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# A Wise Pro Once Said....

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Volume 15 Issue 1

April, 2011

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## JIM WISE, PGA

### Golf Staff

It is with mixed feelings that I report that David Ford and Kristen Markle will not be returning this year.

David accepted a job at Hudson National Golf Club in New York in the second leg of his PGA Apprenticeship. It has been a pleasure working with David for the last four years. His hard work and dedication to Columbia Hills will be missed.

Kristen accepted a position at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY. In the 7 years that Kristen worked here, I don't think there was ever a day that she didn't greet us with a smile in the Pro Shop and a cheerful voice on the phone.

We wish them the best of luck.

### Tee Times

Tee times are not required at Columbia Hills but we do ask that if you know your golfing plans ahead of time, call the Pro Shop to let us know and to make sure that there are no events.

New this year is the ability to make tee times any time in advance (instead of one week). We understand that there are occasions where you need to plan an important golf game well in advance and this should give you that opportunity.

A member will not be able to make a "standing tee time" for the same time, same day for an extended period of time.

### Weekend Starting Times

We do not take tee times before 9:00 on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. It has always been first here, first out. One person can sign a foursome up for the first tee rotation. If their group is not here when they are called to the tee, they have two options:

- They may start without him and that person can catch up
- or they can keep their name on the list but slide to the end.

Also, in an effort to space the groups out better during weekend mornings, we are asking that each group wait until the group in front of them are on the green AND the flagstick is taken out of the hole.

Weekend play starts at 8:00 until Opening Day. The start time changes to 7:30 on Opening Day and then to 7:00 on Memorial Day weekend.

### Locker Room

The goal of the locker room this year is to continue what Lonnie Taylor developed and to build on it. Lonnie retired as our Locker Room Manager after 20 years of service at Columbia Hills. We certainly have some big shoes to fill (get the pun).

We are happy to have his Assistant back, Silas Henry. Also joining the locker room staff will be Brett Doult. Barb Haynes will be returning as our Ladies Locker Room Attendant.

Our emphasis will be on creating a service oriented golf locker room with excellent shoe service.

Your generosity is very valuable to the locker room staff as their salary is based on a tipped hourly wage plus your tips.

During the winter, the staff installed carpet in many of the lockers (thanks Mr. Kassouf for the carpet samples). If your locker did not receive new flooring, please let the new team know and they will install some.

### Valet

The staff of the valet team is intact from last year. Joe Cola is back as our Valet Scheduler. Joe has been at Columbia Hills for 14 years and just recently got engaged. Also returning are Josh Evans, Josh Gatka and Kristian Nitsch. Kristian will be leaving us soon for graduate school in Chicago. Our college guys have not returned yet but will be back soon. You will probably see a few new faces on the valet team also.

### Play Schedule

We re-worked the play schedule and created a schedule that combines the perfect blend of private course availability with a very family friendly and guest friendly atmosphere. I won't attempt to put the chart in this newsletter but we will have them available at the Pro Shop.

### Reciprocal Golf

We are excited to continue our reciprocal partnership with Avon Oaks and Elyria Country Club. You may play golf at those two clubs anytime you want (within the time restrictions) at the cost of a cart fee only. Tee times can be arranged by calling their Pro Shop directly. Reciprocal times with them are as follows:

Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday After 1:30  
Wednes, Thurs, Fri before 11 after 1:30

We also have a reciprocal partnership with 4 other clubs:

*Ashland Country Club*  
*Country Club Of Hudson*  
*Prestwick Country Club*  
*Wooster Country Club*

You may play any of these courses any time but the tee time must be made through our Pro Shop. Simply give us a call and we will call the respective club and make the arrangements for you. The cost at these clubs is \$25.

## Bag Carrying

During the season, a member may carry their own clubs with the following provisions:

- \* If it is before 5:30, a walk fee of \$6.00 per 9 holes is charged.
- \* If it is after 5:30, there is no fee.
- \* Carrying your own clubs is not available when you have guests.
- \* There is no fee for carrying your own bag during the off-season.

