

## From the General Manager

It has been a rocky 2011 for Tuscarora Country Club. As General Manager, I feel confident we are headed in the right direction. Our new greens will make us the envy of other clubs around. We have a special group of members at our club. All have bonded together and weathered the storm. Many have donated their own time to help us move forward. We have a proud membership and I am proud to serve you as manager.

*Thank you,  
Pete*

## From the Taproom

Well, Tuscarora, we made it! I am sooo excited that we are finally open. I look forward to seeing everyone playing golf and enjoying our new greens. We in the Taproom are very grateful for the members who stuck in there with the club through this change. Our hours of operation will be Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - dark, and Saturday & Sunday 7:00 a.m. - dark. With the time change in November, I will post our new hours.

I am planning a Harvest Festival for Saturday, October 29th. There will be lots of fun for the kids and prizes. All kids are encouraged to wear their costume as there will be a judging contest in different categories. Details on exact time and events will be emailed and posted throughout the club.

*Thank you,  
Robin & the Taproom Staff*

## TLGA News

We are hoping to close out our season with the President's Handicap on October 8th and 9th at our club. Championship on October 22nd and 23rd. Of course, this will depend on the condition of the course. Please be sure to sign up!

*Thank you,  
Lisa Dixon, TLGA President*

## Website

The [www.tuscaroracountryclub.net](http://www.tuscaroracountryclub.net) website is a method of getting information to the members quickly. We want to keep you informed with current news or events that are happening at the club. On the left side are links to different areas of the club, such as the Taproom menu, schedules of men's and women's events, and other links which you might find of interest. You can take a tour of the course or see the types of fitness equipment that is available for all members to use.

On the right side is current news. Follow the Greens Project by clicking on the different dates to see how the new greens are progressing. Two very interesting articles are "When Bent Goes Bad" and "Why Choose Mini Verde". These will help you understand why many clubs in the south are moving away from bent grass and installing Mini Verde Bermuda grass.

If you have any thoughts, comments or items you would like to see, email me at [j.jefferson@comcast.net](mailto:j.jefferson@comcast.net).





## Course News

Well, it's almost that time. Time for the leaves to start falling, a chill in the air and time to play some golf at Tuscarora Country Club. As a maintenance staff, we have worked endlessly trying to

