



The Grove April 2025

The Official Newsletter of the Buffalo Golf Club

Kevin Starr, Editor

Organized in 1912 100+ years and counting www.bgcgolfclub.com

President: **Nicholas Lowery** Vice-President: **Matt Mariconda** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea** Secretary: **Kevin Starr**

Board Members: **Frank Altieri, John Barrett, Mike Bass, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Tom Czerniejewski, Joe Coyne, Chuck Sentman**

SPRING STAG INFORMATION

The Spring Stag is ON! We hope to see you on **Sunday, April 27 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Harris Hill Fire Hall, 8630 Main Street in Williamsville**. Thank you to Paul Szydlowski for arranging for us to use this venue! The event will be catered by Buffalo's Best Catering by Kim. Two important notes:

- We will need help cleaning up at the end of the stag. Please consider staying for a few extra minutes and helping with the process.
- As for parking: there is NO PARKING in the small lot (the one by the flagpole) by the front entrance or on the grass. The lot on the west side of the fire hall will fill up fast, so if it's full when you arrive, you're going to have to find parking nearby. Please refer to the diagram below.



The stag would be a great time to pay your yearly dues (although earlier would be better) and to catch up on details regarding the start of our 2025 season.

2025 BGC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular membership - \$120. The hole-in-one jackpot fund is an additional \$5. **Therefore –members who pay regular dues and participate in the hole-in-one jackpot will owe \$125.** New member initiation fee will remain at \$25. Members who were granted a leave of absence for last year and who did not pay dues for the 2024 season will not have to pay the additional \$25 initiation fee if they are reactivating their membership for the coming season

Social membership - \$60

Life Members - \$65. Life members who participate in the hole in one jackpot will have \$70 total payment due.

Many BGC members choose to pay their dues at our Winter or Spring Stags. This is an option again this year. Members may also mail their dues checks to BGC Treasurer Joe Attea, 284 Blackstone Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Checks should be made out to The Buffalo Golf Club. Joe will also accept payments via Venmo - @Joseph-Attea. (Make sure to use this exact Venmo address. There is another Joe Attea on Venmo that has inadvertently received some members' dues payments due to typing errors.) Please consider paying your dues before the season starts. This will help streamline our membership process.

Also – be aware that unpaid members cannot play in tournaments or attest the scorecards of paid members!

IMPORTANT DATES

First tournament – starts April 30 (will be adjusted, if necessary, based on Grover's opening date and weather conditions)

Sweeps – will start the same week as the first tournament

President's Cup Qualifier – May 12 - May 26 at 5 PM

Match Play Championship Qualifier – May 27 – June 8 at 5 PM. The Senior division will use full handicaps for the Match Play Championship.

Harvest Cup Qualifier – July 21 – August 10 at 5 PM

HANDICAP POSTING IN NEW YORK STATE BEGINS APRIL 15

Please remember to post all of your home and away scores on GHIN. You should also post your away scores for rounds played in warm-weather states (and countries) during the winter months.

HANDICAP CHANGES – reminder from 2024

The USGA and R&A made several changes to handicap rules and guidelines effective 2024. The most noteworthy changes are outlined below.

1. 9-Hole Rounds – 9-hole scores may be entered as a total score or hole-by-hole score in GHIN. USGA will calculate an “expected 18-hole score” overnight and use that score to calculate your new handicap for the next day. Previously, 9-hole scores were held until a second 9-hole score was entered and the two scores would be combined to produce an 18-hole score. Your GHIN record will show that a 9-hole score was used for this round. 9-Hole rounds are only valid for handicap purposes if you play all 9 holes. Previously, you could use a score for handicap purposes if you played a minimum of 7 holes.

2. If you play an 18-hole round, but skip some holes or don't finish the round, you must enter your hole-by-hole score in GHIN, leaving the unplayed holes blank in GHIN. USGA will calculate an "expected score differential" for the unplayed holes. They will then use the scores for holes you played combined with the expected score differential for unplayed holes to calculate an 18-hole expected score for your round. If you are one of our few members that do not enter your scores into GHIN yourself and you don't play all 18 holes, you will have to put your scorecard into the handicap book so the BGC handicap chairman can enter a hole-by-hole score. Remember that if you play any holes alone, those holes must be treated as unplayed holes for handicap purposes.
 3. The minimum length for a course to get a slope and rating has been reduced, so it is possible that par 3 and "executive" courses could be rated by USGA. If a course does have a rating, you should enter your score for handicap purposes. Keep in mind that many of these course managers may opt not to pay to get a rating for their course, in which case you cannot enter the score into GHIN.
 4. Remember that if you don't finish a hole (as happens frequently in match play or non-tournament rounds), you should use your "most likely score" for that hole for handicap purposes. Use your best judgement to determine what score you would have most likely achieved.
 5. For more information or to learn more about the World Handicap System, visit <http://usga.org/whs> or check the handicap guidelines on the BGC website, program book, and in the clubhouse.
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MEMBERS 70 AND OLDER

