

# The Babbling Brook

March 2010

**Save these Dates:**

- Mar 13: Comedy Night and Dinner
- March 20: 7-11 pm — Iron Mike Band
- March 21: 9am-3:00 pm — Open House
- April 17: Clean Up Day

## OPEN HOUSE

Think green fairways, plush greens and the beautiful sound made as your club hits that first ball in the spring.

**Open House** at Toddy Brook is Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> between 11:00am and 3:00pm. WPOR will be here with prizes.

Come joins us, sign up for memberships and leagues, catch up on all the news and enjoy some great refreshments. So mark your calendars for Sunday, March 21st. We look forward to seeing you.



Par 5, Hole 17

## CAFÉ NEWS

In the Café, we have added two new cooks and a new waitress. Mike Gilliam comes to Toddy with experience and some great new dishes. Laura Meyer is a culinary student at SMTC and will be graduating this spring, she currently is working part time in the kitchen and doing a great job. Marybeth Caron has joined the waitress staff in a part time position and will be helping out on Friday nights and weekends. Welcome Mike, Laura



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## Improvements at Toddy Brook

This winter has been busy at Toddy Brook, a lot of changes and work in progress, so if you haven't been by, stop in and check it all out.

We have started construction on the new addition to the clubhouse and if all goes as planned it should be finished by the first of May. The expansion will make it possible to hold 150 people upstairs for functions and banquets. The pro shop will be relocated in the downstairs expansion, using the old pro

shop space for a lounge/rec room area.

All the rocks around the pond between hole nine and eighteen have been pulled, cat-o-nine tails removed and rocks reset. It looks great.

In the spring trees and shrubs will be installed along the edge of the parking lot expansion to buffer the road. We finished up the paving of the cart paths last fall and will finish resurfacing the bridges this spring.

Chrissy Smith

## MESSAGE FROM AJ, THE GM

I am very excited and privileged to introduce myself as your new General Manager/Director of Golf. Robert and Christina have graciously been showing me the ropes of this great place, and I've been meeting the wonderful members and employees that call Toddy home. I hope to make this transition very smooth, with everything you like about Toddy Brook Golf Course staying the same. Any changes made to our operation will be intended to make your experience more enjoyable when you come to play.

My golf background started when I was about 7 years old. My father rented a condo just off of the Brunswick Golf Club and we loved to go out late in the afternoon to play a few holes. Thanks to the legendary golf pro at Brunswick, a man by the name of Mal Strange, I had 2 or 3 golf clubs cut down to just my size. It was then that I got hooked on this great game. I ended up playing golf in high school and ultimately going to college to pursue a career in the game. I attended the Golf Academy of America in Altamonte Springs, FL and earned a degree in Golf Complex Operations & Management. Upon

graduation I returned home to take a job at my home club, working as the Assistant Pro under current GM Patrick Badcock.

I hope to take my experience from the five years I was at Brunswick and utilize it to our advantage here at Toddy Brook. Tournament operation is probably my favorite part of being in the golf business, so expect a very well-run golf outing each and every time. The Toddy Brook Golf Association has made a big investment in helping that cause, by purchasing a new electronic scoreboard system, which I hope you'll get to see at our Open House on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

I hope to meet many of you at the open house, but please feel free to stop by anytime to say hi and see the great new renovations we are working on. Golf season is just around the corner and our staff looks forward to accommodating any of your golfing needs. See you on the links!

Hit 'em straight,  
A.J. Kavanaugh

### Men's League

The 2010 Men's League will see some changes that will hopefully improve the league on both the scoring and pace of play fronts. The teams of 5 will be made up of A, B, C, D players and a senior (E player). The senior matches will be played separately; they can schedule their match any time Wednesday before 2:30pm. The ABCD matches will now be scheduled as a 4:45PM Shotgun. This will hopefully help pace of play, as well as any confusion to weather issues and/or scheduling of tee times. All hole assignments for matches will be made by the pro shop.

