

Mississippi Golf Club

2015 Men's Closing

Thank You Notes

This is the last men's event of the 2015 golf season, which has been the 100th year of the Mississippi Golf Club. This has been a great golf season thanks to the great weather, great play, excellent course conditions which produced great results.

For the most part (just like today), we were blessed with great weather for the majority of our events. Some of the events were played during hot humid weather conditions, which required patience and plenty of fluids to keep the players going.

This year was the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Mississippi Golf Course.

This summer, we hosted the following events

Men's Intersectional matches – Sunday July 12

Men's St. Lawrence competition – Friday July 24 and Saturday July 25 (120 players)

Ladies O'Brien competition – Saturday August 29 (70 players)

Men's Gordon Cup competition – Saturday September 5 and Sunday September 6 (70 players)

Hosting these events was a ton of work but extremely rewarding. Thanks to Gord Kelly for his leadership of the Men's St. Lawrence event and to Ken Maheral, who took ownership of the Gordon Cup and also made it a huge success. Thanks also to everyone who volunteered to be part of those special days. Thanks to the membership for their understanding and patience in realizing that hosting these major competitions would affect the availability of tee times on these days (availability meaning sometimes none). However, the cross-over format for both the St. Lawrence and the Gordon allowed members to have tee times either before or after the event. Unfortunately, not a lot of members came out to watch or appreciate the St. Lawrence and the Gordon Cup and the history of both events – which appears to be norm.

The St. Lawrence:

I was also quite proud to tap into the history of the club and invited past presidents to attend the Friday evening dinner of the St. Lawrence competition. In addition to the 10 past presidents who attended, I also invited Joe Kolar, Malcolm Trickey and Dan Kolar (who represented over 55 years of service as Club Professionals at Mississippi) and Billy Hudson, who has over 25 plus years of continual service as Head Greenskeeper.

Tonight, I would like to acknowledge these fine gentlemen who have served as Club Captains at this club:

Walter Kane, Dave Elliott, Bob Brien, Peter O'Connor, Ian Edwards, Brian Stanton, Brian Scharfe, Ken Maheral

The Ladies O'Brien tournament was probably a phenomenal success, due to creative minds of the ladies section and the vast quantities of wine that was consumed that day.

The Gordon Cup was played over the Labour Day weekend – again in hot humid conditions. And again, power cart demands were handled efficiently by the Pro Shop staff and every request was honoured. This was another great weekend for the golf club.

There was a definite link between great weather, course conditions and the impressive scores being shot. Our new senior club champion, Bill Mason recorded scores of 73 and 74 to win another senior club championship. The runner-up in the senior club championship was Gord Servant. After Day 1 of this event, 7 players had shot scores of 74 or better, leading to a great 2nd day of play on Sunday.

Club Championship weekend:

James Parsons recorded scores of 73 and 74 to win his first, and I suspect possibly many more, club championship. Congratulations also to Chuck Maguire (in a 3 hole playoff) and Ray Thomas (proving age is absolutely a non-factor) for winning the “B” and “C” club championships

I need to thank Dan Kolar, Terry Kolar, and Joey Irvin for their assistance in registration, collecting entry fees, making last minute additions to the draw, preparing the prize vouchers and for donating closest to hole prizes for some of the events. And, this year the Pro Shop staff made extra special efforts to

coordinate power cart requirements, especially on those very hot and humid days which we seemed to have a lot of.

Thanks to Bill Hudson and the entire greens crew for the fantastic effort to make this the best golf course in the valley. Remember – these course conditions were achieved under budget restrictions and staff reductions. Summer rules went into effect June 21. This was another challenging summer ... heat, humidity, some torrential rains ... but Bill and the crew did another admirable job to make this golf course simply the best. And it received rave reviews from the out of club competitors who played here.

A great deal of thanks is owed to these volunteers who looked after the following areas:

Bob Ridpath – A Class events

Gary Hobin, Craig St. Germain & Mike Clarkson – B & C Class events

Don Green – Senior events

Men's Night – Dave Hart, Ron Mathews and Peter Kufske (and Bob Rose)

Sunshine Boys – Rick Turner

Match Play – Al Seabrook

Member Guest – Bob Brien

Senior Invitational – Peter O'Connor

Junior Program – Rick Udall

Treasurer – Al Seabrook

UVGA Events – Ken Maheral

St. Lawrence – Gord Kelly & Bob Ridpath

Web site coordinator – Dennis Beaudoin

Mixed Events – Ron & Rita Mathews and Al & Colleen Seabrook

I would also like to thank the many individuals who assisted during any event, especially those who helped with the scorekeeping. The assistance is so

welcome. I would ask that more members consider helping out in some way ... just ask any of the tournament coordinators ... they will not say no.

I believe the team shirts were another popular choice.

The Saturday event early in August that has the 3rd rounds of the Quattrocchi, Fraser and Longpre, the 2nd rounds of the Ashley/Brown and Senior Intersectional, and the 1st round of the Senior Club Championships is an exhausting day for all involved. Your patience on that day is appreciated in determining if you made a team or not following the play. The event coordinators, and myself, need to spend some time checking / double checking all scores and posting the results. We do the best that we can and the results are normally posted by the middle of that week. Luckily that extra time proved beneficial as a couple of errors were found both resulting in changes to some team structures. This year also proved to be another challenge on the Sunday of that weekend. The Ashley Brown team needed to be finalized by end of play Sunday as that competition was being played the following Wednesday in Island Brae. But it all worked out well.

For those of you that offered your opinions and solutions – thank you. To those who criticized, I listened. I responded, but you may not have liked my answer.

I feel the year-long match play competition needs a complete review. Again this year, some competitors were disqualified for failing to get their matches done within the required time frames. On average, players had between 5-6 weeks to get their matches played.

I may consider streamlining the number of categories. One possibility is to reduce the number of categories from the current 5 (A, B, C, Senior and Master) to 2 (Handicap based and age based). Participants can only enter one category when qualifying at the Men's Opening. This is the only day that can serve as the qualifying date as the playing schedule is just too busy after that to allow for another designated day of qualifying. I would also recommend the number of competitors in each category be capped; you can only enter one category; and also setting an end of month deadline for each set of matches to be played - no exceptions. Next year, those players that have been disqualified for the past couple of years may be deemed ineligible to participate in the Match Play event.

In closing, thank you to all for playing in the club events, for playing in qualifying rounds and for representing the Mississippi Golf Club at outside events and the events we hosted here this year and congratulations to the winners of the 2015 events. It has been a very competitive year. It has also been a busy year for everyone involved.