

Captain's Log

Jul 2026
Issue No. 6

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A long-overdue update from a club in full swing

By Scott Mackenzie (Club Captain)



It has been far too long since the last Captain's Log, and I apologize for the delay. Apparently, the newsletter does not publish itself, despite my giving it every opportunity.

Over the past several months, Brett Whalen, Kelly Koselek, Jose Vargas and I have been balancing our regular club responsibilities while collectively filling the General Manager role. In my case, that meant the Vice-President and Club Captain duties—including writing this—occasionally lost out to whatever fire was burning most brightly that day.

With Mike Heenan now in place as our new General Manager, I am looking forward to spending less time pretending to be one and more time getting back to my regularly scheduled responsibilities. That should include getting the Captain's Log out a little more regularly. The good news is that while the newsletter has been quiet, the club has not. Member participation and engagement in our events have been especially strong this year.

The Momentum Continues

As Brett noted in last month's President's Message, participation in club events has increased significantly this year, with eye-popping numbers for the Home Opener and both the Men's and Ladies' Opening Field Days. Better still, the momentum has continued.

Since his message was published, participation in the Ladies' Member-Guest increased by 18%, while the Learie Shield attracted 84 players—a further 50% increase following last year's already substantial 40% jump. Participation in that event is more than double what it was just two years ago. Last week's Member-Member also drew 136 players, an impressive 28% increase over last year.

Lower entry fees for some events have certainly helped, but they are only part of the story. Our staff, committee members and event ambassadors have worked exceptionally hard to promote the events, encourage participation and keep everything moving smoothly. Their hard work is clearly paying off.

Most of the credit, however, belongs to the membership. Members are not only registering in greater numbers; they are bringing a noticeably positive energy and enthusiasm with them.

That is what brings a club to life—and this year, it's really showing!

Ball Buster Points: A Quick Clarification

A few members have asked how the participation-point system affects eligibility for the Ball Buster (to be held Oct 24), so a quick clarification is in order.

Members earn five points for participating in each qualifying event. Those events are the Men's Opening and Closing Field Days, Men's & Ladies' Day programs, the Ladies' Opening, Mid and Closing Field Days, the Ladies' Member-Guest, the Learie Shield Open, the Member-Member and the Club Championship(s) (including Senior Championship).

Members who earn 20 points are guaranteed a spot. If places remain, priority will go to members with some participation points over those with none.

In other words, you do not need 20 points to register, and you are not automatically excluded without them. The points simply establish priority for what has become one of the club's most popular events.

Take Your Shot: Scarborough Cup and Shootouts

Qualifying is underway for two of Cedar Brae's most enjoyable competitions: the Scarborough Cup and our Net and Gross Shootouts. The [Ladies' Shootout qualifiers](#) are already underway (next qualifier date is August 11).

The [Scarborough Cup](#) is an annual competition among Cedar Brae, [Scarboro Golf and Country Club](#) and [The Toronto Hunt](#). Each club selects a team through qualifying, with the three clubs taking turns hosting. This year's event will be played at Scarboro—so we would very much like to send a strong Cedar Brae team across the road.

Remaining Scarborough Cup qualifying dates:

July 31, August 12, August 21 and August 23

Scarborough Cup registration and event details:

www.golfgenius.com/ggid/ypklfj/register

The **Net and Gross Shootouts** are held here at Cedar Brae and have become two of our most entertaining competitions. They offer plenty of pressure, friendly rivalry and the rare opportunity for everyone else to enjoy watching another golfer deal with the consequences of a nervous swing.

Remaining Shootout qualifying dates (men):

July 24, August 5, August 16 and August 21

Shootout registration and event details (men):

www.golfgenius.com/ggid/cdq2e9/register

If you haven't already signed up, a one-time entry fee of \$20 gives you the chance to qualify for both events. Your best net round counts toward the Scarborough Cup and Net Shootout, while your best gross round counts toward the Gross Shootout. You do not need to play every qualifying date; one good round may be enough.

These events are more fun—and more meaningful—with a strong field. For \$20, there are several chances to qualify, so sign up and take your shot.

Protecting Handicap Integrity

In the last Captain's Log, I noted that the Handicap Committee would be taking a more active, data-driven approach this season. I am pleased to report that it has done exactly that.

Under the leadership of Florin Ursu, the committee has been extremely active in reviewing concerns, monitoring posting patterns and working closely with Golf Canada to ensure that proper procedures are followed. Florin has done an outstanding job leading this work.

Where legitimate issues have been identified, sanctions have been applied. At the same time, the committee is careful, thorough and firmly data-driven. Decisions are not made on hearsay or isolated results, but through a proper investigative process supported by the available evidence.

