



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE- AUGUST

2022



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## 2022 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Gary Fry, Chair

Mike Patterson, Green Committee

Jeff Ranck, Golf Committee

Jessie Walsh, Memorial Committee

Sharon Pearce, Social Committee

Sharon Craig, Ladies Golf Association

Joe Cardello, Men's Golf Association

Jim Apple, At Large Member

Jim Holtzapple, At Large Member

Craig Harley, At Large Member

## GENERAL MANAGER & 1846 GRILL



Hello Bucknell Club Members,

A big shout out to our grounds crew, Summer has arrived the course is looking great! If you haven't dusted off your clubs and gotten on the course, it's time to start.

As you can see we have started a quarterly newsletter. It will be sent by email, but copies will also be available in the golf shop and locker rooms for those without email.



The grill is open every day and we added a few new menu items. The operating hours are posted on our website and listed below.

1846 Bar hours 8:30am – 7:00pm

Kitchen hours 11:30am – 6:30pm

Late Nights

Open 1 hour later on Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

\*Hours of operation may fluctuate depending on weather, business or daylight. Last call will be 15 minutes prior to closing time.



And some big news. Brian Kelly is retiring after over 22 years as Head Golf Pro of Bucknell Golf Club! Brian has put his heart and soul into this place as I am sure you all know. We are having a retirement party for him officially from 4-7pm on June 25th. However, Brian will be around all day so feel free to avoid the crowd and stop in any time during the day to wish him well.



Tim Hepler

*Tim Hepler*

General Manager

## HEAD PROFESSIONAL UPDATE



Welcome back to what we all hope will be another great season. We have a few new faces on the staff and will be employing a couple of rangers this year. Jesmar and Doug are back in the pro shop and almost all of the bag room staff will continue to help you outside. We also have brought on a new Assistant Professional, Dylan Yoder. Be sure to stop in and introduce yourself if you haven't already met him.

The shop is once again stocked to the ceiling with new merchandise. We have Men's and Ladies clothing from Monterey Club, FootJoy, Ahead, Cutter and Buck, and a few others. We have new styles in golf shoes from FootJoy. We have a number of club companies in stock. Now available are Titleist, Ping and Cleveland. We have Demo clubs in almost everything. Stop by and we can show you all the different varieties that are available. From drivers to wedges to putters, we have what you need. The most important thing is that your clubs fit your swing. You can't get that kind of service on the internet or a golf store. Professionals make a difference.

As always, my staff and I want you and your guests to enjoy your time at the club. We will do whatever we can to help you. We do need a little help from you, the member.

1. Please call ahead for tee times; this can really help us take care of getting you out on the course.
2. Check in before you go out to play. In the case of an emergency, we need to know if you are actually on the course.
3. You may not start on the Tenth hole without permission from the Pro Shop. At certain times we can allow it, but most times it causes inconvenience for other golfers trying to make the turn.

We are here to serve you, if there is anything that my staff or I can do for you, please seek us out.

Brian Kelly  
PGA Head Golf Professional

### **“What are you going to do about these worms!?”**

If I've been asked this question once I've been asked a thousand times, “What are you going to do about these worms on the fairways?” Good question. I wish I had a good answer. It's a question that superintendents have been asked for decades. Multiple sources document superintendents in the early 1900's battling earthworms in an attempt to improve playing conditions. These battles continue today along with university research trials to try to find ways to reduce earthworm populations in fine turf.

The good, the bad, and the ugly of earthworms.

The good. The list of benefits earthworms provide for the soil are many. Their burrowing activity creates channels in the soil where water can penetrate into the soil profile, air exchange to the turf root zone is aided, and soil is aerified. The worms break down decomposing organic matter, help reduce thatch, increase microbial activity, and increase nutrient recycling. Simply said, worms are good for the soil and good soil promotes good turf.

The bad. As worms go about the business of doing all the good things I listed previously there is a byproduct to all that activity. The worm's waste, which is deposited on the surface of the ground, is called the cast. It's the cast that causes all the problems. To eliminate the cast we need to eliminate the source of the cast. A lot of university research has been conducted to find ways to eliminate the cast. Sand topdressing, acidifying fertilizers, and clipping removal are some of the cultural practices that have been tested. “However, an extensive study done on golf course fairways in Washington State indicated that clipping removal, soil acidity, and sand topdressing had no consistent effects on castings deposited on the turfgrass surface by earthworms” (USGA: Course Care, Controlling Earthworm Casts) There are also no products currently labeled for the control of earthworms.

