



The Grove

July 2026

The Official Newsletter of the Buffalo Golf Club

Kevin Starr, Editor

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

President: **Kevin Starr** Vice-President: **Matt Mariconda** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea**
Secretary: **John Barrett**

Board Members: **Mike Bass, Joe Coyne, Tom Czerniejewski, Rich Fries, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Dan Lach, Nick Lowery**

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

Qualifying begins on July 1 and runs through July 19 at 5 PM. The qualifier is a 36-hole medal play event and is played scratch in classes A, B, and C. Qualifying in the Senior division is an 18-hole medal play event and uses full handicap.

**36 Hole Medal Play Rounds Must Be
Played on Separate Days**

Up to fifteen members will qualify for the Club Championship Tournament in each division A, B, C, and Senior (age 70+ by the time the qualifier starts). The champions from the past three years receive an exemption and do not need to play qualifying rounds, provided that they are still in the same handicap class.

Handicaps from the handicap book the week of July 1st will determine A, B, or C class.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2. Scratch play in Classes A, B, and C (Players with the best nine scores in each class will play a second round on Sunday). Seniors play one round only (Sunday) with full handicap.

The family picnic is Sunday, August 2 following the Club Championship Tournament (approximately 3:00 PM). Members should sign the sheet in the clubhouse if they plan to attend, indicating how many guests they will bring. Please limit your guests to immediate family members only. We need you to sign up so we know how much food to order!

It is very important that members sign the sheet in the clubhouse indicating their plans to attend AND that they remove their names from the list if they find out that they will be unable to be there.

HARVEST CUP QUALIFIER

Qualifying begins on Monday, July 20 and runs through Sunday, August 9 at 5 PM. Two-man teams – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO QUALIFY UNLESS YOU CAN COMMIT TO PLAYING MATCHES THROUGH OCTOBER 4.

For the qualifying rounds, each golfer uses 85% of their handicap from the handicap book in the clubhouse. The score on each hole for a team is the net best ball.

For the team match play rounds, each golfer uses 90% of their GHIN handicap on the day of the match. Use the chart in the clubhouse to determine the handicap allowance. The score on each hole for a team is the net best ball.

BIG WINNERS AT THE JUNE 27 HOWARD BIONDI INVITATIONAL/ LUCKY MEMBER STAG

First place team – Greg Kostyniak and Greg Harrington.

2027 membership dues – Mike Keller and Tom Corbett.

Everyone present won a prize. It was a great event – 80 golfers (BGC members and guests) enjoyed perfect weather, great food, and a terrific day of golf and camaraderie.

Kudos and thanks to Joe Attea, John Barrett, and Greg Kaszubski for putting in many hours of work and effort as they coordinated one of the best BGC events ever.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Play is progressing in this year's President's Cup. The semifinal matches are: Rick Evers vs. Rick Rink and Bob Halter vs. Frankie Cefalu.

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Check the bulletin board in the clubhouse for the latest updates.

HOLE-IN-ONE

Congratulations to Gavin Sloan for his hole-in-one on hole #13 on June 26. Fellow BGC members have until October 31 to steal some of Gavin's prize money.

Mark Piatkowski (known to his fans as OJ) aced hole #17 on May 14, but he was not playing with any BGC members at the time. He blames his partners for letting him down.

SWEEPS OVERVIEW

Separate tournament that runs weekly

- Enter as many times as you want during the week, but only one prize per person
- Entry fee is \$1 per round played (\$2 for special mega-sweeps weeks)

- Sign the book and deposit your entry fee before playing your round
- A/B combined in one division, C is separate division
- Fill out green sweeps scorecard, have it attested, and deposit in the blue sweeps box
- Payout is 60% of entry fees in each division to first place, 40% to second place
- If we get pots with good amounts of money (usually during mega-sweeps), sometimes we are able to pay out three or four spots
- See Mike Bass with questions or to collect your winnings

Sweeps results are now being posted on the BGC website. Sweeps participants can view the results by clicking the Sweeps Results link on the BGC home page. Please be patient if there are startup glitches with this new web page.

