

Please mark your calendar:
The 2009 Briarwood

**Member
Member**

has been rescheduled to
September 19-20



Welcome New Members!

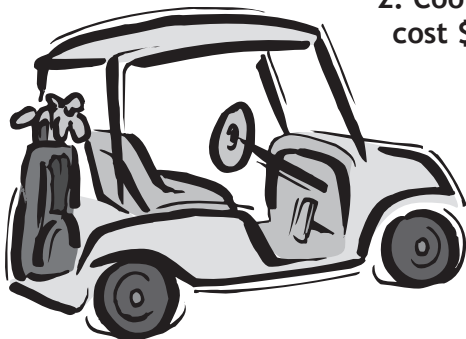
Larry Larson.....Proprietary
Shane Swandai.....Proprietary
Vinnie Iacopini.....Proprietary
Chris Anderson.....Proprietary

Membership Status (as of July 28, 2009)

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Proprietary/Corp-Primary | 284 |
| Business | 2 |
| Non-Resident | 12 |
| Social..... | 26 |
| Briarwood Subdivision | 25 |
| Founder | 8 |
| TOTAL..... | 357 |

Did you know...

1. Golf carts need to stay 30 yards from the green
2. Coolers for the golf carts cost \$20 per cooler
3. It costs \$500 a week to keep the green speed regulated



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News from the GREENS COMMITTEE

Mike Skaggs, Greens Committee Chair

Finding Briarwood's Perfect Green Speed

If you played Briarwood in late June or over the July 4 weekend, you may have been asked to complete a survey about the green speeds on the day you played. We asked members to tell us if they thought the green speed was "Too slow, A little slow, Just right, A little fast, or Too fast". If you participated in the survey, we want to say thanks as your opinion helped us dial in to the perfect green speed for Briarwood.

The days surveyed included busy days with just men playing, just ladies during the BASH, and mixed play on a long holiday weekend. On those days, we measured green speeds with a Pelzometer. The Pelzometer is a ramp device developed by short game guru, Dave Pelz and his son, both engineers. The Pelzometer can measure green speeds on sloped surfaces. Most courses use a 70-year old device called a Stimpmeter. The Stimpmeter is limited to measuring relatively flat surfaces. As you know, Briarwood does not have many flat green surfaces!

Green speeds are measured in increments of half a foot. A golf ball is rolled down a ramp and the distance it rolls is considered the green speed. Averaging several rolled distances gives you an accurate green speed. Thus, when you hear that greens are running 9.5, that means several balls rolled down the ramped device averaged 9 ½ feet.

We compared your opinions with each day's green speed. We found that on days when the green speed was 9.0 most members thought the speed was just right or a little slow. When the speeds were 10.0, again most members thought the speed was just right, but a significant number thought the speed was a little fast. So, between 9.0 and 10.0 is where we cross from slow to fast for most members.

The Greens Committee reviewed the study results and in consultation with our superintendent, Sean Sullivan, decided that the "perfect" speed for Briarwood is 9.5. Sean and his crew will strive to maintain our greens at 9.5 on most days. During certain tournaments, players may see faster green speeds as determined by the tournament director and our capabilities. We believe that 9.5 will give us the speed desired by most members, allow us to use most of our green surfaces for pin placements, and keep our average playing time at around 4 ¼ hours. Slower speeds will disappoint and frustrate many players. Faster speeds mean more three and four putts and five-hour rounds of golf. Longer rounds means fewer players enjoying the course, less revenue from cart rentals, fewer bar and restaurant sales, etc.

How Do We Compare To Other Courses?

Some members asked "Why can't our greens be as fast as Laurel or Yellowstone?" That question raised my curiosity, so I set out to measure the greens at all the private clubs in Billings on the same day. On July 1, I contacted the pro shops at Yellowstone, Laurel, Hilands, and Pryor Creek and asked if I could measure their green speeds. All the clubs were interested in the study and I shared the results with them. On July 1, Laurel measured at 10.5 and all the other clubs measured at 10.0. That

is a difference of only half a foot. A touring pro or highly skilled amateur might possibly feel a half-foot difference, but I will guess that most club players cannot. Thus, as measured that date, Briarwood's green speed was not significantly slower or faster than other club's speeds.

Greens are a Living Surface

The turf grows all day from the moment it is cut. We have the ability to adjust speeds with mowing, aerification/top dressing, rolling, chemicals/growth regulators, fertilizer, and irrigation. We use all of these during the growing season to adjust green speeds. This year, our greens are cut at .105 inches, about the thickness of a #2 pencil lead. That is the shortest height Briarwood has ever cut its greens. The shorter the height the more we stress the grass plant. You should know that Sean is always mindful of the balance between desired speed and the overall health of the green. When Sean sees the turf health decline he will make adjustments to protect the green. That may include raising the height of cut and other cultural practices. The Greens Committee has authorized Sean to make those decisions as needed to protect the most expensive parts of our course.

What to Expect

During August, when the weather is at its hottest, expect to see some "splashy" ball marks on the greens. Here is why... since we have been mowing the greens shorter this year, the roots are also shorter. The shallower roots do not knit together as well resulting in the splashy ball marks. Your help in carefully repairing ball marks is crucial to helping us take care of your course.

