



Pro Shop: 704 482 4286

riverbendymcagolf.org

Around the Pro Shop with Phil Wallace



Youth Golf is a big part of who we are at River Bend YMCA Golf Course. Providing playing opportunities for young people has been a habit of River Bend's staff throughout its history. I am proud to be a part of this tradition. Young people can only improve if they have the opportunity to play and practice. Come out to the River Bend YMCA Golf Course on any afternoon and you will observe young people

enjoying the game of golf.

Another Part of River Bend history took place in 1976 when Gardner-Webb Senior, Rodney Morrow put together two almost unbelievable rounds of golf on May 22nd and 23rd shooting a 36-hole score of 124, *Continued p.3*

Youth Corner

The First Tee of the Foothills Spring Session has 36 participants from ages 5-17 actively enrolled in Target, Player, Par, Birdie and Eagle classes. Coaches Corby Haneline and Bill Sherman both attended The First Tee Coaches School this spring. Katie Turner is heading up the summer tour starting in June. A special thank you to all the golf courses in our community for hosting a summer tour event! The First Tee Summer Tour kicks off on Monday, June 13th at Challenger III Golf Course. *Continued p.3*

On the Green with Russell Spangler



The saying goes, "March winds bring April Showers and May flowers." This year, March winds brought April winds and April winds brought May winds! Now we are finally getting April Showers in Mid-May. The course has been fertilized with 8 tons of fertilizer and weed preventer so, thank goodness for the May showers! My staff is looking forward to mowing grass for sure!

Speaking of all the wind we have had, we've spent a good bit of our time with debris removal taking 9 loads of pine cones, sticks and junk just off of hole #2! This along with some extra mowing, we have made little progress on bunker renovations. We hope to get back on the project soon. Help is on the way, summer workers are returning from the off season.

Welcome back Issac Powell, George Howell, Bobby Winn, Mike Shires, Bobby Price, and Roger Hawkins as well as two new faces, Brooks Corder and Bob Baugham. *Continued p.2*

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Upcoming Events:

May 21: Ronald McDonald House Tournament

June 10: Crest Horseshoe Club

June 11: Boiling Springs Little Chargers

June 25: Wal-Mart Distribution Tournament

July 23-24: Piedmont Shrine Club Tournament

Aug 6-7: Club Championship

Aug 13-14: Member—Guest Tournament

On the Lighter Side

Four old men went into the pro shop after playing 18 holes of golf.

The pro asked, "Did you guys have a good game today?"

The first old guy said, "Yes, I had three riders today."

The second old guy said, "I had the most riders ever. I had five."

The third old guy said, "I had seven riders, the same as last time."

The last old man said, "I beat my old record. I had 12 riders today."

After they went into the locker room, another golfer who had heard the old guys talking about their game went to the pro and said, "I've been playing golf for a long time and thought I knew all the terminology of the game, but what's a rider?"

The pro said, "A rider is when you hit the ball far enough to actually get in the golf cart and ride to it."

On the Green with Russell *continued from p.1*

Golf is a unique sport where participants share in the responsibility in the upkeep of the playing area. Each player has the responsibility of helping maintain the playing area so that others can enjoy and have the same conditions as the groups ahead. In future Newsletters I plan to address some of the areas where **you** can help.

So just what is "The 90 Degree Rule" and why is it needed? Golf carts are the single biggest threat to turf areas, causing compaction and turf wear. Therefore a system was developed years ago to help with this issue, called "The 90 Degree Rule." Here is how you should utilize this **turf saving concept**. First you should understand that carts should remain on the paths at tee and green areas, **always**. So, when leaving the tee area on your first hole, remain on the path until you reach a point 90 degrees from the shorter drive between you and your partner. Then exit from the path to that ball. When proceeding to the next ball, (unless there is a long distance between the two balls like between David Green and Randy Green) drive the shortest distance to it. If there is a long distance between the two, drive the cart 90 degrees back to the path from the shorter drive (Randy's) and proceed the 50 yards to a point 90 degrees across from the longer drive (David's) and then drive out to that ball. What most people do once driving out into the fairway is stay out there until reaching the cart directional exit sign up close to the green. **NOT GOOD!!** This causes accelerated wear at an area very much in play. So, go back to the path as soon as possible and we will all have better turf to play from.

Most importantly I hope you enjoy your facility at River Bend YMCA Golf Course. My greatest asset is you!!

Here's to birdies!

Russell Spangler

Club House News

Have you noticed the new picture on the River Bend score card?

You may have noticed a new selection of shirts and hats in the club house as well as a great selection of golf accessories. River Bend is offering members 10% off the **sale price** on all merchandise in the golf shop during the month of June. Our prices are competitive and we encourage you to think about River Bend when making your next purchase. Father's Day is coming and River Bend Gift Cards are always available!

Spotlight: Crest High School Golf

This spring the Crest Chargers, whose home course is River Bend, placed 4 individual golfers into the High School 3-A regional golf qualifier. Congratulations are in order for Crest Senior and River Bend employee, Jake Scruggs, who shot 73 at Mimosa Hills Country Club and finished 2nd at the regionals to qualify for the state championship at Whispering Pines Country Club. There he shot rounds of 72 and 75 finishing tied for 7th place. Jake has signed to play golf at Belmont Abby College this fall.

Crest Senior, Brianna Plummer also qualified and participated in the state championship last fall. She recently was honored at the Cleveland County Schools Foundation Scholarship Awards Dinner as a 4.0 Student and will be playing college golf this fall at Western Carolina University.

Five of the ten players on the Crest roster this year are freshmen. Let's all continue to mentor and encourage these young players who choose to spend their spare time learning to play this great game. All of these young men are participants in The First Tee of the Foothills character education programs where they learn life skills and how to play better golf. River Bend invites all young school golfers to join programming with The First Tee of the Foothills. Pass this message to your friends.

Check in Procedures

We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to improve our check in processes. It is important that we collect accurate information as golfer's come to the counter. We are focused on getting everyone's name in our data base with accurate and complete information such as phone number, email address, and customer type. This accurate information helps us to collect the correct green fees for each golfer. And, accurate information helps us to target our marketing programs. We recently sent out 1000 emails to past golfers inviting them back.

Also, we are looking into the possibility of getting a second point of sale terminal so that we can check in two at a time during those busy periods.

Around the Pro Shop with Phil *continued from p. 1*

20 under par, to win the Gardner-Webb Bulldog Open Golf Tournament by 20 shots. Current River Bend member Tom Burton was paired with Rodney in the final round and had the opportunity to witness every shot of the current course record round of 61. I personally remember Tom Burton sharing that he was doing all he could to keep the pressure on Rodney that day!

Our compliments to Russell Spangler and the maintenance staff on the condition of the golf course. We continue to see positive reviews and comments.

Phil Wallace, PGA Professional

Youth Corner *continued from p. 1*

You can check out all the youth events by visiting our web site at riverbendymcagolf.com and clicking on one of the links. Link to 'The First Tee of Foothills', 'PGA Junior Golf League', or 'Drive Chip and Putt'

River Bend team registration for the PGA Junior League Golf for ages 9-13 is open through May 31. We have room for 6 more players. Go to www.pgajlg and register your favorite junior golfer or call River Bend PGA Professional, Phil Wallace for more information.