If you are planning to play from the red tees, you must declare your intention to do so by contacting Nick Lowery or Matt Mariconda **BEFORE you start playing in the weekly tournaments**. (Members who declared red tees last year do not need to declare again this year, unless they are changing back to white tees.) If you turn 70 during the golf season, you may switch to the red tees after your 70th birthday by notifying Nick or Matt before playing your first tournament from the red tees.

PROGRAM BOOK

As with last year, the BGC program book will be digital-only. Members will be notified when it is available online.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Copies of this year's tournament schedule will be available via the BGC website. There will also be some hard copies in the clubhouse.

BGC ONLINE STORE

We are looking into establishing a local vendor. Details to follow.

2025 WNYPLGA (Publinks) SCHEDULE

See the end of this newsletter for an application that you can print. There will also be paper copies available in the clubhouse.

For each tournament with proposed shotgun starts, there will have to be at least 80 golfers registered. If any tournament(s) does/do not reach this threshold, there will have to be consecutive tee times.

Erie County is considering whether to allow County pass holders to deduct the greens fees from the entry fees for the tournaments at Grover and Elma. We'll update you on this as soon as we hear the decision.

Saturday May 24th, 2025

CONSECUTIVE TEETIMES start at 9AM

A & B Flights

**Bill Boyle Memorial Two-Man Best Ball
at Dande Farms Golf Course**

Saturday June 28th, 2025

Consecutive tee times Start @ 9AM

A & B Flights

**Charles Barton Team Championship at
Sheridan Park Golf Course**

Tuesday July 22nd 2025

SHOTGUN start at 1PM

Flights by Age & Handicap

Senior Championship at Hickory Stick

Saturday & Sunday July 26th & 27th, 2025

AA, A, B, C Flights

Shotgun start at 12PM

**Individual Championships at Grover
Cleveland Golf Course**

Friday August 15th 2025

SHOTGUN start at 11AM

Flights by Average Age of Team

Senior Two-Man Best Ball at Audubon

Saturday September 6th, 2025

SHOTGUN start at NOON

AA, A, B, C Flights

Two-Man Scramble at Elma Meadows

CONDOLENCES TO FRANK ALTIERI , KEN HUPKOWICZ, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Deepest sympathies to Frank Altieri on the loss of his wife Marylou, who passed away on March 9. She fought bravely for a long time with Frank at her side for support. Ken's brother Billy passed away on April 1.

Please share your condolences with Frank and Ken when you see them.

Thank you to John Barrett for submitting this – worth looking over as we start our 2025 season:

