



19501 Vintage Trace Circle
Estero, FL 33967

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Temp Return Service Requested

Karaoke Night
Wednesday,
April 18th, 2018

Join us for
a la carte dining
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Stay for Karaoke
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
in Mulligans

Guests Welcome • Casual Attire
Make reservations on ForeTees

Friday Night Dinner Specials
April 2018

April 6	Fish Fry
All You Can Eat Beer Battered Cod, Served with French Fries and Coleslaw (includes Soup or Salad) \$16++	
April 13	BBQ Ribs
Half or Full Rack Served with Fries and Coleslaw Half Rack \$ 18++ Full Rack \$22++	
April 20	Turkey Dinner
Served with Stuffing, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce \$17++	
April 27	Burger Bar
½ Pound Kobe Burger with choice of cheese - Topping Bar to Include: Onions, Mushrooms, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, BBQ Sauce, Chimichurri, Roasted Red Peppers, Jalapeno, Guacamole (includes Ice Cream Sundae Bar) \$15++	
Fabulous First Friday	
May 4	
Prime Rib Buffet \$28++	



Life & Times

Estero Country Club at The Vines

April 2018

Mission

Estero Country Club provides a welcoming environment for its members, families and guests through exceptional golf, dining, tennis, fitness, lifestyle and social experiences.

**The Clubhouse is Open
this Spring/Summer 2018 -
during the golf course restoration.
Please support your Club!**

April - July 2018

Snack Shop

Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 2pm (April Only)

Closed May - September

Lunch

Wednesday - Friday, 11am - 2pm

Breakfast Buffet

Saturdays, 9am - 1pm

Dinner

Wednesday & Friday, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Clubhouse Closed

August 1 - September 2nd

Re-open on Labor Day

September

Snack Shop Closed

Lunch

Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 2pm

Dinner

Wednesday & Friday, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Board of Governors

Claire Comstock - President

Greg Bonnell - Vice President

Karen Adair - Secretary

Debbi Berit - Treasurer

Tom Hochworter

Mike Kennedy

Mike Meersman

Mark Mitchell

Margo Newell

Committee Chairs

Finance - Debbi Berit

Golf - Mark Mitchell

Greens - Greg Bonnell

Grievance - Margo Newell

Heritage/Memorial - Margo Newell

House & Entertainment - Karen Adair

Legal & By-Laws - Claire Comstock

Long Range Planning - Mike Kennedy

Membership & Marketing - Mike Meersman

Personnel - Margo Newell

Property - Tom Hochworter

Tennis - Tom Hochworter

Happy Hour Wednesdays & Fridays 5-8pm

Stretch & Flex Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30am

Yoga Mondays & Fridays 8:30am

Pickleball League Every Thursday starting April 19, 4pm

President's Report

ClaireComstock
cbcomstock@gmail.com



Listen Up Estero

Our golf course restoration project is officially underway! On Monday, March 19, we broke ground with a ceremony on the first tee and our turf killing has begun. Over the next several months, we will provide regular updates on our progress on our website and in this newsletter.

At our Annual Meeting on March 12, we provided an update on our financial results to date, which continue to be strong. The Club is currently better than budget on golf membership. As of the end of February, we are in the black year to date with Net Operating Income exceeding budget by \$143,755. We continue to work with our insurers to settle Irma claims, having already collected almost \$400,000. Our balance sheet remains strong.

Irma recovery and the golf course restoration are being funded by a combination of our cash flows and line of credit, a term loan, and monies from our projected year end capital reserve of \$1.2 million. This reserve includes the capital dues increases we all began paying in November of 2017. We are confident that the term loan can be paid off in six years, potentially earlier if our operational results remain strong. The presentations made at the Annual Meeting can be viewed in the Member's Only Section of the website by clicking on the Board News badge.

As your new President, I would like to thank Don DiBrita, Barry Freedman, and Tom Spaeth who just completed their three-year terms. These individuals dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to enhance our Club experience and ensure our long-term prosperity. When the opportunity presents itself, please thank them for their service. As previously announced, please welcome our newest Board members Debbi Berit (Finance), Mike Kennedy (Long Range Planning), and Mike Meersman (Membership and Marketing). They are great additions to our Board and will represent you well. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to serve on our various committees for the upcoming year. These committees provide invaluable insight and advice to the Board as we work to fulfill the Club's mission.

As always, your suggestions and observations may be conveyed to Craig Rollinson our General Manager, any Board member, or via email at listenup@esterocc.com.

