



LAKE PADDEN MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Lake Padden Men's Club!

I am pleased to welcome our current, renewing, and potential new members to the 2021 Lake Padden Men's Club golf season. It should be a great year!

Happy 50th Birthday Lake Padden Golf Course!!! The course was completed and dedicated by the City of Bellingham on July 29, 1971. Despite enormous COVID-19 challenges in 2020 - including a 40-day closure - Lake Padden Golf Course managed to have its best year since Premier Golf took over the course management in 2018. Just shy of 36,000 rounds were played. To add to that, Phil Gaggero and his team swept Premier Golf's (11 courses) 2020 awards ceremony via Zoom meeting in December. The awards were:

Team of the Year: Lake Padden
GM of the Year: Phil Gaggero, PGA
Superintendent of the Year: Mike Votipka, GCSAA
Food & Beverage Manager of the Year: Sarah O'Tool
Best Instructional Program NOI (Facility Under \$2 Million): Philip Kohnken, PGA and Lake Padden

Your tournament chairmen, Steve Swank and Paul Berube have put together an excellent slate of 14 events this year. Beginning with our April 3rd Opening Day and closing with The Memorial tournament, October 9th.

We would love to grow our Twilight League, which consists of weekly 9 hole matches on either Wednesday or Thursday night. If you have interest, rally a team together and join us. It is much fun and a great way to break-up a work week. Contact Tom Bennett or Craig Johnson for further information.

We have an excellent board that works hard to make your Men's Club membership have value. We sincerely welcome your input on how it can even be better. I hope to see you out on the course soon...

In parting – "As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round". – Ben Hogan

Von Smith, President

TWILIGHT LEAGUE INFO:

Twilight leagues are forming for the 2021 season. We will play on Wednesday and Thursday nights starting on April 28 and 29, with 8 teams (or more) playing on each night. The Captain's Meeting will be held at the Lake Padden Coyote Grill on Wednesday, March 19, at 6:00 pm. During the meeting, we'll discuss the scoring format, league rules, schedule for the summer, etc. Please bring the \$100 team entry fee to the meeting, along with your completed roster, including the name, handicap, and contact info for each player. If you are an individual and want to join a team or form a new one, or have any other questions, please contact: Craig Johnson, Thursday Night Chairman (360-305-2235, email: cj.johnson@comcast.net) or Tom Bennett, Wednesday Night Chairman (360-739-9844, email: tomb@bennettengr.com). We look forward to another great league season.

Craig Johnson & Tom Bennett, Twilight League Co-Chairs

HANDICAPS:

With last year's change to the World Handicap System just a few reminders :

- Handicaps will be based on 8 best scores of the last 20
- Maximum handicap allowed is now 54.0
- Handicaps will be revised on daily basis at Midnight
- Max score per hole for posting purposes for all players is a net double bogey (Par + 2 + any strokes per your handicap allowed on the hole).

If you want to learn more about the new World Handicap System, go to wagolf.org website.

The handicap policy for our Lake Padden Men's Club Tournaments has not changed. Players will receive a "boxed score" for any net score of 68 or lower in tournament play. Two boxed scores in a rolling 12 month period will result in a handicap modification in accordance with the policy. The boxed score figures for players are posted next to the computer. The handicap committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps in Men's Club events in order to protect the integrity of the game. Posting this year's scores started on March 1, 2021. Make sure to post all of your scores as soon as possible after you play, preferably no later than the same day you played. Play well and I look forward to seeing you on the course!

Greg Schenck, Handicap Chair

PRO-SHOP NEWS:

We are excited for the 2021 season to begin and look forward to seeing familiar and new players as well. Following 2020's amazing year for golf our goal is to keep the momentum going in 2021. Mike Votipka and our top notch maintenance team have the course conditions as good as we have seen at Padden and he has a few more tricks up his sleeve for this year.

If you have not registered for the Premier Rewards Card that offers up to a 20% discount on greens fee's, power cart rentals and range balls this is the year to do so. The program is FREE of charge, inquire in the pro shop for more details and get signed up today.

The Men's Club tournament schedule looks to be as competitive as ever and the pro shop will be stocked with some great merchandise. We are happy to price match on any items we don't have in stock so please don't hesitate to inquire.

