



# MASON CITY COUNTRY CLUB

*North Iowa's Premiere Family Club*

## CLUB NEWS

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN ROWE - PRESIDENT  
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KIM PANG  
ZELDA ELWOOD  
MICK KEYSER  
NICK HUBERT

## Thoughts from The Club President

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I want to thank you for usage of our club this last month. With all the heat, the pool is certainly seeing an increase in usage. Remember to keep in mind the pool is a great place to host a child's birthday party. Keep in mind our upcoming family pool celebration as well.

Our course is in fantastic shape and if you see the crew please thank them for all their hard work, in very uncomfortable conditions.

I want to thank the members for their help in parking. Trying to keep the east lot for the pool use and west lot for the golfers. Also thank you for following the signs and not parking under the overhang. That helps with our flow of traffic.

Again, thanks for another great month and if you have any questions or ideas that you would like to see happen, feel free to contact Matt or myself.

John Rowe  
Club President



## The GM Corner

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As August approaches, we head towards the end of summer. Seems like its flown by this year. School will be starting soon and we'll be gearing towards fall. We have a busy month of August ahead of us with plenty of events, projects, etc... to keep us busy.

As far as projects go, the biggest thing you'll notice will be what we are doing out on the golf course. Stacey, with direction from the Greens Committee, is in the process of building new tees on #15 and #13. This will be a great addition to the golf course not only in playability but aesthetics as well. All monies for this project are coming straight from our Course Improvement fund.

The other project we have is our ongoing fairway renovation project. As you remember, last year we did work on several fairways in an effort to rid them of POA and bent grass. Stacey sprays a chemical application that selectively kills those unwanted grasses and leaves the bluegrass (which is the turf we WANT in our fairways). After the POA and bent grass die out, we go in and overseed with bluegrass. We will be confining this to the back nine only this year. Next year, we'll switch over the front nine. This project has been deemed necessary by the Greens Committee. The end result will give us (and Stacey) a much more uniform surface to play on that won't be as susceptible to weather conditions and will be much more predictable and easier to maintain for Stacey.

One final note, the semi-annual Board Meeting will be Thursday September 15th. We will be honoring members for awards such as: Hall of Fame 2011, Member of the Year (voted on by staff), and several golf awards. We want this meeting to continue to be an event. Come, get informed, and celebrate another outstanding year at Mason City Country Club.

Matt Messenger  
General Manager

# From the Pro

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Hello Members:

It's hard to believe it's August already. This golf season has just flown by. I think part of it is due to the fortunate (and HOT!) weather we've received.

August is a very busy month for us here at MCCC. Below is a list of some the events that will be taking place:

## **Men's Club Championship**

The Men's Club Championship is August 6th & 7th. There are 4 divisions: Championship, Net Flights, Senior (Gross & Net), and Super Senior (Gross & Net). All sign ups are done on the first tee on Saturday the 6th.

## **Women's Association Morning Stag**

The Women's Association Morning Stag will be Tuesday August 9th. This is a change from the original schedule as we had to bump back the Women's Club Championship a week due to the extreme heat. A sign up sheet will be placed outside the Women's Locker Room or you may call the Golf Shop to sign up.

## **Family Celebration**

Every year in August, we have our year end Family Celebration. This year's event will be August 14th. There will be a family golf tournament starting at 2:00. We'll also have fun golf games including a putting contest and long drive contest. The pool staff will have fun games going as well. BBQ food will be available too. This is a great way to celebrate the club one more time before we head back to school!!

## **Cream Can**

Our annual Couples Cream Can Twilight will be Friday August 12th. Couples will make their own teams with golf starting at 6:00 pm. Scott & Janelle Bothwell will once again be in charge of cooking the brats in the "cream cans" while the rest of you play golf. Contact the Golf Shop for more information

## **Mr. & Mrs. Championship**

Our Husband/Wife Championship will be August 29th. The format for play is a Husband/Wife Chapman. This is a HANDICAPPED event. Please contact the Golf Shop to sign up and for more information on the Chapman format.

## **Golf Shop Hours for August:**

Monday: - 8am - dark

Tues - Sun: 7am - dark

\*\*Golf course opens 9am on Mondays and 8am on Tuesday - Sunday\*\*

\*\*The golf shop, driving range, and bag room may close early due to inclement weather\*\*

## **Driving Range Hours for August:**

7:30 am - 7:30 pm

Matt Messenger, PGA  
Head Professional



# TEE to GREEN

## Golf Course Update

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As we close out July, we have a couple of issues. First is the damage from the heat. The fairways, collars, and approaches all have suffered extensive damage from a disease called pythium blight. This disease is fairly rare this far north. I've only seen it a couple times since I've worked here. It's caused by extreme heat and high humidity over an extended period of time (4-6 days). At the club, it infects mainly our bentgrass and annual bluegrass. It's a fairly aggressive and deadly disease. We treat the greens and tees with plant protectants, but it would be too costly to treat the acres of fairways we have. We will be overseeding in the areas hardest hit (thinning areas). However, before overseeding, we will give it roughly 30 days to see what comes back and what does not, and then we will decide where seed is needed.