Your Board of Governors wants your input, ideas and suggestions. To help this process, we have set up an email address,

listenup@esterocc.com

which will ensure your thoughts come directly to me. I will review each email message and either respond directly or forward it to the appropriate Committee Chair for follow-up and a subsequent response back to you. As needed, we will involve the management team for input to address your issue(s). For this vehicle to be as effective as possible, I believe we must establish a few ground rules:

- Your email must not be anonymous since we want to get back to you - be it the need for a follow-up question, an interim response or a final solution.
- Confine your subject to the Estero Country Club only. While neighborhood and VCA issues are certainly a concern for all of us, keep in mind that this forum can only address ECC-related questions, comments and concerns.
- When submitting constructive criticism or suggestions, please be specific and, when possible, provide your proposed solution or recommendation.

Each of you has a unique perspective, which can only make the Club better. Your Board represents you and sincerely hopes, whenever possible, to address your wants, needs and desires. I look forward to hearing from you.

Claire Comstock
President

General Manager's Report

Craig Rollinson, CCM, CCE
generalmanager@esterocc.com

Your Board of Directors wanted to get a pulse of what the membership wants in their Clubhouse facility and therefore charged the Clubhouse Information ad hoc Committee to gather information through focus groups. Recently this ad hoc Committee held a total of 7 open sessions with approximately 175 participants, where members came and shared their thoughts on what they want in the Clubhouse facility. Soon to be released, will be an Executive Summary of all the member input. When compiled, it will be emailed to the entire membership. Once this is done the Long Range Planning Committee, Chaired by Mike Kennedy will pursue the development of a Clubhouse Facility Plan. It is your Club and your input is needed to guide the Club's destiny. A BIG thank you to all of those who participated in the Clubhouse Information focus groups.

Hope to see you soon at the Club!



Employee Scholarship Fundraiser Tournament

On Saturday, February 3rd, the Estero Nine Hole Ladies Golf Association hosted a golf scramble to support the Estero Country Club Employee Scholarship Fund. This has been an annual event since 2012. This year's event surpassed all goals by raising \$11,000. Over 120 members made donations. We had 115 golfers participating in the scramble, with 41 hole sponsors and four corporate sponsors for the event. Corporate sponsors, Scanlon Lexus/Acura, Walmart, SunTrust Bank and Tyson Eye helped make the day a huge success. The barbecue in the evening drew over 140 people. As raffle prizes, we gave back \$1400 in cash, plus two large screen TV's and two iPads.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to award three scholarships to employees of the club totaling \$11,000. This brings the total amount awarded since 2012 to over \$29,000, benefitting 21 employees. All scholarship funds are paid directly to the institution to be deposited into the students account. The ECC Controller holds all funds until they are dispersed.

Employee Scholarship Winners



Julie Evo



Cody Kunkel



Sabrina Louk

This year's recipients are as follows:

Julie Evo - Employed at ECC in F&B Department since Fall of 2016. Julie is attending FGCU full time working towards dual Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology and Anthropology. This summer, Julie will be participating in an active archeological research project at Lake Okeechobee to get her archeological field work certification.

Cody Kunkel - Employed at ECC in F&B Department since Fall of 2016. Cody is attending FGCU, finishing his Associates Degree in Environmental Science, while enrolled full-time at FMTC in their Turbine Generators and Maintenance course.

Sabrina Louk - Employed at ECC in F&B Department since Fall of 2017. Sabrina is attending FGCU full time working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Minor in Gender Studies. Sabrina's goal is to work with children in developmental psychology.

We would like to thank all the members and staff of ECC who helped make this event so much fun and very productive. We are fortunate to be able to assist our employees in achieving their educational goals.

Superintendent's Report

T.J. Shine
supt@esterocc.com

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since I joined the team here at Estero Country Club. Despite the severe drought last spring, record rainfall in the summer, a major hurricane in early fall and the hottest February on record, I can honestly say I have enjoyed every bit of it. The support I have received from the membership and management has been tremendous and I thank you for that.

This month we begin our much-anticipated golf course restoration project. A tremendous amount of time and effort has been put forth by our staff and committees to ensure that our planning process was as thorough as possible. Our goal is to open the course as soon as possible in the fall with a tremendous product that everyone will be proud of. In order for this to happen, we do need some cooperation from mother nature. Our plan is to get as much work done as soon as possible this spring before the annual South Florida summer rains begin. The sooner that we can finish the earth work and shaping the sooner we can get the turf sprigs and sod down and begin growing it in. The better turf root system we have established before the daily rain begins, the more likely the turf will be able to prevent wash-outs and erosion. Repairing washed out and eroded areas on the golf course becomes very time consuming and sets back the grow-in process each time it occurs. It can also require additional sod and sprigs depending on the severity of the damage.

I am fully confident that our contractor and our staff working together will produce an amazing golf course when we open in the fall. The new landscaping, bunkers, sea-walls, greens and grass will all have the "wow" factor that we are seeking to achieve each time our membership steps on the golf course. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress this summer through a variety of different options such as Facebook, email, You Tube, Twitter and videos. More on this to come in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support and, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.