Handicap integrity also begins on the course. Under [Rule 1.3 of the World Handicap System](#), players are expected to attempt to make the best score possible on every hole. In practical terms, that means giving each shot your full effort and not treating a poor round—or a hole that has gone sideways—as an opportunity to manufacture a more favourable handicap.

A reminder that all eligible scores *must be posted promptly*. Current, complete scoring records are essential to the integrity of Men's Day, Ladies' Day and every other net competition.

There is more work to do, but the committee has made an excellent start. My thanks to Florin and the entire committee for the time and diligence they continue to bring to this important responsibility.

Busy, But Not Getting Busier

What May and June rounds tell us about demand for the tee

For the past several years, one of the most common conversations around Cedar Brae has been how busy the tee feels. Lottery days and weekend crossovers exist for one simple reason: demand increased.

But are we still getting busier—or have we simply settled into a new, busier normal?

To find out, I reviewed our May and June rounds across the full history available to us.

The long-term answer: rounds are up

No surprise here: from 2015 through 2019, Cedar Brae averaged approximately 8,900 rounds during May and June. From 2022 through 2026, that average increased to approximately 11,200 rounds—an increase of about 26%.

So when members say Cedar Brae feels busier than it did eight or ten years ago, they are not imagining it.

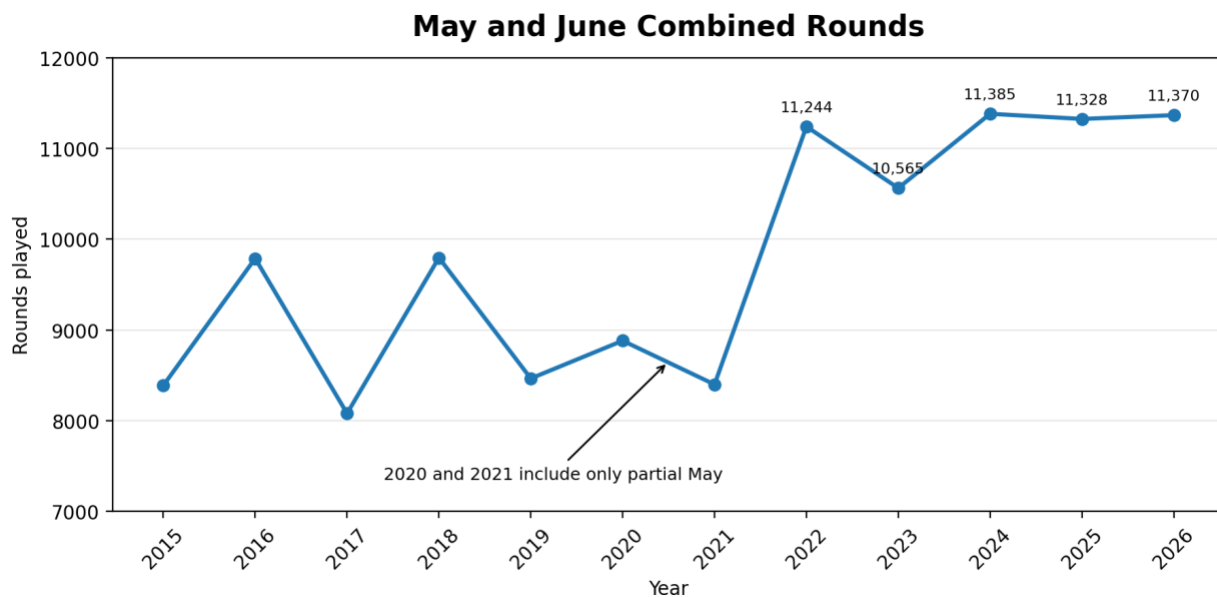


Figure 1. May and June combined rounds. The 2020 and 2021 totals include only partial May data.

The recent answer: we have levelled off

The past five years have ranged from 10,565 to 11,385 rounds. This year's total of 11,370 was up just 0.4% from 2025 and only 15 rounds below the 2024 high.

Across 61 days of golf, a difference of 15 rounds is operationally insignificant. Cedar Brae remains very busy, but the good news is that recent demand has levelled off rather than continued to climb.

Allowing for rain—and for the calendar

Raw totals can mislead. A month with several heavy-rain days will naturally produce fewer rounds than a dry month, and a month with five Saturdays will not behave like one with four. The analysis

therefore identified unusually low-round days as likely rain, closure or limited-availability days, and compared like weekdays with like weekdays.

The long-term increase survives those adjustments. Average rounds per playable day rose from approximately **163** in 2015–2019 to **190** in 2022–2026—an increase of about **17%**. Adjusted demand in 2026 was approximately **2.3% lower** than in 2025—another indication that demand has stabilized.

