

April 2024

18 Hole Ladies Golf League

By Kellie Bilton

“Golf is a matter of confidence. If you think you cannot do it, there's no chance you will.” ~ Henry Cotton.

Hip Hip Hoorah, our favourite time of the year... Club Championships in March... It was Christmas morning for us golfers. All the hours spent practicing, honing our golf skills, playing weekly games in the Ladies league and getting our handicaps in line. Practice, practice, practice....

Feb 22, 2024 Final Shootout on Back; we had a sunny day and good spectator turnout. It was a battle to the end and a very exciting finish. Congratulations to all participants and the winners are...

1st	Paula Morrison
2nd	Mary Jane Gagnier
3rd	Laura Broad

Feb 25, 2024 Rally for the Cause ... means lots of fun and supporting a great charity. Thank you for all your support \$3300 was donated to Hope Health Care Hospice & Oak Ridges Hospice (Port Perry, On) in memory of Nancy Sweet and Heather Orr.

Annie Souza received the support needed and has advised we will be hosting this great event next year.

March 2-3, 2024 Club Championship

What an exciting weekend at Lake Fairways. Strong support from spectators, volunteers, officials and players. Lots of excitement and nail

biting finishes. The strength of these men and women is real and their commitment to this sport is genuine.

Introducing Our Winners...

Ladies Championship	Paula Morrison
Ladies A	Rose Ann Chadwick
Ladies B	Cathy Burns
Ladies C	Lisa Bell
Ladies D	Shirley Beaton

We have two new Power Couples this year. Cathy and Dave Burns have made the list for the second year. Paula Morrison & Nick Martinello as our Club Champions. Everyone knows Nick has been Champion before but hats off to Paula joining him with this prestigious honour. That means they get two preferred parking spots at the Pro Shop.

Another interesting twist Shirley Beaton lives on Meadowbrook too. Is there something in the water on that court ??? Bill Beaton said it was more than water. Huge Congratulations to the Meadowbrooker's !!! It takes a village to have such a successful golf league. At Lake Fairways we are very fortunate to have a strong community.

Congratulations to all the players because everyone was a winner to make it to the Club Championships.

We were honoured to have Neil Orr join us for the tournament. George Files introduced Neil with tribute to Heather. "It's the friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate life's journey we are all on." Neil was presented with the 2023/2024 Championship sign from Heather's win last year. He thanked Freda Bennett and the committee for inviting him to be part of the weekend. Neil said "Heather was looking down on us." Lake Fairways was Heather's happy place which became his (Neil's) too."

Greg Mullens had a busy weekend too. Not only was he playing in the Men's Championship but he also had his Presidential hat on as well. Greg thanked all volunteers, pro shop staff, Scotty the grounds keeper, maintenance crew and men's club for the food. I also wanted to mention how every time I saw Greg he was thanking volunteers for their help. What a first class guy.

A special shout out to Freda and Bob Bennett for helping organize the Club Championship. Thank you for all you do to help make Lake Fairways "Our Happy Place". Freda and Bob do so much for the community as a whole; not just the golf league.

After the tournament I asked the crowd are there any memorable moments they wanted to share.

Michelle Gregg saw 2 butterflies on #7. She felt that Heather was one of the butterflies and was looking down on on us. I presume the other one was Nancy Sweet - just keeping an eye on the ladies as the Club Championship was playing out.

Cathy Burns had a surprise visitor to her cart at the clubhouse. A furry little squirrel decided he needed Cathy's peanut butter sandwich more

than she did. So, she gave in and let him keep it given he had already opened the bag. Fortunately for Cathy she was able to get lunch provided by the Men's club after the match.

On hole 13th Rose Ann Chadwick was at the tee. Her caddy told her to put it in the middle of the sand traps. Well, she did better than that as she put it on the green. Way to go Rose Ann. Maryellen on returning to the cart said I didn't tell you to do that. LOL

Lisa Bell a new comer to our league and the current Tennis League Informer author. Andrea let us know that one of the tennis ladies had come by to wish Lisa good luck with a huge "GRRRRRR". In tennis when in competition they growl at each other.

So if you hear funny noises coming from Lisa's cart - just ignore it... as she is getting into her groove.

