

Sudden Valley Golf Club News

Club President's Year End Message

This year was another good year for golf. It was also a year with significant changes. We said a fond adieu to Brian Krulak (although he is not really gone) and welcomed Kevin LeDuc as the Director of Golf. With Kevin moving into the executive position, we welcomed Darren Chapman as the head pro.

Greg Walden and the Turf Care Staff deserve hardy applause for working hard and keeping the course in great condition despite a few of the greens being traumatized by winter cold snaps. Greg and his crew continued to improve drainage issues. Another four gold tee boxes were created and the area around the driving range was cleaned up and looks great. In addition a new clock and flower basket were provided on hole one with funds from the Beautification Fund.

It was another fun year of Men's, Women's and Club events. Not to mention the number of member hole-in-ones, with Bob Healy getting four this year. The Men's invite continues to grow and was amazingly successful. Congratulations guys for another great event. The Women's invite was fun as ever and raised \$1,300 that was donated to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services. Kudos to you ladies who played and contributed.

This year was the first year for the Spring Two-Person Scramble to raise money for the Bellingham Food Bank. Almost \$3,000 was raised to fight hunger and food insecurity. Those who played and gave helped individuals and families not only across the county but also right here in our Valley.

I want to give a shout out to all the golf board members who work to make this club a success. I especially would like to thank Lorna Lane. Sadly, Lorna is stepping down from the club secretary position. She has dedicated much of her time keeping me in line and reminding me of things I need to do. She takes extremely accurate meeting notes, and she is responsible for the success of our club newsletter. In addition, she organizes the Tuesday/Thursday Ladies golf groups. Thank you, Lorna, for all you have done for the club.

With all that is good with our golf club, I am concerned about the decline in our membership numbers. In 2022 and 2023 the total membership was static with 590 total members. This year, 2024, the total membership declined to 545 with the largest decline from the previous year in couples' memberships (27% decrease), Family memberships (55% decrease) and junior memberships (48% decrease). This next year I hope to work with Kevin and Darren to find ways to appeal to golfers in our region and highlight the benefits of being a Sudden Valley Golf Club Member. We have the best course in the area and a great club. Sustainability will depend on encouraging others to join. Our club will be healthier, the pro shop and golf course will be busier, and our Sudden Valley Community will benefit if we can successfully grow the golf club.

Having said that, you, the members, have made this a great place to live and play golf. Thank you all for your support.

The SVGC Board appreciates your support. We hope to continue to bring many more fun events throughout the year.

<i>President:</i>	Jean Maixner	<i>Men's Captain:</i>	Dan Perrino
<i>VP:</i>	Guy Calb	<i>Greens Chair:</i>	John (Fuzzy) Fuchs
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Dave Strauss	<i>Social Chair:</i>	Beth Johnston
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Kelly Devlin	<i>Handicap Chair:</i>	Rick Larrabee
<i>Secretary:</i>	Lorna Lane	<i>Membership/</i>	
<i>Ladies Captain:</i>	Melissa Reece	<i>Nominations Chair:</i>	Guy Calb

To contact SVGC board members, please email: llane.suddenvalley@gmail.com

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Fall Wind-up

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Fall Wind-up Tournament and Dinner. It was a perfect day for golf and a nice way to wind down the season. The Pro Shop did a great job balancing the teams with A,B, C, & D players and the Scramble format made for some stress-free golf for everyone. Thanks to Laura Haggard for taking the photos at the Fall Wind-up Dinner.



*L-R, Charlene Caven & Kathy McNaulty,
Two-person Match Play Champs*



L-R, Todd Haggard, Steve & Linda Card, John (Fuzzy) Fuchs



*L-R, Heather Devlin, Melissa Reece,
Michael Linville and Kelly Devlin*



L-R, Mary & Trevor Quinn

More photos on page 3

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More Photos from Fall Wind-up Dinner



L-R, Laura Haggard and Mary Bradford



L-R, Steve Pake & Darrell Warner



L-R, Bill & Shari Pfeil

Congratulations to our September 2024 Tournament Winners*

Member Social — September 7 Scramble

Net

- 1st M. Bradford & S. Mitchell (31)
- 2nd K. Graham & J. Vance (31.5)
- 3rd (tie) J. Teran & J. Taylor (32)
T. Haggard & L. Haggard (32)
B. Frank & D. Warner (32)

Ladies Fall Wind Up — September 14

- 1st K. Fuchs, S. Householder & K. McNulty (67)
- 2nd L. Haggard, C. Caven & L. McRoberts (72)
- 3rd T. Callahan, J. Georg & J. Jeide (74)

Fall Wind-Up—September 21

- 1st S. Card, L. Lane, D. Czarnecki & J. Jeide (59)
- 2nd (tie) S. Neely, C. Caven, R. Kenny & D. Tenpas (60)
J. Maurer, M. Reece, L. Haakonson & S. Buckley-Hugessen (60)
- 4th (tie) B. Fields, T. Quinn, T. Lousao & B. Frank (63)
D. Ralston, T. Haggard, M. Bradford & L. Card (63)

*See SVGC Website for complete results of tournaments.

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Alex Hugessen and his wife,
Samantha

Congratulations to Alex Hugessen for acing his first hole-in-one on September 11th on hole No. 16.



Steve Neely on No. 13

Congratulations also go out to Steve Neely who had his second hole-in-one on September 29th on No. 13.