## Push / Pull Carts

New to Columbia Hills this year is the addition of a fleet of push/pull carts. Members who like to walk may request to use a push/pull cart from the clubs fleet. The usage fee for them will be \$3 per nine holes. Members and guests will not be able to use their own push/pull cart.

## Four Bag Golf Cars

Columbia Hills has several golf car adapters that will allow one golf car to carry four golf bags. This is a great way for a foursome to share walking/riding time without carrying their golf bag. You may request to use these anytime throughout the year.

## Cell Phone Etiquette

We ask that everyone respect the following “Cell Phone Etiquette”:

- Only take your phone on the course if it is absolutely necessary.
- Make sure your phone is on vibrate mode.
- If you must use your phone, do so in between holes.
- Limit your phone calls to urgent matters.

## Dress Code

Just a reminder of the golf course dress code. Please remember that the dress code applies to off-season times also.

Men shall wear golf slacks or Bermuda length golf shorts. Golf shirts with a collar must be worn at all times. Short sleeve mock turtlenecks are acceptable as long as they have a wide mock neck and cannot be construed as a t-shirt. **Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Hats are not permitted to be worn backwards.**

Ladies shall wear golf slacks or Bermuda length golf shorts (just above the knees). Ladies may wear shirts that are sleeveless and/or collarless that presents a neat appearance and is appropriate to the game of golf. Tank tops and T-Shirts are not permitted. Shirts may be worn un-tucked as long as they present a neat appearance.

Please remember to remind your guests of our dress code. If you don't want to go through the specifics of our dress code with them, usually telling someone that the dress code is “golf pants or golf shorts with a collared shirt” covers all the bases.

## Pace Of Play

Maintaining a good pace of play has always been extremely important to the Golf Committee.

It is our goal to make sure that everyone plays at a comfortable pace. The pace of play goal at Columbia Hills is 4 hours for member play and 4 hours, 10 minutes with guests. We are committed to do everything we can to achieve those goals.

One policy that helped with pace of play is the ten minute tee time policy. This seemed to space groups out on the first hole and set a good pace right from the start.

Typically, a good benchmark for the 10 minute rule is to wait until the group in front of you has pulled the flag out on the first green before you begin hitting your tee shots.

As always, please be aware of your place on the course. If groups are waiting behind you, it is your responsibility to let them thru or speed up.

## Tuesday Night Shoot-Outs

Back by popular demand, the Tuesday Night Shoot-Out begins on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Shoot-Out is an informal scramble every Tuesday night. You don't need to sign up for it – just show up. We get started at 5:45 every Tuesday. Just stop in the Pro Shop and let us know that you want to play. We draw teams at random and then play a nine-hole scramble. Oh by the way, it costs \$10 to play and the winning team splits the purse. It's a lot of fun and a great way to meet some people. Guests are welcome to play also.

The first Shoot-Out will be an Invitational. Please feel free to invite a guest or someone you know that may be interested in joining Columbia Hills. This is a fun night and is a great way to show someone what Columbia Hills is all about.

## Fivesomes

We tried fivesomes on a trial basis last year and are happy to report that it worked. The Pro Shop would like to Thank everyone for understanding the times last year that we were unable to allow fivesomes. It was because of that understanding that they system worked and we recommended that we continue with the practice.

We will continue to maintain the integrity of our pace of play and we ask for your understanding again that fivesomes are only allowed on a limited basis. Here are the guidelines for fivesomes:

- Fivesomes will be allowed if the conditions exist that will not disrupt play of the golf course. The decision of playing fivesomes will be at the discretion of the Pro Shop.
- The traffic on the golf course will be one determining factor. Consideration for a fivesome will be allowed if the golf course is not crowded either in front of or behind a fivesome (specific guidelines will be posted on the Pro Shop bulletin board)
- Pace of play is maintained at 4 hours, 10 minutes
- Faster groups are entitled to play through a fivesome
- The Pro Shop may break up a fivesome at any time.

- Fivesomes must display the ability to play in 4 hours, 10 minutes in order to continue this practice.