A few additional dates to keep on your radar:

- Drive, Chip and Putt local qualifier will be held on Tuesday, July 13th so save the date. We will be looking for 30 volunteers to assist in carrying out the days activities
- Wednesday and Thursday Twilight League play begins in April, put together a team and get in the game.
- We will be hosting a Western Washington PGA Chapter event on Monday, August 30th. Good chance your local PGA Pro's will need some great amateur partners so keep your game top notch.

Phil Gaggero, PGA General Manager

SATURDAY TOURNAMENTS:

Moving on from a very challenging year, we welcome you to the 2021 LPMC tournament season. There are 14 tournaments this year that offer up a variety of formats that appeal to all of our members. We have a mix of fun team and individual events. Score cards for each tourney are created the Friday morning prior to each event so it's very important that your entry be in and paid for by the Thursday, 5pm deadline. We also have a tournament handicap system which takes in to accord tourney scores and GHIN. Read Greg Schencks info for more clarification.

We will be playing USGA rules which means **no point of entry rule** any more. If you think you may have lost your ball in an unmarked penalty area (woods, brush, long grass, etc.) please play a provisional. Remember, you now only have 3 minutes to look for a lost ball!

And we would like to keep our fingers crossed that our Canadian brothers will be able to come down and play this year. We missed you terribly and hope you will rejoin us sooner rather than later. The course is in fabulous condition and is just waiting for you guys to take all the prize money! See you all on April 3 with the Opening Day event.

Steve Swank & Paul Berube, Tourney Co-Chairs

USGA RULES NEWS:

I would like to encourage our membership to take some time this year to brush up on the Rules of Golf. I have attached two links to the rules section of the USGA website. I would suggest focusing on the definitions in the rules book. You would be amazed how much clearer the rules seem if you have command of the definitions. You will find them near the end of the rules book.

I would also like to challenge the membership to take a few of the quizzes offered on the website. It is a great way to test your knowledge and learn the rules at the same time. Definition knowledge helps immensely in finding the right answer. Every so often try an advanced quiz, the questions can be quite thought provoking, and a right answer is pretty rewarding.

Remember: Rules education is not always about what you can't do, it's discovering what you can do.

https://www.usga.org/RulesQuiz/rules_quizzes2019.html

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-2019/rules-of-golf/rules-and-interpretations.html#!ruletype=pe§ion=rule&rulenum=1>

Mark Rachor, USGA Rules Consultant

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

The course is holding up well over the winter and greens are rolling good when we can get them mowed/rolled between the rain and freezing periods.

Tree work- We have met with officials from the city to start addressing our greens that have less sunlight. Namely holes 3,4,6,10,11,15,16. Steve J. from the city is working on a permit that will allow us to remove or limb some of the problem trees over a 5-year period. As for now, we are pruning the lower canopy on trees to the southeast of 15 and 16 greens. The pruning right of 16 green is also allowing us to use more of the tee surface on 12 tee to spread out the wear and tear from iron shots off the tee. It will get noisy when the time comes to chip the tree debris as we are not allowed to burn the debris but we will try and work around golf!

Tee boxes- The crew has spent some time reclaiming back tee box on hole 16 and the turf should be ready for opening this summer. Golfers playing in the tip and tuck tournament got a taste of this shot recently! We are in the planning stages of building new forward tee boxes on holes 6 and 7. Hole six would allow golfers who do not hit it as far to reach the green on their tee shot. Hole seven forward tee needs to be relocated to the right of the path to alleviate the current problem of trees obstructing the shot off the tee.

COVID restrictions- The restrictions on our golf course will be changed to the following:

- Golfers may now have the option to pull flagsticks while putting on the green. We opted to leave the risers at the base of the flagpole as it is easier to remove the ball after holing a putt and the turf edge around the cup has been holding up better. We have moved the risers at the base of the flag pole a half inch deeper to prevent balls from kicking back out when holed.
- We are awaiting the arrival of a new bunker rake machine since our old one is no longer usable. Once we again have the ability to stir/push the sand in the bunkers with the new machine, we will put out the hand rakes. At the current time, the sand is generally unworkable and it is not cost effective with reduced winter staffing to hand shovel sand that has been moved with each rain event.
- Ball washers will again be allowed on the golf course. Once temperatures remain above freezing for the season, we will put them out.
- Drinking fountains will remain out of use until a further ease of restrictions from COVID occurs.

Thanks and have a great golfing year!

Mike Votipka, Lake Padden Golf Course Superintendent

2021 LPMC Board of Directors:

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