



Upcoming Events

1/12: Par 3 Tournament 10:00am

1/24: New Rules of Golf Seminar/ Q&A
5:30pm

Weekly Member Play:

Ladies Day: Monday & Thursday @ 10am

SMGA: Tuesday @ 10:00am

Dogfights: Wednesday @ 12:30; Friday @
12:00; Saturday @ 10:00; Sunday @ 12:00

Shootout: Saturday & Sunday ~ T-Times

Local Knowledge:

● **Handicap Fees:**

The annual handicap fee will be charged to member accounts this month. Anyone that would like to discontinue their use of the GHIN system or like to be added for 2019 should contact the Golf Shop by January 15th.

● **Driving Range Special**

Maintain or fine-tune your game with our Driving Range Special. Place \$100 on your e-key and get an additional **\$25** added **FREE!** Get the deal, lots of practice and keep your game in shape for the spring season.

● **Get 1 Months Dues Free**

Pay your dues 1 year in advance and get the 12th month **FREE!** To take advantage of this offer email: info@goldenhillsgolf.com

● **Christmas Raffle**

We gave away over \$1700 in prizes to 15 lucky winners in our Christmas Raffle! Thanks to everyone that purchased a ticket and congratulations to all the lucky winners. Visit our Facebook page to view the post with the prizes and winners listed.

Golden Hills Golf & C. C.

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News from the Golf Shop

We hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. As we bring one year to a close and begin a new one, many people take this opportunity to assess where they are and where they would like to be. Your golf game is no different. The 2019 golf season will have many opportunities to enjoy the great game of golf at the best course in town, Golden Hills. We are excited about all 2019 has to offer and hope to see you and your family enjoying more time with us here at the club.

One of the exciting new changes for 2019 is the USGA and R&A have collaborated to modernize the rules of golf. On Thursday, January 24th, at 5:30pm the South Carolina Golf Association in coordination with Steve Larick and Jimmy Koosa will be hosting a USGA seminar and Q&A on all the new rules changes. If you are a serious golfer or just like to play by the rules, this will be a great opportunity to pick the minds of some of South Carolinas best rules officials and golf professionals about the rule changes. Please put this date on your calendar and plan on attending. If you do plan to attend, please RSVP to the Golf Shop at 957-3355.

The 2019 Tournament season will begin on Saturday, January 12th with our annual Par 3 Tournament. In January, where temperatures can be chilly, this is a great format to enjoy a fun round of golf that does not take that long to complete. Every hole will be set up as a par 3 with closest to the pins on all the holes. In addition, there will be net and gross prizes using 50% of handicap. The tournament is open to members and their invited guests. Play will begin with a shotgun start at 10:00am. The entry for the event is \$30 for members and \$50 for invited guests. You can sign up by calling the Golf Shop at 957-3355. You can sign up with your own group or if you do not have a group the Golf Shop staff will be happy to pair you up with others looking to join in the fun.

The 2018 Match Play Championship reached its conclusion last month. 32 Men, Women and Seniors teed it up beginning in September in hopes of becoming the 2018 champion. Matches were played every two weeks with a date and time determined by the competitors. There were some great matches early on, some having to play more than 18 holes to determine the victor. The semifinals were made up of Joey Joiner and Scott Wilson on one side of the bracket and Shawn Miller and Charlie Newton on the other side. Scott was victorious on his side of the bracket while Charlie was victorious over Shawn

in the other semi-final. The final match between Scott and Charlie could not be decided after 18 holes. Scott came out on top after 20 holes to be crowned the 2018 Golden Hills Match Play Champion. Congratulations Scott ~ Well Done!

The Men's Golf Association finished up their 2018 tournament season with their MGA Championship on December 1st & 2nd. As all who played can attest, this was a battle of wills as the weather conditions were awful. Saturdays round was played during a steady rain that almost washed the round out. Gregg Erickson led the way with a fantastic round of net 68 for the first day lead. Round two's weather was much tamer but the golfers still had to deal with very soggy conditions. Gregg continued his steady play to capture the Net Division, with a two round total of 138. Club Champion Phillip Gibson capped off a great year by capturing the Gross Division with a score of 153 for 2 days. Congratulations gentlemen and thanks to all who braved the elements for both days. This was an event they will talk about for years!

