

Murder Is Par For The Course



The
mystery in
which a
hole in one
is a fatal
event

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How to Organize “Murder Is Par For The Course”

Thanks for purchasing this murder mystery. You and your guests will enjoy the challenge of solving a crime that will test everyone’s powers of deduction. Here is what you should do to coordinate your murder mystery event.

STEP 1: Review the materials in this mystery packet. But ... please do it in a very specific way. Remember - you have ALL of the information, *including the solution to the mystery*. If you decide to participate in the mystery as a role player or an investigator, you’ll want to keep yourself in the dark about WHO DONE IT.

All page numbers in this packet are in the upper left-hand corner of the pages as you look at them vertically. That way you can run off the material without having the page numbers interfere with the format. The entire packet includes:

- **Instructions on how to organize the event.** They’re on pages 2 through 5. (You’re reading them right now.)
- **Instructions for the person who will facilitate the event.** Information for the person who will take charge of the murder investigation is on page 6. *If only 6 people are invited to the event, you may want to assign this duty to the person portraying Sandy Trapini.*
- **Role Player Information.** These pages serve as a “cover letter” for the information you’ll send to the *six individuals* who will be in character as the suspects. Run off six copies of pages 7 and 8 back to back. You may want to use better quality stationery for this letter.
- **The Roles.** Pages 9 through 20 contain the information you’ll send with the cover letters. Each role is designed as a two-sided three-panel document. Again, run off this information back to back. *Each role player gets only the information that applies to the role that he or she is playing. Your role players should know ONLY what’s in their individual packets.*
- **The Invitation to the Celebration.** The invitation on page 21 will be sent to each guest. It is designed to be run off as a two-fold. Or, if you decide to use heavier stock, the left side of the page can be run off back-to-back with the right side of the page.
- **Sheriff’s Letter.** The letter on page 22 will be given to each guest by the facilitator upon arrival. Run off enough copies so that each person receives one.
- **Clues about the Crime.** You’ll find 24 clues about the mystery on pages 23 through 25. Cut them out. *Since each guest receives a clue, you can invite up to 24 investigators.*
However, by running off two or three copies of each clue, you can organize a larger event.
- **The Scorecard Newsletter.** Everyone will receive a copy of the Porous Pines Country Club's newsletter, *The Scorecard*, on pages 26 and 27. Run the pages off back to back.
- **Investigative Report.** Each team will receive a copy of the report on page 28. Make one copy for each team.
- **Holin Wunn’s and Birdie Bigelow’s Scorecards.** The official scorecards of the golfers from this morning’s round are on page 29. Run off one copy for each team.
- **The Answer Sheet.** Run off one answer sheet on page 30 for each investigative team.
- **The Denouement.** *This is the solution to the crime.* Run off pages 31 through 34. The facilitator will read these pages at the end of the evening.

STEP 2: Plan your event. Pick a date on which to conduct the murder mystery event. **The**

“action” takes place on the day that Holin Wunn died on the 18th tee at Porous Pines Country Club. The case will take two to two-and-a-half hours to solve using the recommended format. A buffet meal is recommended.

STEP 3: Select your role players. Review the scenario and the brief descriptions of the suspects on page 7. Select guests who would fit into these roles. Send the role players their information **and** a copy of *The Scorecard* (pages 26 and 27) approximately 7 to 10 days before the mystery event. The role players should bring the information with them and use it as a reference when they are questioned by the investigators.

If you have only 6 guests, the role players will also be the investigators. This means you will send the invitations with the roles so that all of the information arrives at the same time.

STEP 4: Invite your guests. In advance of the event, send invitations to the event to the guests who will not be role players.

STEP 5: Select a person to facilitate the investigation. The facilitator should read the *Instructions* on page 6, and review the information in the packet to keep the event moving so that the investigation is conducted effectively.

Here’s what to do at the mystery event.

STEP 6: The facilitator greets the guests. The facilitator gives each guest who is investigating the crime a *Sheriff’s Letter with a Clue attached and The Scorecard Newsletter*. (You can, if you’d like, put them in envelopes marked “Official Information from the Sheriff.”)

If you have only 6 people at the event, and the role players are also investigating the crime, everyone receives a letter. If your event separates the role players from the investigators, then role players DO NOT receive letters. Tell the investigators they can share clues with each other at any time during the evening.

