participation from everyone, and keeps the golf community informed of all the exciting things going on, in, and around our Club.

As anyone who has been around the Course for a while knows, it looks better than it has for quite some time. We have invested considerable money and immeasurable effort into improving our golf experience. We still have a way to go, but the progress is finally starting to be apparent.

Our employees and staff are showing us that, given the tools, they can provide a wonderful golf experience. I commend them on the progress we have made, both on the grounds and on the hospitality sides. Our Superintendent, Biggie, has been doing an exceptional job, making progress while fighting machinery, irrigation, and personnel challenges. It is my job to keep improving the tools with which he has to work. We have increased the fertilizer and chemical budget, purchased new machinery, imported sod, and rebuilt many of our bunkers (which are now open to play!!). Irrigation is the next 800 lb. gorilla to subdue!

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Canopies were erected over the patio in front of the Pro Shop to provide some much needed shade on hot summer days.

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We have made giant leaps forward in the condition of the fairways, greens, bunkers, and even the tee boxes. We still face challenges on the tee boxes, and a few stubborn spots in the fairways, but I have seen clean Bermuda grass in areas that, for the past 10 years, had been barren.

No update would be complete without mentioning the (apparently) slow progress on the new clubhouse. We actively have quotes out for the construction, and I expect results before the next newsletter. Permits and contracts have been a challenge from the beginning for several factors, but I think we are getting squared away.

I hope to have a locked in start date for the main building and cart barn slab very soon.

I am very pleased with the progress we have made, and excited to be part of the coming improvements. I sincerely hope that we have lived up to our customer's expectations and appreciate the help and consideration of all our long-time members and guests. I ask that you all continue to be an active participant in the improvement and maintenance of our community course. LET'S PLAY GOLF!

Respectfully,

Roger Dutton, Managing Partner

## GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

“Play to your strengths, practice your weaknesses.”

When playing a round of golf, whether it's competitive or going for score, one should always try to play to their strengths. Say, for example, you have a 180 yard shot to a guarded green with a pin tucked on the left. You know you could carry let's say a 5 wood there, but that's a pure shot with little spin. With a good (lucky) miss you'll be 30 to 70 yards short but still hitting your next shot over the bunker, which for most is an awkward distance.

If a 100 yard shot is your most confident shot, then take a club that will leave you completely out of trouble near 100 yards, preferably on the right side. Then hit your favorite shot into the green! Your score *will*, I repeat, *will* end up being lower!

On the flip side, please don't practice your favorite shot all practice session. I want to see you learning and hitting the shots that currently bring your score down because of duffs or skulls or shanks. Maybe practice the 30 to 70 yard chips! Eventually they'll be like your favorite!



## Turf Talk

It has been a hot summer thus far. The shortcomings of an irrigation system as old as the one at The Lakes rears its ugly head during these conditions. It is often difficult to find the correct repair parts in a timely manner.

Along with continued course improvements we would also like to upgrade the irrigation system. This entails installing isolation valves at each hole, repairing faulty controller wiring, and upgrading sprinkler heads to afford better coverage. The isolation valves would allow us to work on a single hole without having to stress out the other turf areas on the course. Currently if we need to do work on the irrigation system we have to shut down the entire course's water supply.

I hope everyone is seeing the "Blue Line" benefits around the Greens complexes. I ask that the same consideration be given to the Tee complexes in the future, without having to mark these areas similarly.

Now that we have vegetation around the Greens complexes, the plan is to apply herbicides to rid these areas of unwanted weeds in hopes of a uniform stand of turf.

Keep an eye out for future upgrades in equipment, Staff, and course conditions. Thanks for all the compliments and questions as we strive to make your Lakes GC someplace you are happy to bring Friends and Guests.

Always keep in mind "Fairways and Greens."

-Jason Young, Golf Course Superintendent

**The 2023 Lakes Golf Club Championship** was held on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10.

**Congratulations** to the 2023 Lakes Golf Club Champions!

*Blue Tees:* **Jeff Thornton**

*White Tees:* **Mike Evans**

*Gold Tees:* **Norm Wright**

*Red Tees (men):* **Robert Hodson**

*Teal Tees:* **Shari Hodson**

### Upcoming Events:

Oak Island Moose Lodge #2059 Golf Tournament  
Saturday, October 14 at 8:30am - must sign up in advance at the Moose Lodge

Friday Night Captain's Choice  
Every Friday at 4:00pm - must sign up in advance with the Pro Shop



Email [webmaster@thelakesgolf.com](mailto:webmaster@thelakesgolf.com) with comments, questions, or submissions for the next newsletter.

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