get the new greens grown in, and the golf course as a whole in top notch condition. I am very confident that everyone will be pleased with the product when our doors re-open. The greens grow in certainly hasn't been without its challenges, but we have made tremendous progress in the past month or so. We didn't have the benefit of having a full summer's worth of growing season and ideally the process should start in June. We got a late start but hard work and plenty of patience have allowed us to stay on schedule. Each day we see more growth. At current time, we are approximately 95% grown in. That means we have a full stand of turf and are working on filling in small gaps and holes and smoothing out the playing surface. The weather recently hasn't been the best for Bermuda growth, but with a very detailed fertility program we have been able to continue to push growth and are confident we should have everything hemmed in around our target date. We continue a very light and frequent top-dress schedule that aids in firming up the greens, smoothing them out and giving the grass a platform on which to spread. We are currently mowing 3 times per week and cutting at a height of .200 inch. The late start we had will prevent us from lowering the height much more than that during the remainder of this growing season. It's important that the membership understand that when we re-open, the greens won't be blazing fast and there will be some bumps here and there. That simply cannot be helped when growing in new turf. However, as we continue our management practices those problems will be remedied very quickly. Currently, my plan is to reduce the height of the cut by feel to around .180 to .160. Our issue is if we got too low and the grass slows in growth and the greens are really fast then we are stuck with that speed throughout the entire winter season. So, we just want everyone to understand that we are learning as we go on our specific greens in relation to green speed and we ask for everyone's patience as we try to figure out the best combo for Tuscarora. We are applying high rates of Nitrogen to push lateral growth and stimulate root activity and as such we must apply large quantities of water to ensure our fertilizers are watered in and the plants get adequate moisture. Those two things mean there will always be some broadleaf weeds present. We had some broadleaf weeds, nutsedge and kyllinga pop up in most of the greens but it's certainly no cause for concern. As the cooler temperatures come most will not survive that and with the continued mowing practices that also burns out most weeds. The beauty of all Bermudas is it tolerates herbicides very well and I will make a herbicide application to wipe clean any small weeds remaining as we get close to opening date. On a positive note, I have been able to get every single green functioning at 100% capacity in regards to irrigation/sprinkler heads. It's been very time consuming and frustrating but the work was well worth it and this is the first time in years that every single green functions property irrigation wise. We have also patched and fixed any leaks on the course. We have edged every single bunker the way they should be edged and I think everyone will be impressed with that work. We have numerous projects ongoing and again I think the response will be very favorable. As I write this, we are starting to sod the vandalism area on #11 green. While that situation was extremely unfortunate, we made the decision to go ahead and sod those areas and be done with it. Everyone must understand that the sod and seams will very likely be visible when the course re-opens. However, we will do the best job possible and hopefully no one will even notice from a playability standpoint. It shouldn't effect putting very much at all. We will work extremely hard to get those seams healed in as quickly as possible. As I said, we have faced numerous challenges during this grow in and this has been one of the most tiring, time consuming and difficult things I have ever done, but as we near playing golf again, I must say I am extremely proud of my staff and all those involved in regards to what we have been able to accomplish. With our limited staff and finances, it's really nothing short of amazing. We have received nothing but extremely positive reviews and site visits from the install company and numerous other superintendents and experts. Folks are excited about this and it's brought Tuscarora quite a bit of regional and statewide exposure. I routinely field 5 or so calls a day from other supers, GM's or interested parties seeking information and help regarding the grow in of Mini Verde. I have done several interviews with various media outlets and all responses have been very positive. I feel like we have set a standard and others are looking to follow and that's something that TCC and it's members should be very proud of. I genuinely appreciate the opportunity to be part of this process and I will continue to give everything I have both personally and professionally to Tuscarora and its members. Thanks goes out to the Board for their continued support as well as the numerous volunteers who have been on course to help out: Butch Cassada, Ronnie Motley, Bobby Cadieux, H.T. Ricketts, John Barbour and many others. A special thank you to Tim Shelton for allowing us to use his transfer water pump in a time of need. Not only did he deliver the pump but also installed it and kept it gassed up. Everyone be sure to thank Tim and all the others when you get a chance. In closing, we are in a good position and I am happy with where we are and how we have gotten here. That said, we still have much work to do before we open these doors. We have yet to set a specific date of re-opening the club. We are pushing the greens as quickly as possible to get you golfing ASAP. I know that everyone is antsy and ready to hit some golf balls, and believe me, I am ready to! That said, the last thing we want to do is open the course before it's ready. So, moving forward the next several weeks we greatly appreciate everyone's continued patience. I promise you all that we will open those doors as soon as we possibly can. I see no reason why we can't open back up somewhere around our target date of the first few weeks in October. Now, enjoy the cooler temperatures and GET EXCITED TUSCARORA! It's almost time to play some golf on your new Mini Verde greens! You are one of a handful of folks in the great Commonwealth of Virginia who can say that! Once again, thanks to everyone for the continued support and most of all, thanks to the great membership of Tuscarora Country Club for the patience and understanding throughout this exciting time.

*Zane A. Breeding, Superintendent*



## Grand Reopening Celebration and the 2011 Member-Guest Tournament

The deepening color from the new “Mini Verde” grass on the greens is creating excitement and anticipation toward the “Grand Reopening” of Tuscarora Country Club which is currently planned for early October. The circumstances that played a roll in leading the Board of Directors to make the decision to convert the greens from bentgrass to ultadwarf Bermuda created a lot of frustration for the membership. The period of course closure required to make this transition also added the inconvenience of having to play at other courses during the conversion process. The membership’s patience and loyalty will be rewarded with what will likely be the best and most consistent putting surfaces Tuscarora ever had. The Tournament and Social Committee plans to celebrate Tuscarora’s “Grand Reopening” through two separate events.

The first event, a Celebration Social, will be focused on expressing appreciation for the support shown by all the members that have stuck with TCC through some trying times. This event will take place during the first weekend after the actual reopening. It will provide a casual atmosphere with food, drink and an opportunity to share new stories that will have been created during member’s early rounds on the greens.

