

Happy New year to all!!! With a very successful 2011 behind us we are looking to carry that momentum forward into what is shaping up to look like a great 2012.



‘Great New Year’s Day for a round’, says Member Jimmy Johnstone

I have been busy working on some new things for the club and restructuring things together with the captains committee.

**Ladies Interclub-** I have been in contact and have been working hard to set up a Niagara on the Lake Golf Club Ladies Interclub. This event would see a team of 5 ladies and I play a Solhiem Cup style event with another club located in the Toronto region. This event would be similar to the Toronto Hunt inter-club that our men have. We would play the one day event at our club in even years and at the other club in odd years. I will announce the name of the golf club we are planning on doing this event with once it is finalized with their Professional.

**Club Championship-**Club Championships will return to the stroke play format but will be decided over two rounds. The reason for converting this event into a two round event is so members only need to worry about attending one weekend. The club will block off this entire weekend and will space out tee times better, to alleviate the slow play issues.

Thank you for a great 2011 and here’s to a great New Year and a Happy 2012!!

See you all in March

**Billy Simkin**  
Head Professional



**Happy New Years!**

I can’t remember ever experiencing weather like we just had! Absolutely amazing!

Our members continued to take advantage of the warm weather and played quite a few rounds in December. Our New Years Day golf and Luncheon Buffet was a huge success. There wasn’t a chair to be found in the dining room and Mike had the greens open for play (this hasn’t happened in recent memory).

Now that the Course has been put to sleep for the winter and our Club House has closed for the next few months, we are freshening

everything up and are setting our sites on preparing for the 2012 season. The plans are well underway and I assure you that you will be pleased when we roll out the new season mid March.

On behalf of our management and staff, I would like to extend our Happy New Years wishes to each and every one!

Thanks for all your support last year and we look forward to serving you and seeing you back at the Club this March.

Sincerely,

John and Jill

**!!Reminder!!**

**Membership Early Bird Draw**

Reminder that all full members paid in full by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January will be automatically entered into the draw for a full set of Cobra Golf Clubs!! We have a set for both Men & Ladies!!! Draw will take place at the members opening wine reception in April.

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas!!!. What fantastic weather we had up to the big day. With the weather cooperating like it did it allowed us to get many projects done. The 4th green was an area where we spent a lot of time on. Trees were pruned and removed, the middle front bunker was renovated, and drainage was installed in the front right part of the green. The course has now been all put to bed for yet another year and the pins were pulled on Friday Dec 23rd. If the weather cooperates the pins may be put back in for our annual New Year's Day golf day.



On the topic of greens many of you have noticed that we did not cover them. There have been many inquirers to John and the Pro Shop and I would like to take this opportunity to explain why. Last year I had an incredible opportunity to sit with the 3 head Agronomists from the USGA greens section. We talked about many things and the topic of greens covering came up. They were very surprised to hear that I cover the greens here. Their main concern was that the weather down here does not warrant them to be covered and that they are actually more potentially dangerous than beneficial. When covered I have to be very careful as when temps rise and if there is no snow cover the turf can come out of dormancy and start to grow thinking now it's Spring time again.

It starts producing and when the plant starts to grow there is now potential for disease outbreak. The chemical put on prior to winter is now almost past its threshold for working to withstand the disease. When arriving back home I thought about all that those gentlemen said so I decided to do a lot more reading and asking. Talking with many fellow Superintendents they also agree that covering is too risky down in this area. Now after many conversations I took a look at what everyone has said and looked back at my own experience here with the covers and I met with John.

My concern was that the weather is predicted to be milder than normal, and this was the reason we decided to hold off on covering this year and let them winter naturally. Greens covers we use DO NOT protect them from ice build-up. The covers protect them from wind desiccation, and they allow the greens to get a head start on Spring cause when removed they are already actively growing. There have been a few years when ice build-up has caused me to go out with an aerator to chop up the ice and get rid of it, Ice will and does kill and it's very important that greens do not stay under the cover of ice for more than 50-60 days. I still believe in the covers and they do have a role but with the weather forecast I believe that it's better that we don't cover them this year. Prior to the winter months I prepared the greens for no covers as I put down an extra application of sand top dressing to help protect the crown, and I stopped all mowing back in mid November.

I am fully confident that they will come out of winter just fine. For those of you that played right up to the end it looks like you won't have to long to wait as I have a feeling we will be opening in March this year. Have a great off season everyone and I look forward to seeing you all back out on the course very soon.

All the Best!!!  
Mike Magwood