



19501 Vintage Trace Circle
Estero, FL 33967

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FT. MYERS, FL
PERMIT #962

Temp Return Service Requested

Fabulous "Second" Friday

Friday, July 13, 2018
with Joe Johnson



Reservations available 5:30 - 8:30pm
Casual/Theme Attire - Guests Welcome
Bar Menu Available

Prime Rib Buffet \$28++

Everyone dressing in holiday attire
can enter for a chance to
win Dinner for Two
this summer to
include Appetizer,
Entrée and Dessert.



4TH of JULY BBQ

*The BBQ Buffet has been cancelled
due to lack of reservations.*

We wanted to give members plenty
of time to make other arrangements.

We hope you enjoy the holiday!

17.46++

Life & Times

Estero Country Club at The Vines

July/August 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.

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

Pickleball
Thursdays
2pm

July 2018

Lunch

Wednesday - Friday, 11am - 2pm

Breakfast Buffet

Saturdays, 9am - 1pm

Dinner

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

Snack Shop

Closed

Clubhouse Closed
August 1 - September 2nd

Friday Night Dinner Specials

July 6 - *Fish Fry*

July 13

Fabulous "Second" Friday
Prime Rib Buffet

July 20 - *BBQ Ribs*

July 27 - *Turkey Dinner*

A Letter from the Treasurer

I am pleased to provide our members with summary data on the Club's current financial condition. We share this information quarterly in accordance with Article IX, Paragraph 1, Section C of the Club's Bylaws.

Operating Results:

We are seven months into our fiscal year. Through May 31, 2018, our net operating income was \$221,859, which was \$227,013 favorable to budget and \$99,472 higher than the same period last year. Membership growth, increased utilization of the course and club facilities this past season combined with careful expense management across all departments has contributed to our favorable position. We are entering the lean months of our operations and our first reforecast indicates we will end the year with an estimated net operating profit of \$96,000. This would be \$135,000 favorable to budget as we had budgeted a net operating loss of \$39,000.

Balance Sheet:

Our Balance Sheet continues to be strong; however, due to the cash outflow required for the clubhouse and golf course restorations, our cash position was \$568,495 lower than at this point last year. Liabilities are \$117,429 more than a year ago primarily due to the increase in our equipment loan payable with the addition of this year's golf course maintenance equipment package.

Capital:

As of May 31, 2018, year-to-date Capital expenditures total \$161,792. Since the last update we've purchased an undercounter refrigerator, HVAC unit, fertilizer spreader, ice machine, irrigation equipment, and continue monthly payments on our existing capital leases. We received \$8,000 for the sale of one piece of old golf course maintenance equipment and will sell additional items after the course restoration. The Capital Construction In Progress expenditures total \$1,655,543 through May 31, 2018. These expenditures are itemized in a separate account and include the Hurricane Irma clubhouse restoration work and expenses for the golf course restoration.

We are pleased to report we have received \$462,505 to date from our insurance carriers for our Hurricane Irma related claims. The replacement of the pump house building is the one item outstanding at this time with a completion goal by the end of this fiscal year.

If you wish to review the summary Balance Sheet and/or Operating Statement, please contact our Controller, Dana Aerts, in the ECC Accounting Office.

Debbi Berit
Treasurer

ECC Marathon Bridge



2017-2018 Season
\$500 donation made by the group to
Joanne's House!

Superintendent's Report

T.J. Shine
supt@esterocc.com

After a couple of long months of construction, the back 9 is starting to look like a golf course again. Cart path repair

work, sodding around greens and bunkers, greens sprigging, drainage improvements and final shaping have all come together. It is certainly nice to start seeing some green grass on the course!

Over the next month we will begin the growing in stage of the restoration project. It is extremely important that we keep adequate moisture in the ground and on the sprigs to prevent them from drying out. Sprinklers are running throughout the day and monitored by staff closely. Fertilization has become a weekly routine as we are pushing the grass to fill in as fast as we can. Weed pressure on the golf course will be high over the next couple of months. With a lot of bare soil, rain and irrigation water, it creates a perfect environment for weeds to grow. Compiling this with our inability to apply herbicides during the initial stages of the grow in process for fear of the negative impacts on the sprigs, and this can create a mess. As soon as the sprigs have matured enough we will be working heavily on weed control. The faster we can get the grass to fill in the better off we are in terms of weed control.

Our landscaping on the golf course is starting to take shape. Did you know that we are planting over 12,000 new plants and trees? Of course, this does include the entire golf course and clubhouse but still, that is an impressive number! Temporary irrigation has been or will be installed in many areas to keep the plants and trees watered. The reason I say temporary irrigation is that the majority of the landscape material that is being installed are Native plants that are able to withstand the large extremes in temperature and moisture here in Southwest Florida. Landscape installation will continue throughout the summer hopefully wrapping up in late September.

Remember to keep looking for our weekly email communication update and corresponding drone videos and pictures. It is really starting to get fun seeing the progress being made and things really starting to take shape on the back 9. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Membership Report

Colleen Sowerby, Membership Sales Director
memberships@esterocc.com

We have been very busy at the Club touring prospective members and new home owners. We are also excited that we have already sold 19 golf memberships in the past few months - whose membership start date is October 31. Their pictures will be in our "New Member" frame, please give them a big ECC welcome this fall. Pictures and bios will be in an upcoming newsletter - so you can get to know them before they

arrive this season.

The resale market in The Vines and Belle Lago continues to be steady. A couple closings are scheduled in October that are golfers as well and new listings are coming in every day.

Rental inquiries for 2019 continue to come in daily. If you are considering renting your property, please contact one of our in-house realtors or the membership office.