The ugly. The effects of the earthworm casts are extensive. A large population of worms create thousands of casts on our fairways. Our soil composition includes a significant amount of clay which forms a mud ball when the worm deposits it on the soil surface. These mud balls stick to everything; mower rollers, tires, shoes, clubs, golf balls, bags, and anything else that comes into contact with them. They are smashed on the turf surface and suffocate the surrounding turfgrass plants thinning the turf stand. Mower reels quickly become dull mowing through the casts and a lot of labor is spent dragging the fairways with a rope drag to reduce the accumulation of the casts. The playability of the fairways is dramatically affected by the presence of the earthworm casts.

A possible solution? Dr. Ben McGraw from Penn State has conducted a tremendous amount of research on earthworms and reducing their casts. Some of that research he has performed here at Bucknell Golf Club on our 14th fairway. He has tested different fungicides, insecticides, and fertilizers. The most consistent, longest lasting, and promising results come from fertilizers that are saponin based products which occur naturally in different plant species. Applying these fertilizers on a monthly basis for 2 to 3 months can reduce earthworm casts up to 80%. I have experimented with these products around the golf course and have seen promising results. However, these fertilizers are not readily available for sale. I will continue to check on availability and pricing.

## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE CONT.

So..... “What are you going to do about these worms!?” Until the previously mentioned fertilizers are readily available and affordable we drag fairways regularly to reduce the accumulation of the worm casts. My fairway management program also involves pesticide applications being made for various fungi and insect pests, and when I have to make these applications I choose products that are known to help keep the worms at bay for a short amount of time.

Special thanks to Dr. McGraw for providing resources for this article, I leaned heavily on his expertise to write this.

Keep it in the short grass,

Jim Laubach

Superintendent

## TIP FROM THE PRO

To improve your performance in competition or to just lower your scores, learn to choose high-percentage shots. Poor performance in golf is often simply a matter of choosing too many low-percentage shots.

High-percentage shots will vary based on each golfer's individual skill level, strength and weaknesses. To determine your high-, medium-, and low-percentage shots, ask yourself the following questions: “If I hit 10 shots from here, how many times could I pull it off?”

High Percentage: 7 to 10 out of 10

Medium Percentage: 4 to 6 out of 10

Low Percentage: 0 to 3 out of 10

Top performers in golf understand the importance of choosing high-percentage shots. When determining which shot to choose in any given situation, they will normally choose the highest-percentage shot possible.

Think about reality. What can you really do? This will help you lower your scores.

Brian Kelly  
PGA Head Golf Professional

## ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE



### Current Management Summary

Effective beginning with the 2020 golf season Bucknell University entered into an agreement with Billy Casper Golf to assume Management responsibilities for the Bucknell Golf Course. While the member entity "Bucknell Golf Club" continues to exist, the Board of Directors was abolished and was replaced with an Advisory Council to represent the interests of the Bucknell Golf Club, which continues to organize golf and social activities through an assortment of pertinent volunteer committees. The Council meets regularly with management representatives Tim Hepler/General Manager and Chris Strand/Regional Manager, in a capacity generally focused upon information flowing in both directions.

Billy Casper Golf became Indigo-Troon during the 2021 season and brings significant resources to Bucknell.

Effective January 1, 2022 the Advisory Council reorganized, adding term limits, an annual election, and a few more members. Gary Fry assumed the Chairman responsibilities as Mike Patterson requested to step aside after serving as Chairman for the inaugural two years. Mike continues to serve on the Council as representative of the Green Committee, and lends his considerable talent for recording meeting minutes.

The Council works cooperatively with the courses management in an effort to achieve goals in the best interests of the Club and University. The membership element continues to be an important focus group as we operate on a semi-private basis. Our core goals are to provide the best experience possible through presentation of excellent agronomy, sufficient amenities, and staff dedicated to friendly/welcoming service. It is important to us that we receive fair criticism from members and guests alike. Please feel free at any time to make your thoughts known.