2018 Men's Invitational

Overall Champions Whistling Straits



**Josh Doyle &
Wayne Doyle**

Augusta National



**Matt Hutchins &
John Giannetto**

Pebble Beach



**Mark Mitchell &
Jack Quinlan**

Bandon Dunes



**Ed Romano &
Tony Williams**

TPC Sawgrass



**Jeff Echko &
Mark Verdova**

Seminole



**Tom Leahy &
Bill Hardyman**

Muirfield Village



**John Sotebeer &
Chad Sotebeer**

Cypress Point



**Josh Greene &
Sam Peters**

Shinnecock Hills



**Bob Pritchard &
Dwight Byrd**

Riviera



**Gary Stutz &
TJ Alfuth**

Wildcard Team



**Mark Johnston &
Bill Jardine**

Closest to Pin Day 1

- #5 - Ross Lawrence 13'
- #8 - Mike Meersman 16'10"
- #13 - Billy Panzino 10'11"
- #17 - Joe Richter 5'8"

Closest to Pin Day 2

- #5 - Cliff Ellis 16'6"
- #8 - Tom Martino 7'11"
- #13 - Chris Zeo 2'1"
- #17 - Greg Szablewski 4'2"

Closest to Pin Day 2

- #5 - Terry Werner 4'2"
- #8 - Mike Meersman 6'3"
- #13 - Bill Hardyman 1'2"
- #17 - Bob Parrot 4'3"

1st-Putting Contest

- Mike Kennedy &
Phil Meyer

1st-Hole In One Challenge

- Gene Gillis &
Todd Barrow



Now that April is here, we are noticing the changes in the golf course as we near our final closing date for the summer months. Those of you that are sticking it out here with us may be wondering what's in store once the course is closed. In essence, it will work in the same fashion that our normal reciprocal season works . . . you put together a group and pick from the list of clubs giving us access in April, provide that information to us in the Golf Shop, and we will make the arrangements on your behalf.

There are a couple of things to keep in mind when requesting times in April:

1. The Golf Shop will be open from 7:00am-12:00pm Monday thru Saturday and will be closed on Sundays. You may call us as far in advance as you wish, and we will catalog your request and make the necessary arrangements with the host course as soon as they allow.

2. The Golf Shop staff will do everything they can to acquire the tee time(s) as close as possible to your request.

3. These clubs are doing us a favor by providing access and reduced rates – each one has a different set of parameters that we must follow.

4. Their members are still in town and playing their course and the staff there will give priority to their members over ours; therefore, you may need to be flexible when requesting tee times.

Below is a list of clubs that have agreed to help out ECC members by providing access to their facilities in April. All have a policy of letting us call no more than 2 days in advance of the date of play.

<i>Bonita Bay</i>	<i>\$60</i>
<i>Copperleaf</i>	<i>\$41</i>
<i>Cypress Lake</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>The Forest</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>Grandezza</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Lexington</i>	<i>\$47</i>
<i>Miromar Lakes</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Pelican Sound</i>	<i>\$37</i>
<i>Spring Run</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>Vasari</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Wildcat Run</i>	<i>TBD</i>

Starting April 11, 2018,
Alico Family Golf Center
if offering \$5.00 buckets of balls,
normally \$10.40, you must present
your membership card.

Estero is Interclub II Champions
(again) this season!



Nancy Loomis, Gail McCracken, Connie Antisdale,
Ann Alessio, Char McCarthy, Carol Berger,
Mary Lou Roush, Pat Klebba
CONGRATULATIONS!

happy hour

**Starting in April -
Wednesday & Friday**

5:00pm - 8:00pm

50% off - Tap Beer,
All House Brand Liquor & House Wine
(single liquor well drinks)

20% off - Premium Liquor &
Bottled Beer
(and all multiple liquor mixed drinks)

20% off - Appetizers

Yoga

Continues for the month of April
and will return in November.

Monday & Friday
8:30am \$10

Stretch & Flex

Continues throughout the summer.

Tuesday & Thursday
7:30am \$10



Our league team season has ended and I want to congratulate all our teams on a great season of play. This was a very diverse season. There were some very challenging moments, but there were more great moments. It is good to see so many improvements in our teams and players. Congratulations to all our league winners and finalists. With our teams being done, social play time will become a major concern.

Here is a quick reminder for April-May play.

- * Men play on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings and you need to sign up for these days.
- * Ladies groups play on Wednesday and Friday mornings and 2.5's play on Thursday afternoons.
- * Tuesday Night Tennis - We invite you to stop by and check out the fun at 5:30pm.
- * Morning Drop-Ins are held Monday – Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00am.
- * Mixed players, we will be moving Fast Four Social Mixed to extra courts in April from 11:00 to 1:00pm.