If you suspended your trail fee because of our summer closure and want to reinstate for 2018-2019 and haven't contacted us already - please send an email and we will process the change for you.

Summertime is a **great time to refer a friend** to the Club. Remember those cold winters that your friends experienced and kept saying "this is the year we transition"... why not to The Vines and Estero Country Club. Our new golf course is going to attract a lot of notice this fall - no better time to have them reach out and talk to the membership office.

Hope you are all enjoying your summer - and for our full-time residents, we look forward to seeing you around the Club.

Golf Report

Ben Pittman, PGA
golfpro@esterocc.com

It is an exciting time at Estero CC. Every day we can see progress being made as the golf course undergoes a facelift. For those who are

here watching the transformation and for those who are away awaiting the next drone video update from TJ, the anticipation of what is to come is palpable.

2019 will not only bring changes to our course, but it will also usher in some desperately needed changes in how the game is regulated and played. If you have not heard, the USGA, together with the R&A, has finally listened to you, the avid golfer, and modernized the Rules of Golf. If you've ever thought to yourself, or maybe even screamed out loud, "that's a stupid rule!", then you should be happy to see what's in store as the new rules take effect on January 1, 2019. Here's a sampling of some of the more significant changes.

- It is recommended that you play "ready golf" and make each stroke in no more than 40 seconds.
- You will be able to repair spike marks and any other damage on the greens.
- You will be able to remove loose impediments from a bunker. And while you still may not ground your club in a bunker, you won't be penalized for just touching the sand.
- There will no longer be a penalty for moving loose impediments, touching the ground, or grounding your club in a penalty area (formerly known as a hazard).
- There will no longer be a penalty for your ball striking an unattended flagstick in the hole.
- When dropping a ball, you will be able to drop from knee height rather than shoulder height.
- If your club accidentally strikes your ball more than once during a stroke, there will be no penalty and your ball will be played as it lies.

As you can see, there are some major changes in store for 2019. Please visit usga.org to learn more.

President's Report

Claire Comstock
cbcomstock@gmail.com

As you have read in our Treasurer's Update by Debbi Berit, we are currently in a solid position financially as we approach the fourth

quarter of this fiscal year. Our restoration project is proceeding as planned from a timetable and budget perspective and ECC is a proverbial beehive of activity both on the course and around the Clubhouse grounds. I do hope that you will take the time to view the videos that T.J. has published weekly as they provide a "drone's eye view" of our progress to date. Our members who are on property full time can attest to the enormity of this endeavor!

Summer is when your Board of Governors takes time to plan for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to reviewing and approving budgets, this is our opportunity to consider other issues that are important to the Club's future. In recent years we have made updates to the By-laws which govern our Club, most recently to amend the nominating committee process. From time to time, it makes sense to step back and revisit governance comprehensively, as member priorities and needs continue to evolve since the current By-laws were put in place decades ago.

We have retained outside counsel with deep expertise in this area to assist in the process. Over the years many of you have provided valuable feedback regarding our governance practices with several important themes emerging. Your Board has discussed these perspectives at length and shared your sentiments with our attorney. Our goal is to present members with an up-to-date set of By-laws that reflects and protects our interests, both now and in the future, while keeping best industry practice and compliance with Federal and Florida statutes and regulations at the fore.

We anticipate that some of these changes could be of a magnitude that require a membership vote and take our role as your representatives very seriously in this process. Changes to fundamental aspects of Club governance will require ample time for our members to consider and absorb. Your Board expects to provide many opportunities for members to learn about proposed changes through live information sessions and written communications once our season resumes.

Enjoy the summer season!

Claire

Wednesday Night Tennis Play & Dine Mixers

July 11th

5:30pm play with dinner to follow,
Light Fare Limited Menu
\$5 Mixer plus cost of dinner

**Games -
"Play Good"
"Guess Good"
Win a Free Mixer Entry**

Everyone Welcome!
Come join us for a fun night of tennis
and delicious food.

Sign-up on ForeTees or
Call the Tennis Shop for information
239-267-7001

Tennis & Breakfast



Saturday Sizzler Mixer

*July 21st
10:30am play*

Come for the Breakfast Buffet
before or after play.

Buffet served 9:00am - 1:00pm
\$22 inclusive play & buffet

Games - "Play Good" "Guess Good"
Win a free entry for a Mixer
EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

Sign-up on ForeTees or
Call the Tennis Shop for information 239-267-7001

August Tennis Events

Wednesday, August 8th
Tennis Pizza Mixer
5:30pm

Saturday, August 25th
Tennis Sizzler Mixer
10:30am

Tennis Report

Tom Funk, USTA
tennispro@@esterocc.com

Summer tennis is fun, but remember to hydrate, dress in light colors and use sunscreen. Iced towels are available in the tall stand under the

spectator canopy. Our summer morning play has been busy with Men's play on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday and Ladies play on Tuesday and Thursday. Check your calendar for our summer events as each month will have an Adult Boot Camp and fun Tennis Mixers. Ladies, please remember to sign up for our Monday Interclub. Each week four of our Ladies join other clubs for a Round Robin morning match.

Have a great summer and we will see you on the courts.



Summer Tennis Mixer Participants

Have Lunch & Tour the Restoration of the Golf Course - Part 3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018



Join our *Golf Course Superintendent, T.J. Shine*, as he takes you on a brief tour of the golf course restoration after lunch.

A deli style buffet (\$13++) will be served starting at 12:00pm with the tour to follow.

Lunch purchase is required to attend the tour.

Please make your required reservations in ForeTees dining events. Space is limited.

T.J.'s tours have been very popular, so sign-up early to secure your spot!