

## **Sterling Hills Men's Club Spring 2009 Newsletter**

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### **A Letter from the President**

Spring and daylight savings time is upon us. It's time to dust off your golf clubs of their winter rust and join your friends over at Sterling Hills Men's Golf Club. The days are getting longer and the temperature is rising, so there can be no longer any acceptable excuses for not getting out and participating in a monthly tourney. The course is in great shape after the recent winter rains, so come out and join your golfing comrades and participate in an upcoming monthly Men's Club tournament event. You'll have a swell time.

Your Board of Directors has been hard at work trying to improve your Men's Club experience and to ensure that each monthly tournament runs smoothly. We have recently purchased a computer software program that will allow us to enter each player's scores for the tournament event. After all participants tournament info is entered, a push of a button should allow us to determine results immediately. That will include placement for the event winners as well as gross and net skins. Like anything new that we haven't used before, it may take a couple of events to get comfortable using this new system and technology, but in the long run I think all can see the advantages in using this kind of automated software. Of course, its ultimate speed and accuracy should be second to none.

There are a few things I would like to share with our members that you may not know, which I think will help the membership understand what goes on behind the scenes at your Men's Club. I think most members know that our Men's Club tournaments usually take place on the first Saturday of the month throughout the year. But, not all. Why not? Why are some scheduled on other weekends. The Board sat down with the Sterling Hills administrative staff a year in advance to reserve the dates for all of the year's tournament events. While looking at the calendar, we realized that some events were scheduled just a few days following the scheduled aeration of the putting greens. You can imagine that the Course Superintendent plans well in advance the necessary maintenance to keep the course in top form. We've all played on greens that were sanded and aerated and it's not much fun. Betty and your Board recognized that this would take away from your golfing enjoyment and pushed some tournament dates back a week to allow the greens to recover. It's a small detail, but I think demonstrates that your Board and the course leadership truly cares about our collective experience of the Men's Club members.

The general membership should also know up front how the tournaments are organized. There should be no secrets about how an event is run. For example, the prize fund for any particular event is determined as follows: Ten dollars of your entry green fee that you pay to Sterling on the day of the event goes to the prize fund and another ten dollars for each participant is matched by the Men's club itself. That creates the total prize fund for that particular monthly event. The event chairman and the Board are determined to see that at least the top third of the tournament field get's paid. Additionally, most of us

throw another twenty dollars into the Skin's fund on the day of the tournament. That \$20 is divided up as follows: \$9 to net skin pool; \$5 to gross skins pool; \$5 to 'Closest to the Pin' pool; \$1 to 'hole in one' insurance pool. It goes without saying that the exact payouts for any particular month will vary depending the the turnout and participation level. All I can say is that the more who show up and the bigger the field, the more the potential payout for those lucky enough to win. The moral to this story is to participate as much as possible and encourage your buddies to come out to our events also. The more the merrier.

Your tournament director, John Menzie, works hard behind the scenes to make sure each monthly tournament runs smoothly. A few simple reminders and acts of courtesy will surely make his life easier. Sign up for tournaments through the Pro-shop as early as possible. You should know the cut-off date to sign up is the Sunday before the event. But, signing up well before the cut-off gives John and the course a true idea of the level of participation and helps make sure we have an adequate number of reserved tee times. Also, if you can't make it to an event, common courtesy dictates that you let John know immediately. I'm sure you can only imagine the confusion that results when someone just fails to show up on tournament day. Teams may have been pre-determined and foursomes created. Not being there throws everything into a state of disorganization. It's unacceptable and just plain rude. Please take a moment to consider this request and I'm sure it would make sense to you too. Also, when you see our tournament director, John Menzie, make it a point to say "thank you" for all the work he puts in on your behalf.

We have an outstanding course to play and your Board of Directors is determined to see that all members have a great experience at our tournaments. The ultimate success of the Men's Club depends on each member's level of participation. Tell your golfing buddies to become members and just get involved. It will continue to be a blast for all. I'll see you at the next monthly event.

Sincerely, Brad Kane  
President, Sterling Hills Men's Golf Club