Scoring will be changed by each match being worth 1 point, instead of 9. You receive 1 point for a win, ½ point for a halve, and 0 points for a loss. Therefore each team match is worth 5 points. This was changed in an attempt to keep the standings closer. Like last year, the top 8 teams will make the playoffs. Other changes will be discussed during the Meeting/Scramble on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Come to the open house to sign up and ask me any questions!

A.J. Kavanaugh

### Ladies League

Ladies League 2010 will adopt some of the same changes that the men's league are making as we believe this will help improve our league in many ways. Teams of 5 will be set up in ABCDE format, and we will be playing a 4:45 shotgun on Thursday afternoons. Anyone who can't get to the course until 5:00 will still be encouraged to still play, as they can be assigned to a B hole if needed. The scoring will also change like the men to each match being worth 1 point. These changes we hope will lure more ladies to our league!

As usual, our Ladies League is open to both members and public. Public will have the opportunity to buy a Ladies League play pass which will provide a great savings on greens fees. This year's season will start with a mandatory meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. I'll be at the open house on March 21<sup>st</sup> to answer any questions and start signing ladies up! Hope to see you there!

Deb Small

# Member/Association Tournaments

The 2010 Tournament schedule is nearly complete and the Member Handbook will be mailed out shortly. Over the past few months, the committee has worked hard preparing a schedule with a wide variety of formats, some old stand-bys, and some with a new twist. Keep an eye out for the postings of up coming tournaments on the website and on the bulletin board in the lobby; we are sure you will find at least a few that peak your interest.

The committee tried to shake things up a bit this year and really have come up with a tournament schedule that includes a lot of variety and will give everyone the opportunity to have fun, meet fellow members, hone your skills and just enjoy the game of golf. So please take a look at the schedule, support the Association and join us in what will prove to be a GREAT YEAR OF GOLF AT TODDY BROOK!

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:** The Association is looking for

members to volunteer to work on tournaments; signing in members, checking and posting scores, handing out rules, etc. If you are interested (even if you can only work on one tournament), **PLEASE** advise any of the following: Butch Gagnon, Ken Lawrence, Mike McCarthy, Kathy Paradis, A.J. Kavanaugh or Chris Benn. We will be happy to sign you up. **WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR HELP!**



## Men's and Women's Senior Leagues

Every Wednesday morning at 7:30 all male members and their guests over the age of 60 are welcome to compete in a 9 hole tournament. Teams and format are assigned each week by Bruce Hazelton. You can just show up or give Bruce a call for more info at 829-3427. Be here by 7:00 am.

We have a senior league where we play other courses home and away. You must be over 50 and a member of Toddy Brook to play in this league. Courses included are Toddy Brook, Spring Meadows, Poland Spring, Fox Ridge and Brunswick. This league is in July and August

runs for 8 weeks and rotates between Wednesdays and Thursdays. There is a one time initiation fee and a weekly fee to the course you play which includes lunch. For more info contact Blaine Davis at 899-9778.

Again this year, Bruce Hazelton has agreed to set up a women's senior league scramble at Toddy Brook similar to the men's Wednesday morning league. This will on Tuesdays, meet at 12:30 play at 1:00. Open to members and their guests over the age of 55. For more info or to add your name to the list contact Pat Merrill at 846-4566.

## Fore more information....

**Member Clean Up Day:** Clean up day is Saturday, April 17, from 9 to noon followed by lunch and a 9 hole scramble. We would like to see as many members as possible show up and pitch in and help. It shows support, pride and helps us become closer as a club.

**Membership Payment Plan:** Toddy Brook will be offering a payment plan for your membership. You

can make 4 payments April thru the end of July. If You are interested in this plan contact Chris Smith or A.J. Kavanaugh.

**Golf Lessons:** Mal Strange, PGA Professional will be with us again this season. Why get in bad habits early in the season ? Do yourself a favor (and maybe the 4-some behind you) and book a lesson in the Pro Shop.



# RULES TO FIGHT SLOW PLAY

What follows are some basic tips for fighting slow play.

