

February 2024



## News from the Golf Shop

### Upcoming Events:

2/10: Super Saturday T-Times

2/27: Garnet & Black 10am

3/23 & 24: Member-Member

### Local Knowledge:

- Have you seen it? We've got a new website! Check it out at [goldenhillsgolf.com](http://goldenhillsgolf.com)
- Thinking about taking your game to the next level? Our Golf Pro's can take you there. Contact Steve or Justin in the Golf Shop (803) 957-3355.
- If you haven't been able to login to your member account or our tee time portal please let us know. Email: [info@goldenhillgolf.com](mailto:info@goldenhillgolf.com) for assistance.
- Advantage Tennis at Golden Hills is led by Coach Whit Moorman. Coach Moorman offers lessons to all ages and ability levels but focuses heavily on junior tennis enthusiasts. Call (912) 381-1584 for more information.

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We hope you were able to find some time in January to keep your game up to par. January certainly kept us on our toes with changes in the weather. As soon as it looked like Mother Nature was going to bless us with warmer temperatures, the other shoe would drop and freezing, rainy conditions would be the norm. Never fear, spring is right around the corner and now is the time to get your game in gear. We hope each of you will be able to carve out some time in February to experience the many challenges that you will find on the #1 golf course in the midlands, Golden Hills.

Members and invited guests were tested to a unique format last month in our Par 3 Challenge. In this format, every hole on the course was played as a unique par 3 such as playing #3 from the gold tee on #4 or playing #9 from the ladies tee on #2. Yardages ranged from 60 yards on #12 to 150 yards on #15. 81 players teed it up with every facet of the club represented. We had members from the LGA, MGA, SMGA, couples, fathers & sons, junior golfers and neighborhood friends. They all showed up ready to play too, as we saw some great golf played. Charlie Newton shot a 1 under par 53 to capture the gross division; while Gary Maynard shot a net score of 48 to capture the net division. In the previous years of holding this event there had only been 1 hole in 1. This year we had 4. Congratulations to Rick Kester, Jackson Hannon, Maddox McCamy and Barry McLarnon for accomplishing that feat this year.

The USGA and Jack Nicklaus started a trend about 15 years ago to help golfers enjoy the game more: Play It Forward. Here at Golden Hills we are

going to give you the opportunity to enjoy that experience by having a golf tournament on Superbowl Saturday, February 10th: the Play It Forward. This will be an individual stroke play competition with both gross and net winners. The tournament is open to all members with established handicaps. There will not be an official start time as all players will be allowed to play in the tee times they normally have on Saturday's but you must have at least 2 players in the group competing. If you normally play the blue tees you will play the green tees. Green tee players will play the black tees. Black tees will play the red tees and red tees the forward tees. Grab your partners, make your tee time and come join in the fun.

It seems like the weather conditions always effect our Senior Men's Golf Association on Tuesday mornings more than any other day. Thankfully winter will be over soon and we can get back to having some fun and fellowship on the links with this great group of gentlemen. The SMGA meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. If you are new to the club or just looking for a steady game and are over 55 then come and join in the fun. To sign up, please call the Golf Shop by 2pm on Mondays.

Regardless of the weather our Ladies Play Days continue to be a hit. In February the ladies will continue to play at 9:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or scratch golfer, play 9 or 18, walk or ride, all are invited to come and join in the fun.

Save the Date! The Member-Member golf tournament has moved to earlier in the year for 2024 and will be played on March 23rd & 24th. The format this

year will have four 9 hole formats over the 36 holes. Front 9 Saturday is Pinehurst Alternate shot. Both players tee off. Both players hit their partners ball for the second shot. Select one ball and continue to alternate until the ball is holed. The back 9 on Saturday is Captains Choice. On Sunday the format is Net Best Ball on the front 9 and the back nine is net Aggregate Score. There will be prizes in each format as well as overall flight winners of all 4 formats. The entry fee for is \$150/team with an additional \$100 cash buy in. Sign up will begin February 23rd.

Also moving to an earlier date is the 2024 Member-Guest. This year's format will be net best ball over 36 holes on April 26th & 27th. All the fun & festivities will begin on Friday the 25th with a practice round, putting contest at 5:00, long drive at 6:00 and dinner to follow. The entry fee will be \$350/team with a \$100 cash buy in. Sign up will begin March 1st.

Of the many issues that any golf course faces, the hardest topic to tackle is slow play. While we love to see each of you enjoying the great game of golf, we all have the responsibility to show proper etiquette and play in a timely fashion so all may enjoy their round. An LPGA hall of famer described it this way: If you are not waiting on the group ahead of you, you may be playing to slow. Here at Golden Hills, we have a pace of play policy posted on the first tee of 4 hours or less for 18 holes. Please help everyone enjoy their round at Golden Hills by playing in a timely fashion.

Your Golf Shop Staff  
Steve Lantz, Justin Fowler, Jared Courtenay

## Ladies Golf Association

If you are interested in learning more about our LGA, we would welcome your presence at our 1st meeting of the year on February 13th. The meeting will be held at the clubhouse and will begin at 1:30. We will cover information about upcoming tournaments and events. We hope to see you on the 13th!

We have a great group of ladies that love the game at Golden Hills! Last month we had fun learning how to "navigate winter course conditions". Seventeen of our ladies came out, on a cold yet beautiful winter day, for the special LGA lesson. Club Pro's Steve Larick & Justin Fowler kicked off the morning with some golf tips specific to winter golf after which everyone hit the links and played around 6 holes with them while they shared their knowledge and tips on hitting the ball off tighter lies, out of

winter rough, out of wetter/winter sand bunkers, putting and more. The session wrapped up with lunch in the clubhouse while Steve reviewed observations and questions different groups asked on the course.