12 great examples of golf etiquette

1. Play ready golf: Play golf when you're ready to play. When it's not your turn, make sure to do everything you can to be ready to play immediately when it's your turn. Most preparation for a golf shot can be done while someone else is playing. Take no more than 45 seconds to play your shot once it's your turn. Really, you can take less than 30 seconds.
2. Don't hit into groups in front of you: Yes, we're trying to keep up and keep moving, but don't be in such a race that you could injure or anger groups in front of you. Make sure you're only hitting when you know you won't interfere with the group in front of you. If you can't hit, let others in your group go in front of you to keep things moving.
3. Replace your divots: When you take a divot with your swing in the fairway or other short grass, make sure to put that turf back into the ground after your shot and give it a good stomp to keep it in place. If you can't replace the turf or are playing with Bermudagrass, make sure to put some of the pre-mixed seed that facilities will give you for your cart or bag.
4. Rake the bunkers: When you have to hit out of the sand (sometimes multiple times in a row), make sure to clean up the bunker for the next person by using the rake to smooth out your divot and footprints, including your path to your shot in the bunker.
5. Fix your ball marks (plus one other): When your ball hits the green from any kind of distance beyond 50 yards, you're going to make a ball mark. Find that spot and fit it with a divot repair tool, gently working the edges to the center with pulling up or tearing the grass. Then find another ball mark that some other person didn't fix and clean that one up, too.
6. Don't walk in someone's putting line (directly or through line): It's rude and potentially game-altering to step in someone's intended putting line. Try your hardest to step over or around it, even if you're wearing spikeless shoes. And when your partners are putting, make sure not to stand behind them (until the putt is hit) or in their through line (the area beyond the cup).
7. Know when to be quiet and out of the way: Don't talk while someone is swinging or standing over a putt. Make sure to stay out of your partner's eyesight as they swing. It's also not a good idea to stand directly behind someone as they swing. Generally, don't be a distraction.
8. Limit mobile phone use: Keep your phone on silent or vibrate, taking only important/emergency calls. Limit how often you look at your phone for other purposes, including emails and other messages.
9. Handle the flagstick the right way: When tending the flagstick, get out of the way of any potential players who could be putting your way. If you're the closest player to the hole when everyone gets on the green, your job is to pull the flagstick, putting it down on the fringe. If you finish the hole first, grab the flagstick off the ground and put it back in the cup when everyone is done. If you're holding the flagstick, make sure to grab the top of the stick with the flag and pole together so the wind doesn't whip around the flag.
10. Know the Rules of Golf: The Rules of Golf are complicated, but you should know the basics, including how to handle penalties for hitting in hazards and out of bounds.
11. Don't be a jerk: Every group of golfers has their own standards for decorum, but it's generally a bad idea to swear like a sailor, throw or break clubs, whine a lot or not interact with the other people in the group whatsoever.
12. End-of-round greeting: When the round is over, shake hands with your partners or do a fist bump or wave or give a hug. That's just good practice.



APPLICATION 2025

Western New York Public Links Golf Association

Mike Lawler, President | Gordon Meccay, Secretary | Jim Ciurczak, Treasurer

Tournament Director: Mark Dominguez Sr. (716) 622-5526 wnyplga@gmail.com

Check Here	EVENT	FORMAT	DATE	TEE TIME	COURSE	Entry Fee (Mail w/ entry)	Golf Fee & Cart
	Bill Boyle Memorial <i>Players need <u>not</u> be from same club</i>	Two-man Best Ball A & B Flights	Saturday 5/24	9:00 AM Consecutive	Dande Farms GC	\$150 / Team	Included in Entry
	Charles Barton Team Championships <i>Players <u>must</u> be from same club</i>	Three (2-Man) Teams 9 Hole Scramble 9 Hole Best Ball A & B Flights	Saturday 6/28	9:00 AM Consecutive	Sheridan Park G.C.	\$312/ Team	<u>Golf Only</u> <u>No Cart</u> <u>Included</u>
	Senior Individual Championship <i>Age 50+</i>	18 Hole Stroke Play Flighted by age and HCP	Tuesday 7/22	1 PM Shotgun	Seneca Hickory Stick G.C.	\$87 / Person	Included in Entry
	AA, A, B, C Individual Championships	36 Hole Stroke Play AA, A, B, C flights	Saturday 7/26 Sunday 7/27	Noon Shotgun	Grover Cleveland G.C.	\$91 / Person	Included in Entry
	Senior 2-Man Best Ball (50+) <i>Players need <u>not</u> be from same club</i>	Two Man Teams Best Ball Flighted by Average Age and Handicap	Friday 8/15	11 AM Shotgun	Audubon G.C.	\$112 / Team	Included in Entry
	Two Man Scramble <i>Players need <u>not</u> be from same club</i>	A, B, C Flights	Saturday 9/6	Noon Shotgun	Elma Meadows G.C.	\$117 / Team	Included in Entry

TOTAL DUE FOR SELECTIONS:	\$
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PLAYER	CLUB	HCP	AGE*	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
1.					
2.					

You must belong to a club in WNYPLGA

*Age on tournament date. Only needed for senior (50+) events.

USGA and local rules govern all play.

YOUR HANDICAP 10 DAYS before tournament will be used.
Flights: (AA is up to 5) (A is 6-10) (B is 11-16) (C is 17 and up)

All entries must be received 14 days prior to tournament with entry fee enclosed.

MAKE ENTRY FEE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WNYPLGA MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY TO: MARK DOMINGUEZ SR., 5014 CALLAN DRIVE, LEWISTON, NY 140