Our President Cathy Reid and her hubby Mike Leslie "Man at Large" had a very busy weekend too. Not only was Mike running the beer tent and refreshment stations but it was Cathy's Mom - Sandy Graham's 80th Birthday. While Sandy & Ron are home this winter; Cathy didn't want her milestone birthday to go unnoticed. We all held up letters spelling Happy Birthday 80th Sandy and face timed Birthday wishes and sang to her. I think Sully put it best "Happy Birday Gamma".

A big shout out to Gloria Craven, future President of the Ladies League. She is a self appointed unofficial official photographer. Gloria spent the whole weekend taking photo's of our activities. We have been so lucky to have her photo's for the past 3 years. Thank you Gloria for being our little ray of sunshine. With

Gloria being President of the Ladies League and Mike being Men's League President We now have new "Royal Couple" in our midst. The Craven's.

March 7 We lost one of our Lake Fairways family in a tragic car accident... Maryellen McCabe. She is survived by her husband Kevin and their families. Maryellen was on our board for a number of years, holding various positions. She will be greatly missed by all.

March 8-9 Interclub with Pine Lakes.

Interclub was played today with heavy hearts. Everyone was simply going through the motions. For the first time in many years Lake Fairways was not winning on day one. The course and tented area at #10 & #18 were quiet... which is so unlike the Lake Fairways family. Saturday Pine Lakes won the Interclub first time in 20+ years. Good for them and they were very very happy.

March 14 Grand Shootout on the Front.

Including Dede Martin, Sung Kingston, Shirley Beaton, Sandy Young, Paula Morrison, Karen Pierce, Francine Kline, Cathy Burns, Carole Andrews and Mary Jane Gagnier.

It is a very hot, humid day and a bit of a light breeze at times. Huge turnout with over 50 carts. The officials in their black & whites and players in their red & whites. We need to have towels in coolers to help keep the players from over heating. 1st hole - birdie for Karen P from the long grass fringe. 2nd hole - 4 way chip off.

4th hole - gallery watching from under the shade trees, truckers were honking horns ... they obviously didn't see the QUIET sign

7th hole - chip off with 2 players. 8th hole - Paula got herself out of a bind on the fence, we had a chip off with 2 players and than there was 2.

9th hole - Shirley Beaton & Dede Martin are the final two. First time down the hole ended in a tie so back to the Tee. Dede drove to same spot as first time by the 2 palms, Shirley straight this time, balls on the fringe, Dede's putt right by hole. It was all Dede needed to get Grand Shootout Championship 1st place finish. Congratulations Dede!!!

March 20th Member Guest - info to follow in May edition Carole Andrews and her committee have everything organized and ready to go. March 25th Awards Luncheon - Cathy Burns is heading this event up. Info to follow in May edition.

It has been a challenge preparing this article for March 2024. Including great highs and lows. We have lost 3 of our ladies in the past year not to mention those members that moved or sold after Hurricane Ian. A time of change for sure, but hard none the less.

It is at times like this we must remember to cherish our loved ones and tell them every day how much we love them.

Maryellen presented me with my Most Improved Player Award in 2022. She gave a great speech and I am listening thinking this winner started golfing when I did. But still I hadn't put it together. I wasn't thinking that I may get the award but was happy about my golf game and just that I knew I was improving. I cried like a baby when my name was called and remember saying you spelled my name right. Maryellen gave me a copy of her speech and we kept in touch. Her kind words motivated me to try harder and join the local course back home. I ended up winner a player of the month. I let her know and she said I

knew you had it in you. I will miss her kind words, gentle spirit and her Massachusetts accent. As Paula said "God has a new Angel."

I wanted to let everyone know I have been asked to continue writing for the Informer for a 2nd year. The Informer has restricted our word count to 300 which is bare minimum given our busy calendar. I let Tad Lague of the Men's League know I thought it was because of his lengthy articles. So I will be posting a full article on the web page. You just cannot make it personal or interesting in 300 words. I hope you don't mind that you are stuck with me for another year. If anyone has comments or notable items that our golfing community would like to hear ... please let me know. kellie@teambilton.com, 519-755-2324 or see me on the course.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve you (no that's a tennis term). It is my pleasure to give a "PUTT" ... seriously I have appreciated all the words of encouragement received. Thank you.