If you want to improve your game (in the winter, spring, summer or fall) book a lesson with Steve or Justin. You won't be disappointed.

All team captains met with the Ladies Handicap Match League (LHML) Board last month. There's one significant change for eligibility in 2024 that will effect a few of our players. In short, all players must show Golden Hills as their 'club' in the GHIN to be eligible to play on the Golden Hills team. If you are a dual club member and hold your GHIN at another club you will not be eligible to play on the Golden Hills team. The 2024 LHML tournaments will

be as follows: March 5 - Mid Carolina; April 4 - Ponderosa; May 7 - Ft Jackson; June 6 - Oak Hills; August 5 - Golden Hills; Sept. 19 - Timberlake; Oct. 10 - Stoney Pointe. The October tournament will include the annual luncheon and awards ceremony and is open to anyone who played in 2024. Team Captains for Golden Hills are Annemarie Keene & Janet Hoffman. If you are interested in playing, please rank your event date/location preferences and give that information to Janet or Annemarie. The cost for LHML tournaments will be \$30-\$35. All tournaments have a 9:30 am shotgun start but you must be on your cart and ready to play by 9:15 for the rules & kickoff.

If you would like more information on ladies golf at Golden Hills or our LGA, contact Trish Proctor at: [proctrish@gmail.com](mailto:proctrish@gmail.com)

## Senior Men's Golf Association

The weather was not our friend last month but hopefully February will bring more favorable conditions for play. If you are new to the club, looking for more playing opportunities or just need an excuse to get out of the house, we invite you to join us each Tuesday at 10:00am for a friendly and fun round of golf. Any male members of Golden Hills, age 55 or older, are welcome. To be included in our lineup, simply call the Golf Shop by 2:00 on the proceeding

Monday at (803) 957-3355.

Results from January:

**Jan 2:** 1st - Lonnie Griffin (+2); 2nd - Rick Hubbard (-2); 3rd (tie) Al Beard & Ray Chiellini (-4); 5th (tie) Jim Anderson, Mark DiMaggio, Mike Kammer, Randy Miller, Kirk Wiley & Hardy Youmans (-5)

**Jan 23:** 1st - Bob Waterfield (66); 2nd - Del Crawshaw (68); 3rd - Keith Morgan (70); 4th

(tie) Jim Anderson, Del Haussman & Frank Wingate (71); 7th (tie) Al Beard, Larry Harding & Hardy Youmans (72)

If you would like to receive emails from the SMGA about events and results, send your address to Ray Chiellini. He can be reached by calling (803) 518-4215 or email: [dober2plus1@gmail.com](mailto:dober2plus1@gmail.com)

## Winter Golf: Embrace the Challenge, Keep the Passion Alive

Don't let the chilly weather put a freeze on your golf game this winter. Regardless of the conditions, whether it's cold temperatures, rain or wind, serious golfers need to get their fix. They want to continue chasing birdies, saving pars and hanging out with friends & family. Winter golf is different but if you can play good golf in these conditions it can increase your confidence in yourself throughout the rest of the year. Before you write off the colder months as 'offseason', consider these tips to enjoy and excel at winter golf.

1. Opt for Walking. Ditch the cart in winter for a brisk walk. It keeps you warm & active, offering both exercise & a better feel of the course.
2. Layer Up. Dressing in layers is key. Think thermals, warm socks, & golf mittens with hand warmer slots. A beanie is a must-have for ear protection, & winter golf gloves are a game-changer. Dress smart to play smart!

3. Waterproof Your Gear. Winter means more moisture. Arm yourself with a waterproof golf bag & a rain hood to protect your clubs from dew & frost. The right equipment makes all the difference in winter conditions.

4. Tweak Your Driver Settings. Winter golf often means softer fairways, so adjust your driver. Adding a degree of loft can help maintain distance off the tee.

5. Select Clubs Wisely. You can only carry 14 clubs. The cold affects ball travel, so consider your club choices carefully. Hybrids over long irons can be a smart move in winter conditions.

6. Change Your Golf Balls. In winter, opt for a firmer golf ball with less spin, especially on windy days. Tailoring your ball choice to the conditions can significantly impact your game.

7. Pack Extra Towels. Mud & moisture are more common in winter. Extra towels mean

you can keep your clubs and balls clean throughout the round.

8. Maintain Clean Shoe Soles. Avoid slips & maintain traction by keeping the soles of your golf shoes clean. Extra towels (see tip #7) can be handy for this too.

9. Experiment with Different Short Game Shots. Winter conditions affect green play. Practice different chipping techniques & club choices to adapt to slower, softer greens.

10. Play by Winter Rules. Winter golf doesn't need to be by the book. Implement 'winter rules' in your group, allowing for improved lies in fairways, rough, and bunkers. It's all about enjoying the game.

11. Focus on Fun & Socializing. Winter golf is about enjoyment. Don't stress about your score. Relish the fresh air, company & the joy of playing, regardless of the weather.





# **Advantage** **Tennis** *at Golden Hills*



## *Junior Programming*

*"Come Gain the Advantage"*

### *Challengers*

Beginners Ages 5 to 11

Tuesday/Thursday 4:45 to 6:00 PM

### *Champions*

All Skill Levels Ages 11 to 18

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 5 to 7 PM

For more information contact Whit Moorman

advantagetennisgh@gmail.com or (912)381-1584