



The Grove

MAY 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, Joe Coyne, Tom Czerniejewski, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Chuck Sentman**

LUCKY MEMBER/FLAG DAY STAG

The date for the Lucky Member/Flag Day Stag will be announced soon. Check the clubhouse and the BGC website for more details as the date approaches.

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 2023 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.

Members may 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.)

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

PRESIDENT'S CUP AND MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

The President's Cup Qualifier runs from May 12 through May 26 at 5:00 PM. Brackets will be posted after the qualifiers close. Do not enter the President's Cup tournament if you will be unavailable to play matches regularly through July 20.

The Match Play Championship Qualifier will run from May 27 – June 8.

TOURNAMENT SCORECARDS

Scorecards are in the mailbox on the patio wall. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING WHICH CARDS TO USE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT.**

Read the section in the BGC Tournament Rules section of the program book that outlines tournament procedure violations that will result in disqualification (in addition to USGA playing rules that result in DQ). Attested tournament cards should be deposited in the locked mailbox on the patio. **Please make sure that all signatures and other information on the scorecards are legible! Illegible scorecards may be subject to disqualification.**

INFORMATION REGARDING USE OF RED TEES

Remember to notify Matt Mariconda at 716- 316-7347 or mattmariconda@yahoo.com or Nick Lowery before playing your first tournament if you are 70 or older or will turn 70 during the season and plan to compete from the red senior tees.

More Information on Red Tees

- 1) Members must inform the Tournament & Rules chairman before playing their first tournament of the season that they intend to use the senior/red tees.
- 2) Members must use their red tee handicap when playing from the red tees.
- 3) After a member begins using the senior/red tees, they may not change back to the white tees until the following season.
- 4) Scratch tournaments must be played from the white tees.
- 5) Members may play from either white or senior/red tees during non-tournament rounds, but must accurately record the tees used for handicap purposes.

When playing tournaments that have handicaps allocated hole-by-hole (match play vs. par, Stableford, etc.) use the handicap rating shown on the **tournament scorecard** (or the white tee hole handicap ratings from the Grover scorecards). The red tee handicap ratings shown on the Grover scorecards are for female golfers.

SWEEPS

Look for the Sweeps registration book in the clubhouse. Remember to sign the book and put your entry fee in the blue Sweeps box (in an envelope) before teeing off if you want to compete in Sweeps. Mike Bass will be running Sweeps again this year.

HANDICAPS

Tournament handicaps will be updated approximately every two weeks as in past years. Remember to check your handicap in the clubhouse before submitting your tournament or Sweeps scorecard.

Remember to post your home and away scores in GHIN! This is a USGA requirement to ensure that everyone has accurate handicaps. If you don't have access to a computer or smartphone, write your scores in the handicap book in the clubhouse.

USGA made several changes to handicap guidelines last year. See the program book and last month's newsletter for additional information regarding these changes.

PROGRAM BOOK

The updated 2025 Program Book will soon be available on the BGC website. No printed copies will be distributed this year.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND RULES

The 2025 tournament schedule was sent to all members via an email from Nick Lowery on April 29. There will also be printed copies available in the clubhouse, and the schedule will be posted on the BGC website.

The email from Nick also included a copy of early season rules regarding life, clean, and place. Additionally, the full BGC Tournament Rules are posted on the BGC website.

ANNUAL INVITATIONAL

The 67th Howie Biondi Invitational Tournament will be **Saturday, August 9** at Grover. Joe Attea, John Barrett, and Ken Hupkowitz are co-chairs. Sign up early! The cost will be \$70 per person for golf, golf cart, prizes, and a great party afterwards. Best deal in town!

2025 WNYPLGA (Publinks) Schedule

Application forms were included in the April 2025 newsletter. There will also be paper copies available in the clubhouse.

Here is the link to the WNYPLGA tournament schedule:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wnyplga/>

INFORMATION RE: THE TEE TIME RESERVATION SYSTEM

TO BOOK A TEE TIME AT GROVER:

<https://www.chronogolf.com/club/grover-cleveland-golf-course>

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- If you have not received your BGC bag tag yet, see one of the Board members when you're at Grover. The bag tags are in the clubhouse BGC locker. Thank you to Alan Mis for making the tags for our new members.
- The County Cup tournament vs. the Elma Meadows Men's Club is scheduled for late July. BGC team members will be selected based on handicap index on July 1. Handicap flights are slightly different from our BGC handicap classes (9.9 or less, 10.0-17.9, and 18.0 and higher).

- We are still waiting for definitive information on the status of the “restaurant” in the clubhouse. We’ve been told that last year’s vendor will be back

And – here is an email from Grover greenskeeper Jim Wasiura sent to Alan Mis last year regarding the course improvements planned for 2024:

Good morning Alan,

This Spring we are going to make some minor changes to some of the collars and expand some of the Donald Ross greens closer to their historic shape/size, so you will see scalped turf for a period of time on the edges of some greens.

The contractor who does our drain and trap work will be connecting new drainage on #12 to the line on 9 and doing some finish work on that drain. They are doing 5 more traps this season and will be doing some irrigation work to replace irrigation heads that lose water and create wet spots. They have built a washpad over the winter that recycles and treats the equipment washwater so that rinse water doesn’t pollute water sources and we will begin using it within a few weeks.

I don’t have a timeline for completion of the drain/trap projects but the contractor is starting the work within the next two weeks and they move quickly once they start.

I hope you and the Men’s club have a great season.

In addition – the BGC Board of Directors is planning to formally reach out to the Erie County Parks Department regarding the planned County investment and involvement in the renovation of the old Westwood Country Club. We will be expressing our concerns about the effect that this will have on the necessary upgrades and maintenance at Grover Cleveland Golf Course. We will keep you informed about their response.