Later in the year, Sean will need to adjust some greens maintenance practices including aerifying, raising heights, chemical applications, etc. You can expect the green speeds to slow up. We need to allow the grass plants time to grow and strengthen the roots to get us through the winter months. Fall is a great time to relax and enjoy the course. Just know the maintenance practices we use will enhance the turf health for the next season.

We have a busy August ahead of us with major club tournaments and hosting some important tournaments. I am confident our course and greens will be well presented to our members and guests. Enjoy your club with some late summer golf.

Something Else I Can't Pass Up

One of your fellow members, Dirk Bauwens, serves on the Greens Committee and Board. Just recently, Dirk and his family had the privilege of spending several days in Portugal with close friends. They played golf several times at Quinta da Marinha, a five star resort with a Robert Trent Jones designed course. Dirk's assessment... Briarwood's condition is five times better. I am proud of our course and pleased to hear positive comparisons like that.

Thanks to all our members and staff who make Briarwood such a great place to enjoy.

News from the Restaurant & Events Manager

Brittney Wilken

August is already upon us and we are all getting ready for another busy month. The pool and clubhouse will be keeping the same hours this month. However, we will be changing the snack shack hours a bit so please check out the new time schedules on the board. We are gearing up for more tournaments for this month so please look at the calendar for these dates. The Tangle was a great success this year! It was definitely a hot one. We hope everyone enjoyed the great food and fun atmosphere. We look forward to making it even better next year! One last reminder: The restaurant is closed on Mondays. We are open all other days of the week. We look forward to seeing you out here in the month of August.

News from the PRO SHOP

Rob Jones

Wow I can't believe how fast July has flown by! Looking into August we have an extremely busy month ahead. We will have played the Club Championship by the time you read this but we still have the Montana State Mid Amateur the 13th – 15th, the Happy Caddy Cup on the 21st and the Billings Clinic Classic makes its return to Briarwood on the 28th.

During the Mid Am we are looking for volunteers for the 13th 14th and 15th to work as starters, marshals, collect scorecards, run the long drive contest and other various duties. If you are interested in helping please call me at the shop or send me an email to briarwood.golf@bresnan.net. This is a great chance to show off our Club and your help is needed. People are excited about playing The Briarwood for the Mid Am and I think it would be awesome if we had a bunch of the members around to help show off the club.

This years Tangle had another great turn out...82 teams and 3 nice days to play golf. The derby was played on Friday night with 1st place going to Peter Benson and Dale Squires who edged out Curt Finnicum and Tom McNeely under the lights on #9. 3rd place went to Carey Ziebarth and Jeff Peete. Congratulations to the winners and to all the players that qualified. The field was closely matched and the derby was "good watching" again this year. At the end of Saturday's play the flight winners and overall champions shook out as follows:

"C" Flight winners–Joe & Steve Rand 130; "B" Flight winners–Broc Criswell & Quinn Donovan 127; "A" Flight winners–Dave Wagner & Chip Dudley 123

2009 Tangle Champions: Dave Wagner and Chip Dudley

Congratulations to Dave and Chip on your outstanding play this week and to the rest of the winners...great job.

Also I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with scoring, the calcutta and the derby, Stacey Suydam, Julie Redfern, Lynn Benson and Stacy Summers your help was greatly appreciated, thank you. And thanks to Steve Solberg who once again lent us the use of his music system and microphone for Saturday night's festivities. And finally thank you to the 2009 Tangle committee of Jerry Jones, Scott Hatler and Mike Hoiness. You guys did an outstanding job keeping everything going in the right direction, raising additional funds and giving us input to help make the Tangle a great event.

I hope everyone's summer is going great and that you are getting out and playing your wonderfully conditioned golf course.

| August 2009 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | | 1 Club Championship |
| 2 Club Championship | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 SPE Practice Round | 7 SPE Tourney 7:00 & 2:00 shotguns | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Mid Am | 14 Mid Am | 15 Mid Am |
| 16 | 17 | 18 Realtor's Tourney | 19 | 20 | 21 Eagle Mount Happy Caddy Cup 12:00 shotgun | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Men's Pro Am | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Billings Clinic | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

HOURS

MONDAYCLOSED
TUESDAY 9 AM - 9 PM
WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 9 PM
THURSDAY 9 AM - 9 PM
FRIDAY 9 AM - 9 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM - 9 PM
SUNDAY 8 AM - 7 PM

**PIZZA
TO GO!**

CALL THE
RESTAURANT AT

245-2966

BAR HOURS

MondayTBA
Tuesday 9 am-9 pm
Wednesday 9 am-close
Thursday 9 am-9 pm
Friday 9 am-close
Saturday 8 am-close
Sunday 8 am-7 pm

NOW SERVING

BREAKFAST

Tues-Fri..8-11 Sat/Sun .. 8-12

MENU

2 eggs, hash browns, bacon or
sausage, toast\$6.50
2 Eggs Benedict
with hash browns\$5.50
2 breakfast sandwiches
with hash browns\$6.50
Biscuits & Gravy\$5.50