A note about 2020 and 2021: The data begins May 16 in 2020 and May 22 in 2021 because of delayed openings and restrictions. Those years appear in the chart but are not used in the comparison between 2015–2019 and 2022–2026.

Where did the growth occur?

The increase has not been evenly distributed. On a playable-day basis, Monday rounds are up 26%, Tuesday 24% and Thursday 23%. Wednesday rose in line with the overall trend at 17%, while Friday increased 15%. Saturday and Sunday grew by only about 9% each.

In other words, Cedar Brae’s long-term growth has occurred primarily during the week. Weekend demand was already closer to the practical capacity of the course, leaving less room for additional rounds.

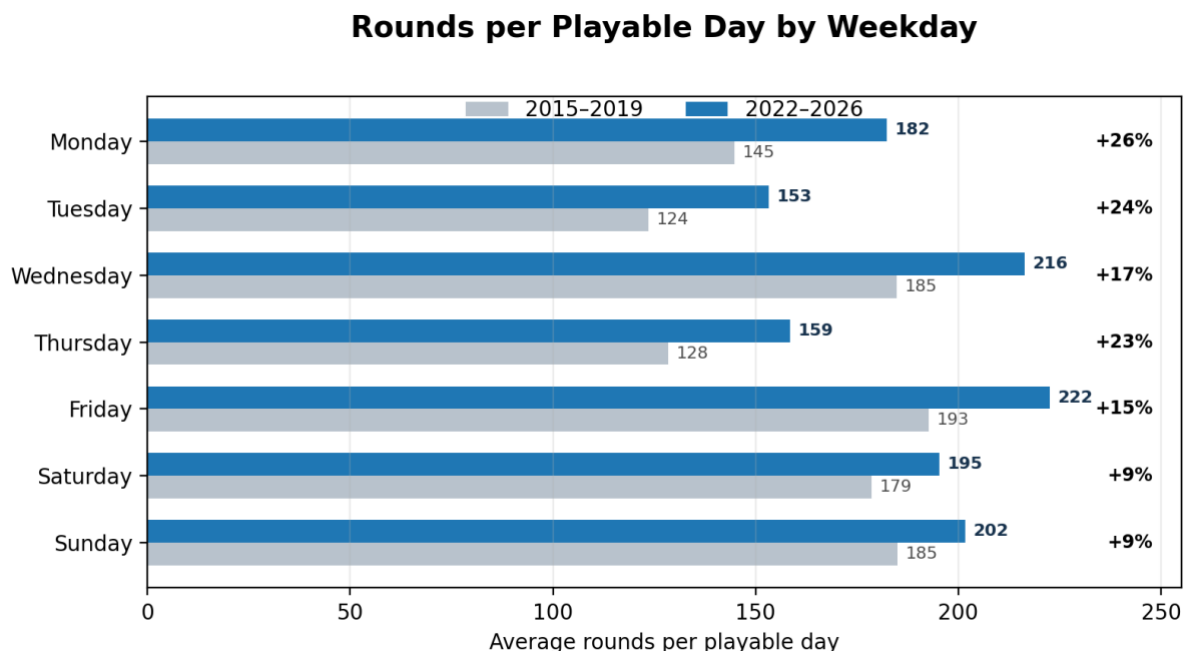


Figure 2. Average rounds per playable day by weekday, excluding unusually low-round days likely affected by weather or course availability.

More recently, most days have levelled off—but Wednesday is the clear exception. From 2022 to 2026, average Wednesday rounds increased another 17%, reaching approximately 229 per playable day. That likely reflects, at least in part, the strong growth in Men’s Day participation following the changes made over the past several years. Friday has also edged higher and remains one of our busiest days.

What it means

Two things can be true at once. Cedar Brae is substantially busier than it was pre-pandemic, and that growth has spread particularly into weekday golf. But overall demand now appears to have reached a high, relatively stable plateau.

That distinction matters as we assess tee access and booking policies. We should manage for the demand that exists today without assuming every full tee sheet means demand is still accelerating. The tee remains busy; the trend line appears to have found a comfortable place to sit.

“Adopt a Hole” is Back!

We all know the basics: repair your [ball marks](#), replace your [divots](#), and rake the [bunker](#) after you’ve played your shot. Yet despite our best efforts, some marks still get left behind. To tackle this, we’re continuing the “Adopt a Hole” initiative from last fall.

Here is how it works: members are grouped by the first letter of their surname and assigned a specific hole. You should, of course, continue to repair your own damage everywhere on the course. But when you reach your adopted hole, we are asking you to do a little extra—repair another ball mark, replace another divot or tidy up something someone else missed. Think of it as a small act of stewardship that adds up to a big improvement across the course.