## WHO IS WHO

### BUCKNELL GOLF COURSE

\*Bucknell University—Owner

\*Indigo Sports/Troon—Management Company

Chris Strand-Regional Manager

Tim Hepler-General Manager & F&B Manager

Jim Laubach-Superintendent

Brian Kelly-Head Professional

Jesmar Matos- Asst Professional

Jon Putterman-Kitchen Supervisor

Sue Lobos-Front of House Supervisor

Matt Fauerbach-Troon Director of Agronomy

### BUCKNELL GOLF CLUB

\*Advisory Council

Gary Fry-Chairman

\*Green Committee-

Mike Patterson-Chairman

\*Men's Association

Joe Cardello-President

\*Ladies Association

Sharon Craig-President

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A co-operative semi-private facility that presents a Town/Gown experience.

A membership that capitalizes upon a spirit of volunteerism to provide an excellent venue for golf and social events.

Please remember that membership in a "Club" implies a responsibility to contribute to it's viability by active participation in events and financial support of it's initiatives.

Let's make "Bucknell Golf Club" the best that it can be!

## GREEN COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings from BGC's Green Committee and welcome to another highly anticipated golf season. As Committee chair I wanted to provide some background on the Committee and how we serve you as members of the Club. The Committee is comprised of 5 to 6 volunteers from the Club membership, including the chairperson who is appointed by the Advisory Council chair. These individuals have expressed interest in soliciting and providing input to Club management related to the course, including recommendations for changes affecting play, layout, conditions, etc. The Committee meets monthly during the golf season to discuss golf course conditions and provide input on the course, including playability, potential improvement projects, and capital expenditures. Suggested changes are formally proposed to the BGC Advisory Council for their review and approval. If approved, the Council endorses and forwards them to Bucknell Golf Club management for their action/response.



This year, Jessica Olenginski and Michael Patte joined me, Gale Reish, Ken Wagner, and Todd Vonderheid on the Committee. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss input from Committee members, based on their experiences and questions/concerns brought to them by other Club members, and are joined several times a year by the Club's general manager, Tim Hepler, and Golf Course Superintendent, Jim Laubach. For example, at our last meeting Jim Laubach provided a recap of the Maintenance staff's winter work and updates on the coming season. Examples of information he provided included:

- Status of reconstruction of the fifth tee accomplished over the past off-season. Jim noted that turf is currently getting established, irrigation will be installed around the tee, and some final touches will be done to finish off the area around the tee. It will likely be mid-summer before Hole #5 tee is opened so root systems can get firmly established, although it may be temporarily opened for events.
- Various trees, mostly dead and diseased, and stumps were removed over the winter. Stump clippings are being cleaned up and those areas are being seeded.
- Sand was added to bunkers, where needed.
- Turf on the course came through the winter pretty well and things look good from a health perspective. Greens and fairways are in fairly good shape as winter snow cover helped minimize turf damage caused by winter winds that suck moisture out of the ground. Elsewhere in this newsletter Jim provided an update on worm issues on the course.
- Seasonal staff have returned but some individuals did not come back due to illness or other reasons. Jim notes that he expects to have further turnover in the near future due to the age of some staff members.

As I noted, Committee members are your representatives so I encourage you to reach out to any of us with concerns, questions, or suggestions you might have so the Committee can discuss them with Club management. We wish you all the very best during the upcoming golf season and hope you get many opportunities to enjoy this truly exceptional golf course.

Mike Patterson, Chair

## MASTER PLAN

The article below was first published in the "Bucknell Golf Club Newsletter," Fall edition, 2006.

The course will change into something new yet familiar as it undergoes its own transformation; its organic nature is in clear view when the seasons change. Beyond the ebb and flow of seasonal adjustments, the nature of the course is to evolve. The Master Plan is a work that addresses the inevitable changes that will and do occur to our course.

The Board of Directors adopted the following resolution in the early Spring of this year (2006).

### **Bucknell Golf Club Master Plan Resolution 2006**

Bucknell Golf Club wishes to recognize at this time in its history the importance of having adopted the Golf Course Master Plan as created by Mark Fine of Fine Golf Design, Inc. The plans creation and acceptance mark an important historical crossroad for Bucknell Golf Club. Contemplating a master plan for over a decade, it is with deep satisfaction and conviction that this Board of Directors enter for the record its conclusions and expectations as to the import of the Plan. The Board wishes to impart with this Resolution its appreciation for the magnitude and far-reaching implications contained within the Master Plan.