CLARIFICATION RE: USE OF RED TEES BY SENIOR MEMBERS

Use the handicap stroke allocation and par for each hole as printed ***on the BGC tournament cards*** when playing tournaments that require this information. The stroke allocation and par printed on the Grover scorecards is for women (par 72), but NYSGA has the course rated as par 69 for men from the red tees.

BGC BOARD ELECTIONS

A nomination sign-up sheet will be in the clubhouse in early August. All members are welcome to run for Board positions. Terms ending this year are Joe Attea, John Barrett, Ken Hupkowicz, and Nick Lowery. Talk to current Board members if you are interested in running and would like to know more. Board terms are for three years. Elections will be held in September.

COUNTY CUP VS. ELMA MEADOWS

The County Cup tournament vs. the Elma Meadows Men's Club is scheduled for July 18-19. The July 18 round will be at Elma, and the July 19 round will be at Grover.

BGC team members will be selected based on USGA handicap index on July 1. Handicap flights are slightly different from our standard BGC handicap classes (9.9 or less, 10.0-17.9, and 18.0 and higher).

CHALLENGE CUP VS. SOUTH PARK

Greg Kaszubski is patiently waiting to hear from the South Park Men's Club about confirmed dates for the event – most likely in early September. The BGC team will be made up of the club champions, match play champions, and the lowest handicap golfers in each class.

REMINDER RE: RECORDING SCORES

Record ALL scores for handicap purposes unless the tournament format excludes the score or a temporary medical condition caused an unusually high score. Match play scores should be entered into GHIN (if you pick up on a hole, use the score that you most likely would have made if you holed out). Also – your scores in match play competition should be posted as Competition rounds.

HOW NOT TO HAVE YOUR SCORECARD DISQUALIFIED

Please be careful. Checking tournament scorecards is a tedious and time-consuming process; be sure that all names and numbers on the card are legible. Tournament chairs are not able to play the role of detective.

BGC PROGRAM BOOK

The 2026 BGC Program Book is now available via the BGC website. Thank you to Tom Czerniejewski for assembling the content and to Joe Coyne for posting it.

NEW BUFFALO GOLF CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who have joined during 2026:

Nick Alajko, Andrew Bialanin, Richard Borowski, Gary Brennan, Gary Callaghan, Brian Carrier, Robert Darby, Robert DiPasquale, John Elphick, Kurt Haak, James Heft, James Malley, James Radwan, Richard Radwan, Robert Radwan, Patrick Stanchak, and Bob Wojtkowski

New members who have not yet received their BGC bag tags should see any Board member when you're at the course (they are stored in the BGC locker).

IN MEMORIAM

Mike Bass shared the news that former BGC member and club champion Sione Akaoula passed away on June 3. Condolences to his family and friends.

In addition, deepest sympathies to Bob, Brian, Rich, and Tom Fries on the loss of their mother Loretta on June 27.

FIRST ANNUAL BGC SHOOTOUT

Thank you to Board member Greg Kaszubski for coordinating the first annual BGC Shootout event.

Shootout qualifying period: August 10 - 30, 2026

You may sign the book and attempt to qualify as many times as you like. Qualifying will be based on your 18-hole gross score (no handicap) with your lowest score being the score that will determine if you are in the top ten of your classification.

Ten golfers will qualify in each group, with each group having a single winner.

Qualifiers will compete in the Shootout event on Saturday September 19, 2026

A - 9:00 AM B - 9:20 AM C - 9:40 AM Senior - 10:00 AM

Format:

In each grouping all ten golfers will start at hole 1. At the conclusion of hole 1 the golfer with the highest score will be eliminated leaving 9 golfers for hole 2. If there are two or more players tied with the highest score, a chip-off will take place to determine which player is eliminated.

This setup will continue until at the conclusion of hole 9, one golfer will remain and will be the Shootout Champion of their grouping. If the final two golfers have the same score on hole 9, a chip-off will take place to determine the champion.

Questions? We'll be talking about this new event at the Club Championship picnic on August 2.