Our Senior Men's Golf Association continues to grow and is looking forward to another great year. During the winter months, the SMGA plays each Tuesday at 10:00am. If you are new to the club or just looking for a steady game, make plans to join this great group of guys. To sign up to play, simply call the Golf Shop by 4pm of the preceding Monday.

Throughout the winter months our Ladies Day will continue to be on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Whether beginner or scratch golfer, 9 holes or 18, walk or ride, all are invited to play. Also as a reminder, the first Saturday of every month is Ladies Guest Day. Members are encouraged to bring a guest after 11:00am to play for only \$30. We hope all of you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to show off your club.

As we move through the winter months, please be aware of the potential for frost delays. Driving a cart or walking on grass covered in frost causes damage to the leaf blade and roots. Always check with the Golf Shop staff for updated information on playing and practice conditions, which include the driving range and putting green. Stay aware and know that we will do our best to keep things running as smoothly as possible.

Your Golf Shop Staff,
Steve Larick, Taylor Wright & Jimmy Koosa

Ladies Golf Association

We welcome the arrival of 2019 and another year of great events for our LGA. Our group of ladies continues to grow and we welcome anyone that would like to participate in our association this year. Ladies Day at the club is held each Monday and Thursday, with tee times starting at 10:00am. Whether you're a beginner or advanced golfer, up for 9 holes or 18, if you would like to play simply contact the Golf Shop by 3:00pm on the preceding day to sign up. Give us a try, you'll be glad you did!

Lots of fun and merriment was had at our annual LGA Christmas Party. We enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at Travinia's. It was a great time with yummy food, drinks and a fun gift exchange. We also presented our special awards for 2018 as follows: Birdie Tree Winner ~ Cindy Remington; Shot of the Year ~ Darlene Sequin; Most Improved ~ Cindy Remington.

Our officers will begin planning for the 2019 golf season over the coming weeks. If you have ideas or suggestions, we'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to one of the following officers: President - Annemarie Keene; Vice-Pres. & Events Chair - Lois Tessier; Sec./Treas. - Nancy Hanna; Match Play coordinator & WSCGA rep. - Darlene Sequin; Sandlapper rep. - Tia Davis.

The WSCGA will publish the 2019 tournament schedule this month; which will include One Day events and many other great opportunities to play and compete within the state. Each month we will include a list of upcoming events that are open for you to participate. Several of our ladies enjoy traveling to the different events each month, so you are always welcome join the caravan as well. This is a great way to travel the state, play different courses and meet other fellow lady golfers.

If you would like more information on the Golden Hills LGA, contact LGA President, Annemarie Keene at: snauzers@yahoo.com

Senior Men's Golf Association

It's with much anticipation that we look forward to the year ahead. We hope 2019 will bring many great times and rounds of golf at Golden Hills! If you are new to the club or just looking for more opportunities to play, we invite you to participate in our weekly outings. All senior men, age 55 and over, are welcome to join us for a friendly 18 hole competition each Tuesday morning at 10:00am. If you would like to play, you can register by calling the Golf Shop by 4:00 pm on the Monday preceding each Tuesday match at (803) 957-3355.

Last month Ray Chiellini and Mike Ruddy attended the captains meeting for the 2019 Senior Men's Ryder Cup season. The results were as follows: 1) There will be 2 divisions of 5 teams. Division 1 will include Newberry, Golden Hills, Lancaster, Lexington & Mid Carolina. Division 2 will include Camden, Santee, Cobblestone, Oak Hills & Woodlands. 2) All matches will be played within their respective division; meaning Golden Hills will play the other 4 teams within the division twice, once at home and once away. 3) Teams will consist of 12 players; 18 point total match points. Ties will give each team 1/2 point. 4) Matches will start in March and end before September 15. 5) There will be only one playoff in this new format. The top team from each division will face each other for 18 holes at a neutral course. 6) In this format, it is important that everyone committing to play must be willing to play home and away matches. 7) League fees will be kept at \$3. If you are interest in participating on the 2019 Golden Hills Ryder Cup team, please contact Ray at (803) 518-4215 or dober2plus@gmail.com

Results of our matches since the last report are as follows:

Dec. 4 - Points: 1st (tie) Mark DiMaggio, Robert Davis & Rick Green (+3); 4th - Knut Brockmann (+2)