Also, if you will remember about this time last year, we were experiencing some white grub damage in our fairways, as well as damage caused by animals digging for and eating the grubs. One of the ways to tell the potential damage you might have is by the number of Japanese beetles seen in the area. Some of the main food sources for the beetles are Linden, crab apple, and apple trees. I first saw the beetles three years ago when I noticed damage to one very small Linden on the right of #11 fairway. As of now, we have seen quite a bit of damage to the majority of the Lindens on the back nine. Basically, the beetles defoliate trees. If you look at the top of the Lindens and the apple trees, they look brown. The beetles literally eat every inch of leaf and leave only the leaf veins. Last year, we were not able to treat the grubs. However, this year, we have treated tees, fairways, green surrounds, greens, and the rough between the tree lines and the fairways. A lot of the damage last year was caused by burrowing animals (mainly skunks and raccoons). We will be much more efficient in our management of these animals this year with hopes of minimizing the damage to the best of our ability.

The Greens Committee has approved the continuation of our fairway renovation project. We will start our applications around the first week of August, and they will run through the end of August. At that point, we will start overseeding. The Committee decided to finish the renovation of the back nine fairways, thus keeping all of the disruption of play on one nine. I just wanted you to be aware of this as you plan your golf outings later in the season.

To be honest, I thought the course was in great condition before we suffered a week of such high heat and humidity. It's very disheartening to know where we had it and to see where it is now. We will continue to battle through like we've done in the past and make the best of the situation.  
Sincerely,

Stacey Shipman  
Golf Course Superintendent



# Hot from the Kitchen

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When was the last time you had a great meal? If your answer is “not lately,” then you have not been to the Country Club recently. Our kitchen staff is dedicated to using only the freshest products to create absolutely delicious entries for you and your family. With beautiful presentations and mouth-watering choices, make the Mason City Country Club your first choice for an elegant, yet comfortable evening out.

Also, don't forget to join us for our fabulous Sunday Brunch on August 29th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY BY CALLING 424-3014



## Hours

As of May1, 2011

Tuesday - Friday:  
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Saturday - Monday:  
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

# Just The Facts

Here are the results for a few of the events held last month.

## 4th of July Event

1st Place - 1st Flight  
66 (-6)  
Stripling's  
Kessler's  
Firsching's

1st Place - 2nd Flight  
75 (+3)  
Gold's  
Lathum's  
Guetzko's

### Pin Prizes: \$10 Each

Longest Drive (Ladies) #4 Dawn Eckenrod  
Closest to the Pin (Men) #5 Jerry Bernhard  
Longest Putt (Men or Ladies) #8 Janelle Bothwell  
Longest Drive (Men) #17 Al Eckenrod



## The Tradition 2011

1st Place Mike Albrecht / Jason Felker \$450/team

2nd Place Leroy Miller / Ken Butcher \$270/team

3rd Place John Fischer / Bud Ward \$120/team

### Flight Winners: \$100/team

Bobby Jones: John Fischer / Bud Ward  
Ben Hogan: Mike Albrecht / Jason Felker  
Gene Sarazen: Matt Anderson / Bill Barnett  
Byron Nelson: Bob Marshall / Todd Sheldon  
Arnold Palmer: Sean Kuhl / Jerry Schleisman  
Sam Snead: Wally Smeby / Doug Smeby  
Jack Nicklaus: Leron Miller / Ken Butcher



## Horse & Rider

### Championship Flight

1st Place Carl Eckenrod Ray Lichty 64 \$40/player  
Gwen Gasperi Amy Brownlee

2nd Place Tom Douglas Toni Eckenrod 66 \$20/player  
Mike Schilling Katie Despenas

### 1st Flight

1st Place Bill Gasperi David Sloan 69 \$40/Player  
Rose Miller Alexandria Eckenrod

2nd Place Al Eckenrod Sue Firsching 69 \$20/player  
John Rowe Gwen Schmitz

### Flag Events

Longest Putt (Ladies) #4 Lisa Yunek  
Longest Drive (Men) #9 John Fischer  
Closest to the Pin (Men) #16 Wade Nielson  
Longest Drive (Ladies) #17 Carolyn Gold



# Calendar of Events

August 2011

| Sunday                                    | Monday                       | Tuesday                                    | Wednesday | Thursday                                | Friday                             | Saturday                     |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|   | 1                            | 2<br>Mah Jong                              | 3         | 4<br>MCYH Golf Outing                   | 5                                  | 6<br>Men's Club Championship |
| 7<br>Men's Club Championship              | 8<br>ISAA Golf Outing        | 9<br>Mah Jong<br>Ladies Mixer              | 10        | 11<br>JDRF Golf Outing                  | 12<br>Couples Twilight / Cream Can | 13                           |
| 14<br>Family Celebration                  | 15                           | 16<br>Member-Guest Mah Jong<br>Bridge      | 17        | 18<br>Independent Insurance Golf Outing | 19                                 | 20<br>Class Reunion          |
| 21<br>River City Cup                      | 22<br>Mark Mann Invitational | 23<br>Mah Jong<br>Bridge                   | 24        | 25                                      | 26                                 | 27                           |
| 28<br>Brunch<br>Couples Club Championship | 29<br>I Club Outing          | 30<br>Mah Jong<br>Bridge<br>Birthday Party | 31        |   |                                    |                              |

## Staff

Matt Messenger  
General Manager / Director of Golf

Josh Peiffer  
Assistant Golf Professional

Stacey Shipman  
Superintendent

Brenda Mills  
Kitchen Manager

Sandy Pietig  
Banquet Coordinator

Linda Spalla  
Office Manager

## Golf Shop Hours

Monday: 8:00 AM - Dark  
Tuesday - Sunday: 7:00 AM - Dark

## Contact Info

Cluhouse ..... (641)  
424-3014  
Golf Shop ..... (641)  
424-2173

E-mail: [golfshop@masoncitycountryclub.com](mailto:golfshop@masoncitycountryclub.com)

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