Reminder

Sudden Valley Golf Club Annual Meeting October 19th, 4:00 pm

The Golf Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on October 19th at 4:00 pm in El Agave's Backroom. During the meeting, we will be electing our Vice President and Secretary to the Golf Board for a two-year term. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a proxy (copy attached) and return it to the Pro Shop or bring it to the meeting so your voice will be heard.

This Golf Board Meeting is for all Sudden Valley Golf Club Members regardless of where you live. It has nothing to do with Sudden Valley Community Association so your residence has no bearing on your participation. Your vote and views are important to us.

Do You Know?

Good Golf Etiquette

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Arnold Palmer many years ago and it still applies to today's game.

Don't be the slowest player

Encourage everyone to move quickly enough so you find yourself right behind the group in front several times, both early and late in the round.

Play "ready golf" (hit when ready, even if you aren't away) until you reach the green, be prepared to play when it's your turn on the tee and green, and never search for a lost ball for more than five minutes.

Repair the ground you play on

Fix your ball marks. Replace divots or use the sand/seed mix to fill your divot. Rake bunkers like you mean it. Ever notice that the worse the bunker shot, the poorer the job the player does raking the sand? Make the area nice and smooth - don't leave deep furrows from the rake. Before you exit the bunker, ask yourself, *Would I be upset if I had to play from that spot?*

Be a silent partner

Be still from the time a player sets himself until the ball has left the club. Also, never walk in someone's line of play on the putting green. The area around the hole in particular is sacred ground. The first thing to note when you walk onto a green is the location of every ball in your group, then steer clear of their lines to the hole.

Know where to stand and when to keep quiet. Position yourself directly across or at a diagonal from a player setting up. Never stand on the line of play, either beyond the hole or directly behind the ball. When a player is about to hit a shot, think of the fairway as a cathedral, the green a library.

Turn off your cell phone

Do whatever you have to do to keep your cell phone quiet. And if you absolutely have to make a call, move away from the other players. And keep the call so brief that they don't even know you made it.

Learn the little things

Like laying the flagstick down carefully, tamping down spike marks when you're walking off a green, letting faster groups play through, and so on. All of these things are learned by observing, with a sharp eye and a considerate heart. Just know that golf has a way of returning favors, and every piece of etiquette you practice will be repaid tenfold.

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Winter Series Schedule

October 5 th , 2024	Two-Person Scramble
October 19 th , 2024	Big Cup Shamble
November 9 th , 2024	One-Person Scramble
November 30 th , 2024	Ball Buster
January 4 th , 2025	How Low Can You Go?
February 1 st & 2 nd (Saturday & Sunday)	The 25th Annual Die Hard Open
February 8 th , 2025	Super Bowl Stableford Shamble
March 1 st , 2025	Three Tee Scramble
March 22 nd , 2025	Winter Series Championship - How Low Buster

Sudden Valley Golf Club News Update

FYI—This is the last edition of our Newsletter for this year but we'll be back in March 2025 when the new season begins. Please remember if you are playing in the Northwest, you should still be posting your scores till mid-November.

In the meantime, have a great winter season wherever you will be playing. Safe travels and have fun!

In case you missed it, this photo (on right) features that gorgeous maple tree on No. 11. This time of year, it is in all its glory but alas the show is usually over when we get our first big blow.

Thanks Jean Georg for sharing this photo.



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49th Annual Bellingham Amateur

By Darren Chapman

On the weekend of September 28th and 29th, 2024, the 49th Annual Bellingham Amateur was held at the Sudden Valley Golf Course.

A strong field of talented golfers from across the state took part in the Men's Open and Seniors Divisions.

Rain a few days prior, combined with the cool fall air, meant that the course was providing a stern test.

Steve Kaestner took the first-round lead in the Men's Open Division with an even par round of 72 by one stroke over Nathan Twining, with Adam Hagen and Colten Kleis another shot behind at 74.

While in the Seniors Division Cris Bae and his score of even par, 72 was enough to take the lead from Steve Card and Steve Edelman with their 73's.

Overnight leader Cris Bae with a second round of 74 was good enough to hold off Steve Card and Steve Edelman to win the Seniors Division by four strokes.

Meanwhile in the Men's Open Division Adam Hagen shot an impressive 2-under par 70, to claim victory by four strokes over Colten Kleis.

We appreciate the support of all the competitors and look forward to celebrating the 50th staging of the Bellingham Amateur in 2025!



*Men's Open Champion – Adam Hagen
with SV Head Pro, Darren Chapman*



*Seniors Champion – Cris Bae
with SV Head Pro, Darren Chapman*

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Sudden Valley Golf Club Proxy

(According to our Bylaws, only full and associate members in good standing can vote. This means junior members do not get to vote.)

I, _____ (print name), a full or associate member in good standing of the Sudden Valley Golf Club, hereby assign my proxy to (check one):

_____ Lorna Lane, Secretary (or substitute board member if she is absent)

or to _____ (print name)

for the purpose of voting my interests on business that may come before the members at the Annual Meeting of the Sudden Valley Golf Club on October 19, 2024.

Special Instructions:

Vote for Board candidates for term October 2024 – October 2025:

Board Recommended Approved Write-In (Print Name)

A. Vice President: Guy Calb _____ _____

B. Secretary: Leslie McRoberts _____ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____