Dec. 18 - Handicap: 1st - Bruce Liles (61); 2nd (tie) Jim Antill & Rick Green (67); 4th - David Ha (68); 5th - Ray Chiellini (69)

For more information on the SMGA contact Ray Chiellini at (803) 518-4215 or email him at: dober2plus1@gmail.com

9 changes in the new Rules of Golf you absolutely need to know:

It's time to consider what New Year's resolutions you'll be making to help your golf game in 2019. For those who haven't come up with any, here's a suggestion: Learn the *Rules of Golf*. There's no better time than now to give it a shot because a new, modernized version of the rules goes into effect on New Year's Day. In the most sweeping revision in more than 60 years, officials from the USGA & R&A, have reorganized the rules to make them easier to understand & apply. To help you keep this resolution, here are 9 changes you should know: **I. Accidents happen:** The controversy over Dustin Johnson's ball moving on the green during the final round of the 2016 U.S. Open exposed the old rules for being too harsh when it came to what many considered tickytack infractions. New language, first adopted through Local Rules since 2017, states there is no penalty if you accidentally move your ball (or ball marker) on the green. Put the ball back, and you're good to go. The same applies if you're searching for a lost ball & mistakenly move it. **II. The fix is in:** Golfers often complained about the silliness of letting players fix a ball mark on the green, but not a spike mark. What's the difference? With no good answer, officials now will let you fix everything without a penalty. You can also touch the line of your putt with your hand or club so long as you're not improving it. **III. A lost cause:** To improve pace of play, golfers now have just 3 minutes to search for a missing ball rather than 5. Admit it, if you hadn't found it in 3 minutes, you weren't finding it anyway. **IV. Knee is the new shoulder:** The process for dropping a ball back in play is revamped in the new rules. Instead of letting go from shoulder height, players will drop from around their knee. This is a compromise from an original proposal that would have let golfers drop from just inches above the ground. To preserve some randomness with the drop, officials went with knee height instead. Why change at all? Primarily to speed up play by increasing the chances your ball stays within the 2-club-length drop area on the first try. **V. No longer a touchy subject:** Hitting a ball into a water hazard (now defined as "penalty area") should come with consequences. But golfers don't have to be nervous about incurring an additional penalty for a minor rules breach while playing their next shot. You're free to touch/move loose impediments & ground your club, eliminating

any unnecessary worry. The only caveat: You still can't put your club down & use it to improve the conditions for the stroke. You can remove loose impediments in bunkers, too, although touching the sand in a bunker in front of or behind the ball is still prohibited. **VI. Damaged goods:** We all get mad on the course, and sometimes that anger is taken out on an unsuspecting driver or putter. Previously, the rules were confusing on when or if you could play a club you damaged during a round, and it led to instances where some players were disqualified for playing clubs with a shaft slightly bent or some other damage they didn't realize the club had. Now you can play a club that has become damaged in any fashion. If you caused the damage, however, you can't replace the club with a new one. **VII. Twice is OK:** A double hit is almost always accidental, and the outcome so random as to hardly be beneficial. So golfers are now spared the ignominy of adding a penalty for hitting a ball twice with one swing. It counts as only 1 stroke. **VIII. The end of flagstick folly:** Another nod to common sense eliminates a penalty for hitting a flagstick left in the hole while putting on a green. Taking out & then placing back in flagsticks can often cause undue delay in the round, and the flagstick is as likely to keep your ball out of the cup as it would help it fall in. **IX. O.B. option:** Courses may implement a Local Rule (not for competition) that offers an alternative to the stroke-and-distance penalty for lost balls or shots hit out-of-bounds. A player may drop a ball anywhere between where the original ball was believed to come to rest (or went out-of-bounds) & just into the edge of the fairway, but no nearer the hole. The golfer takes a 2 stroke penalty & plays on instead of returning to the tee. This way, the Local Rule mimics your score if you had played a decent provisional ball.

Make plans to attend our New Rules of Golf seminar and Q&A at the Golden Hills clubhouse on January 24, at 5:30. Representatives from the SCGA and our own Golf Professionals will be on hand to discuss all the new rules and address any questions. Get the new year & your golf season off to a good start and understanding of all the rules of the game!