The second event will be the renewal of the long standing annual Men’s Member-Guest Tournament which will be held during the weekend of October 14-16, 2011. This year’s event, in the continuing spirit of “celebration” will be one of the biggest and best Member-Guest tournaments ever. So mark your calendars, invite a guest and be prepared and proud to show off our new greens while enjoying a great weekend of golf and activities.

The Tournament and Social Committee is in the final planning for both of these “celebrations” and will communicate more details in the next couple of weeks on both. GET EXCITED!

*Tournament & Social Committee*

## Tournament Committee to Accommodate Both Tournament & Non-Tournament Play

The Tournament Committee at the September meeting presented a plan to the Board, which was endorsed by the Board, which will make it possible for members who are not playing in the 2011 Member-Guest Tournament (scheduled for October 15th & 16th) to be able to play while the tournament is being conducted. Given the inconvenience the membership endured, the Tournament Committee had been considering methods to best accommodate both tournament and non-tournament play during the weekend.

On Saturday, October 15th, there will be two shotgun groups. One will be at 8:30 a.m. with the second group at 1:30 p.m. In both groups, the tournament players will tee off on the front nine and the non-tournament players will tee off on the back nine. On Sunday, October 16th, at 8:30 a.m. all the tournament players will tee off on both sides. As soon as the tournament play is conducted (probably around 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.) the Pro Shop will open the course for member play. It will be up to the Pro Shop as to whether Sunday afternoon play will be by tee time or utilize a second shotgun start. Please be aware that based on Tournament participation there may be some modifications to this plan. However, under no circumstances will reasonable access to the golf course be denied to the membership not participating in the tournament.

The Tournament Committee encourages participation in what will likely be one of the best Member-Guest Tournaments in recent years. For more information on tee times and hole assignments, please contact the Pro Shop.



## DEE-LISH-US!!!

That's what you'll be saying about those "After Church Sunday Dinners" Robin and Laura serve in the Taproom starting at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. Great food, great service and great prices! Try it next Sunday!

NOTE: Until the course reopens, the new Taproom hours are Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## New Board Member

The Board of Directors has appointed Keith Van Asch to fill the vacancy left by Mark Daniels.

## Where Did it Go?

"How was your golf game, dear?" asked Jack's wife Tracy.

"Well, I was hitting pretty well, but my eyesight's gotten so bad, I couldn't see where the ball went."

"You're seventy-five years old, Jack!" admonished his wife. "Why don't you take my brother Scott along?"

"But he's eighty-five and doesn't even play golf anymore," protested Jack.

"Yes, but he's got perfect eyesight and can watch your ball for you," Tracy pointed out.

The next day Jack teed off with Scott looking on. Jack swung and the ball disappeared down the middle of the fairway. "Did you see where it went?" asked Jack.

"Yup," Scott answered.

"Well, where is it?" yelled Jack, peering off into the distance.

"I forgot."

## HOT! HOT HOT!

According to "Triad Golf", the belly putter may be the hottest item on the market today. The recent win by Keegan Bradley and the use of the 46 inch putter by others has sparked a keen interest. Bradley uses an Odyssey White Hot XG Sabertooth Model. Adam Scott won the Bridgestone Invitational using a 49 inch Scotty Cameron. There is no doubt about it - the long putter is here to stay.

## Don't Forget...

Until the course reopens, there are FREE range balls - all you can hit - at the practice range daily. Also there are a number of area golf courses that are reciprocating with TCC, some with discounted rates.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- Stan Cocke.....President
- Danny Moon....Vice-President, Social & Tournament
- Stuart Shields.....Treasurer, Finance & Budget
- Jim Lowe.....Secretary
- Neal Morris.....Greens
- Allan Easley.....Club Use
- B.C. Elliott.....Personnel
- Layne Mills.....Tennis & Pool
- Neal Morris.....Policy & Regulations
- Stephen Harper.....New Members
- Butch Cassada.....House & Grounds
- Keith Van Asch.....

## STAFF & PUBLICITY

- Pete Soffriti.....General Manager
- Robin Jennings.....Tap Room Manager
- Zane Breeding.....Superintendent
- Charlene Winn.....Business Manager
- Richard Clark.....Publicity & Newsletter Editor
- Bob Wiles.....