We will be trimming down the clinics in April for our summer season. Doug and I will be working with members to set-up clinics for everyone on days that will match player's schedules. In May, we begin our summer reciprocals. Check your emails for days and times of all reciprocal groups. I hope everyone had a great winter season and has a wonderful summer ahead. I will see you on the courts.

Golf Course Restoration Update

Gold Shovel Groundbreaking Monday, March 19, 2018



Jon McLain (Estero Councilman), Debbi Berit, Mark Mitchell, Barry Freedman, Gordon Lewis (Course Architect), Claire Comstock, Craig Rollinson, Gene Monteneri (Estero Chamber Chairman of the Board), Margo Newell, Karen Adair, Greg Bonnell, Tom Hochworter, Mike Meersman

March 19 marked the official “Gold Shovel Groundbreaking” for ECC’s course restoration. We were very excited to have Jon McLain Councilman, Gene Monteneri Chairman of the Board of the Estero Chamber, and our course designer Gordon Lewis in attendance. They along with our new Board of Governors and our 2017 Long Range Planning Chair Barry Freedman turned the first shovel of dirt for our restoration.

Check out the Club’s public web page (esterocc.com) and click the Facebook and Twitter icons on the right-hand side of the front page to see more pictures from the event. Follow us weekly (watch for the banner at the top of your emails) as we send you updates, videos and news about the course progress.

Membership Report

Colleen Sowerby, Membership Sales Director
memberships@esterocc.com

Thank you for all your referrals this season. We are so excited that so many of our newest members are friends and family members of our membership. We have had a very exciting season welcoming over 42 new golf members since November. Many of our 21 trial members have already committed to be full golf members, effective October 31, a 62% conversion rate due in great part to the welcome you showed them and inclusiveness.

We are all anticipating the reopening of our newly restored Gordon Lewis gem this fall and although inside the clubhouse we have endured some noise, some dust and some inconvenience, overall it has been a very exciting process shared by all...to see the clubhouse come back to pre-Irma conditions. In many cases, Irma just advanced our summer timeline, gave us new tennis surfaces, paint, windows and certainly many new views from our windows! Thank you all for your support during this time.

The Gold Shovel Groundbreaking on March 19th was the perfect kickoff to the summer work. Many thanks to the dignitaries who came out - Mayor of the Village of Estero Jim Boesch, Councilman Jon McLain (fellow member), Chairman of the Board of the Estero Chamber Gene Montenieri and our course designer Gordon Lewis for helping us with the kickoff.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this past year's Membership and Marketing Chair, Don DiBrita for his time and dedication to the club. Also, many thanks to the dedicated committee members who gave of their time when we needed ambassadorship on the courts, or the course, and for all the brain storming and ideas that helped grow ECC's membership this year.

Lisa, TJ and I will be communicating with you during the summer on the course progress. We hope to include You Tube Videos that you will be able to access and watch, Facebook and Twitter postings with pictures, and email blasts when some landmark happening occurs out on the golf course. Of course, many weeks there might not be much to communicate when all we might have is a picture of grass growing...like watching water boiling in a pot. But, we will keep you excited during the summer with great visuals and information to increase your anticipation of returning to see the project completed.

Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm greeting to the newest members of our ECC family.



Dr. Glenn and Linda Gerber
Southwind - Golf
Friends brought the Gerbers to ECC as renters. They have now purchased a home and are looking forward to being here. Dr. Gerber and his wife summer in River Forest, IL.



Charles and Denise Hall
Grand Palm - Social
The Halls have rented inside The Vines for a few years and have decided this is the place. They are from the town of Dardenne Prairie, MO and summer there.



Dr. Kay Jenkins and Lenny Michaels
Silver Oak - Golf
Avid golfers whose new home view has them enjoying coffee in the morning looking at 17 green. Dr. Jenkins came to know ECC from good friends Barbara and Michael Wallingford.



Al and Ronda Kintzle
Southwind - Golf
The Kintzles have been a part of our renter family for a few years now and have purchased in Southwind this season. Al and Ronda summer in the Arlington Heights, IL area.



Dwight and Joan Mishler
Grand Palm - Social
Dwight and Joan's daughter Lisa Mishler/Tim Byal who live in Belle Lago referred them to The Vines. They've moved from south Naples to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. Originally from Pennsylvania where their son lives.



Garry and Anna Marie McCann
Southwind - Golf
Cousins of the O'Neills and Echkos also in Southwind - you can guess who referred them to The Vines. They are from the Pittsburgh, PA area where Mr. McCann is in the communications business.



Harold and Carole Root
Belle Lago - Social
The Roots have many friends in Belle Lago and have now decided to join us at ECC. They are previously bankers and live on Sedonia Circle. Thanks to the Riordans, Smiths and Keenan/Whiteside who referred them.