- It all starts at the first tee: First of all, arrive in plenty of time to figure out your match, talk about the day, and receive the local rules and other materials from the starter, if any. Not only is it a violation of the Rules of Golf to miss your tee time in competition, it's just rude in every-day play.
- If you're playing in a stroke play event and you're ready to play, hit it! Don't wait for your fellow competitor who may be trying to select the right club. Ready golf means playing when you're ready. Of course, in match play, honors are observed, but even then your opponent can allow you to hit if you're ready and she's not.
- If you hit a ball toward the woods, or another spot, visually mark that spot and then walk (or ride) directly to it. You'll have a much better chance of finding your ball this way. And don't forget, the Rules of Golf say that no matter how much time you take looking for a lost ball, after five minutes, it's lost – so go play your provisional.
- Speaking of playing a provisional, one should be employed whenever there's ever a question as to whether the ball may be lost. It may even be hit if you hit your ball toward a hazard if there's a chance the ball may be lost outside a hazard.
- If you're playing in a stroke play event and have doubt as to procedure, play a second ball under Rule 3-3 (don't know what this is? You should also have a Rules of Golf book in your golf bag to cover any points of contention while you're out there).
- If you're sharing a cart, be aware of where your fellow competitor's ball is, take a few clubs that you may need and walk to your ball, allowing the driver of the cart to proceed to her ball. Then when you're ready to hit, start walking back toward the cart, ready to go to your next shot.
- Don't wait until you get to your ball to decide what you'll hit next – make that decision on the way to your ball, especially if you're walking. Pace off the distance from the nearest marker behind your ball so by the time you reach your ball, you know what you're going to hit and can do so in a timely fashion.
- Limit your pre-shot routine. If your average round is 80 shots and you take a practice swing for every shot, you've swung the club 160 times. No wonder you're tired! Don't rush your shot, but there's no need to overanalyze it either – the ball's not moving, hit it!
- Read your putt while your fellow competitors are putting. And if you're putting first, start to read your putt on the way to the ball. Also, fix ball marks while your fellow competitor is preparing to putt. And while you're at it, fix yours and another. You won't believe the difference it will make in green conditions.
- Limit your conversations to when you're walking or driving to your ball. You should NEVER delay hitting because you're waiting for someone to finish a conversation, or worse yet, because you're talking yourself.
- Park your golf cart or set your clubs down on the way to the next tee. You should never have to walk back to get your clubs. Then mark your score down on the way to the next tee, or at the next tee while you're waiting to hit.
- Don't give your opponents or fellow competitors advice. Not only is it annoying, it's against the Rules!

## TODDY BROOK GOLF COURSE

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*The Way Golf Should Be*

*We're on the web:*  
[www.toddybrookgolf.com](http://www.toddybrookgolf.com)

Brian Lippold is pictured dreaming of spring and imagining that perfect drive down the 14th hole. It won't be long now Brian!

Photo courtesy of Viola Doyon



## Rules (continued)

- Watch to see where the people in your playing group hit the ball. The more eyes on the ball, the better the chance of finding it when you get there.
- If you're waiting to hit a long shot that you potentially can reach, let the shorter hitter play the approach shot that she can't reach. Order of play means nothing if you're not on the green in a stroke play event.
- If you're not standing in someone's line, putt out. More time is wasted marking putts, and replacing the ball than in any other place on the golf course.
- Not only are cell phones annoying, they're against the etiquette of the game and are potential cause for disqualification if they're continually a problem. Shut the ringer off, or better yet, leave the phone in the car.
- Walk quickly to your ball!!!
- Have enough stuff in your pockets – tees, ball marker, extra ball, divot repair tool – so that you may play quickly. But don't have so much stuff that you can't find your ball marker.
- If you're hitting a chip shot, take the club you will use and your putter – don't return to your bag for the putter after taking your shot. Do it all in one step.
- If your playing partner just hit from a bunker, go ahead and putt your ball while you're waiting for her to rake the bunker.