Check the first letter of your surname against the list below to find your adopted hole. This list is also posted in the changerooms and the large board outside the Pro Shop.

Adopt a Hole Assignments

Find the first letter of your surname below.

			
A: 16	B: 14	C: 9	D: 2 & 11
E, F: 13	G: 1	H: 3	I, O, U, Y, Z: 6
J, P: 8	K: 17	L: 12	M: 5
N, V: 10	R: 4	S: 18	T: 7
			W: 15

It’s a simple idea: if everyone contributes just a little more, the entire course benefits a lot.

Need a quick refresher?

- **Replacing divots:** There’s a right way—and our Superintendent, Darren Little, walks you through it in this short [helpful video](#).
- **Repairing ball marks:** Darren’s got you covered there, too, with a quick demo [here](#) and another one [here](#).

A Small but Serious Reminder About Ticks



Fellow member Jay Granatstein recently shared with me a timely [newspaper article](#) about the growing prevalence of Lyme disease and the importance of protecting ourselves from ticks.

While searching for a golf ball is sometimes unavoidable, members should use caution when entering the wooded, brushy or long-grass areas around the course. Ticks that may carry Lyme disease are commonly found in these environments.

Consider using an insect repellent containing [DEET](#) or [Icaridin](#) and, after your round, check your clothing and body for ticks—particularly if you have ventured off the closely mown areas. Light-coloured clothing also makes ticks easier to spot.

Should you find an attached tick, remove it promptly with fine-tipped tweezers. Consult a healthcare professional if you develop a rash, fever, fatigue, headache, or muscle and joint pain afterward.

A little caution can help ensure that the only unwelcome souvenir from the woods is a lost golf ball.

What's Coming Up

There is plenty more golf ahead, so keep an eye on the updated [Calendar](#) and [Golf Handbook](#). Here's what's upcoming:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

— UPCOMING CEDAR BRAE EVENTS —



EVENT	DATE
1. Junior, Senior (Scratch & Hdcp) & Super Senior Club Championships	Sat Jul 25 - Sun Jul 26
2. Ladies' Mid Season Field Day	Tue Jul 28
3. Club Championship Weekend	Fri Aug 7 - Sun Aug 9
4. Men's Member Guest	Thu Aug 13 - Fri Aug 14
5. Ladies' Tri Club (Sleepy Hollow)	Mon Aug 17
6. Ladies' Solheim Cup	Tue Aug 18
7. Nine & Dine	Sat Aug 22
8. Family Golf Day	Sun Aug 23
9. Ladies' 2-Person Net Scramble	Tue Aug 25
10. Junior Closing Field Day	Sun Aug 30
11. Scarborough Cup	Mon Aug 31
12. Ladies' Better Ball Tournament	Tue Sep 1
13. Men's Beat The Pro	Sat Sep 12
14. Ladies' Closing Field Day & Awards Luncheon	Tue Sep 15
15. Men's Closing Field Day	Sat Sep 19
16. Ladies' Play With The Pro Mystery Bus Tour	Tue Sep 22
17. Ladies & Men's Shoot-Outs	Sat Sep 26
18. Eleanor Nash Cup & Committee Recognition Day	Tue Oct 6
19. Ball Buster	Sat Oct 24

Sign up for any of these events by — [clicking here](#) or contacting the Pro Shop.

Before You Sign the Card

And with the Club Championships approaching, the Tournament and Handicap Committees have prepared a [Notice to Players](#) outlining the proper scoring and scorecard procedures for stroke-play competitions.

Most of it will be familiar: exchange cards with your marker, confirm the gross score after every hole, check the completed card carefully, ensure both the player and marker have certified it, and return it promptly. Familiar or not, these are requirements under Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Golf - not optional formalities - and an error can result in disqualification.

Please take a few minutes to review the complete [Notice to Players](#) before the Club Championships. It will also be posted in the Captain's Corner outside the Pro Shop.



Have Feedback for the Golf Committee?

We welcome all constructive feedback and are committed to addressing your concerns and suggestions in our upcoming committee meetings. If you have ideas on how we can improve the club experience, please let us know. Email me at scott@cedarbraegolf.com, and I'll ensure the committee gets your feedback.

Have Feedback for the President?

Got questions about the Club, committees, or ideas for the future? Brett is more than happy to chat. Email him at president@cedarbraegolf.com to set up a time for coffee and conversation!



Finally, don't forget to follow us on Instagram: [@cedarbraegolf](https://www.instagram.com/cedarbraegolf)