The Golf Course Master Plan has achieved at its core a coherent interpretation of the intent of the Club's founding architect, Emil Loeffler. The Board recognizes the exhaustive and comprehensive nature of Mark Fine's investigation of Loeffler. The conclusions revealed in the Master Plan reflect this thoroughness and clarity of thought. The Plan creates a unified vision of the course representing the best of Classic Architecture and Emil Loeffler's philosophy of course design. The course as amended in the Master Plan represents what Emil Loeffler could have created had he the budget, time and modern resources available to him at the time the course was created in 1930.

The Board wishes to secure a dedicated and vigilant fidelity to the Golf Course Master Plan by all future parties responsible for the care and protection of Bucknell Golf Club. The Board recognizes the myriad competing forces often present when contemplating proper and necessary amendments to the course. This Plan has the vision and scope to be predictive of future changes and therefore should be the resource of record when justifying any amendments to the course. It is precisely the intent of this Resolution to stress the importance of using the Plan to instruct those contemplating change. An argument that seeks to deviate from the Plan must assume a burden of tremendous persuasiveness before it is considered seriously.

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The nature of golf and great venues that accommodate the game inevitably evolve and require adjustments over time. An overriding principle is no Board should ever operate without a blueprint that guides and instructs willing volunteers and experts alike. This Master Plan Resolution defines a philosophy of process when future changes to the course are contemplated.

The Master Plan is still in effect, having been the basis of most course improvements in intervening years. Currently, Architect Mark Fine is preparing details and a presentation for reconstruction of the 4th green complex and implementation of new bunkers at the dogleg of #1 fairway. These projects are tentatively planned for completion October 2022, and will be funded by donor pledges.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[A full calendar can be found at bucknellgolfclub.com](http://bucknellgolfclub.com)

June 6 Mixed Couples 5:30pm	August 1 WLGO 9am
June 7 Ladies League 8:30am	August 2 Ladies League 8:30am
June 7 Men's League 5:30pm	August 2 Men's League 5:30pm
June 10 Kramm Memorial - Course Closed	August 8 Dugan Memorial 8:30am
June 14 Ladies Member-Guest 9am	August 8 Mixed Couples 5:30pm
June 14 Men's League 5:30pm	August 9 Ladies Blue & Orange
June 17-19 Invitational	August 12 Jim Walton Memorial 1pm
June 20 Mixed Couples 5:30pm	August 13-13 Stapleford Points
June 24 Chamber of Commerce	August 15 Dryject Greens
June 25 Golf Buddies	August 16 Ladies League 8:30am
June 27 GAP Juniors	August 17 Dryject Greens
July 1 Member-Member Auction	August 19 BU Baseball 1pm
July 2-3 Member-Member	August 23 Ladies League 8:30am
July 5 Ladies League 8:30am	August 26 Expectation 1pm
July 5 Men's League 5:30pm	August 27 Orange-Green-Cream 8am
July 8-10 Legends Member-Guest	August 28 Susquehanna 1:30pm
July 11 Mixed Couples 5:30pm	August 30 Ladies League 8:30am
July 12 Weis Outing 12pm	September 3-5 Club Championship
July 13 Ladies 8:30am	September 6 Ladies League 9am
July 17 Steak Fry	September 10-11 Ryder Cup 8am
July 19 Ladies League 8:30am	September 10 PHAC HS 12-2:30pm
July 19 Men's League 5:30pm	September 13 Ladies League 8:30am
July 22 9 & Dine	September 16 Genesis Golf 10:30am
July 23-24 Seniors Championship	September 19 Asbury Outing 9am
July 25 Mixed Couples 5:30pm	September 20 Ladies League 8:30am
July 26 Ladies League 8:30am	September 24-25 BU Women's Invitational
July 26 Men's League 5:30pm	September 27 Ladies League 8:30am
July 28 GAP Seniors	September 30 BU Basketball 1pm
July 30 Ranck-Gadd 1pm	