STEP 7: Recollections and comments. The facilitator asks everyone to sit down as the suspects speak to them. Ensure that it is staged in this way:

- Remind everyone that Holin Wunn died this morning while teeing off on the 18th hole. One of the six people who are gathered here committed the crime. They’ve been asked to share their feelings and recollections with everyone.
- *The facilitator asks the six role players to speak in the order indicated on page 6 of the role player instructions.* They read the section headlined, “Say this when asked to speak.”

STEP 8: The investigation starts. The facilitator briefly reviews what happened, including:

- Holin Wunn was 1-up in match play with Birdie Bigelow when he died.
- *Only one person committed the murder.* Five of the suspects will reveal everything. One of the suspects will not be telling the ENTIRE truth and could even be LYING.
- MOTIVE, MEANS and OPPORTUNITY must be considered to solve the case.

STEP 9: Form investigative teams. Have the guests who are investigating the murder form three-to-five-person investigative teams who will work together to solve the case.

STEP 10: Distribute a copy of Wunn's and Bigelow's scorecards. Give one copy of the scorecards on page 29 to each team.

If only 6 people are at the event, you may (at your discretion) form two-person teams who will work together to solve the case.

STEP 11: Break for dinner or refreshments. The teams may trade clues to obtain as much information as possible while they are eating, but they cannot question the suspects yet.

If only 6 people are involved, distribute the remainder of the 24 clues at regular intervals during the meal until all clues have been used.

STEP 12: Continue the investigation. At the end of the meal, tell the teams that it is time to start the investigation again. Each team should find an area to use as an "interrogation room." Give a copy of Bigelow's and Wunn's scorecards to each team.

If only 6 people are present, everyone stays together and one suspect at a time is questioned.

STEP 13: Coordinate the questioning. Have one role player rotate to each interrogation room at seven-minute intervals. If you have fewer than six teams, work out a rotation that gives role players breaks between questioning. The investigators may ask the suspects ANYTHING.

The suspects should use the information provided in the *Role Player Information* to answer the questions. Suspects should *not* withhold any bits of information, but they should not offer information unless the investigators specifically ask for it. Good investigators must ask the right questions to get the correct information.

STEP 14: Distribute the Investigative Report. After the fourth suspect is questioned, give each team a copy of the Investigative Report on page 28.

STEP 15: Conduct open questioning. Place the suspects in different parts of the facility. For a seven-minute period, investigators from any team may go to the suspects and ask final questions. *WARNING: Some investigators will try to pull the suspects back to their teams. Don't permit this.* Several different teams *may* question a suspect at the same time.

With only 6 people, anyone can ask any other role player anything.

STEP 16: Distribute Answer Sheets. Give teams 10 to 12 minutes to write out their solutions by answering the questions on the *Answer Sheet*.

STEP 17: Teams give their solutions. The facilitator asks the questions on the Answer Sheet to each team, one at a time. The teams read the answers exactly as they were written on the

Answer Sheet. *NOTE: Often, a team will want to change its mind after hearing the answers from another team. Don't let this happen.*

If you have only 6 people, each role player (or two-person team of role players) gives an individual solution to the case.

STEP 18: Read “The Denouement.” The facilitator opens the envelope in which “The Denouement” was placed. The facilitator reads it aloud to the guests. It will take 6 to 8 minutes.

STEP 19: Award prizes. You may want to award prizes to the investigative team that did the best job of solving the crime. Let your creativity run wild in selecting the prizes.

Special role player information ...

(The facilitator may want to review these with the suspects prior to the start of the mystery.)

- Because this mystery is crafted with intertwining facts, the role players are provided with an abundance of information that may or may not be used during the investigation. Since the suspects will undergo interrogation by the investigative teams, the extensive number of personal facts will enable them to answer most questions that are asked. If role players are asked questions not specifically addressed in this information, the role players should answer in character based upon the other facts available to them.
- Role players **MUST** read their comments about Holin Wunn exactly as they are written. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** It enables the investigation to begin with the correct data.
- The only relationships that the suspects know about are those written into the roles. If asked by investigators about relationships that are not mentioned in the roles, the suspects should say, “No, we’re not related.”
- All of the suspects are telling the truth with the exception of the murderer whose recollections and responses will contain lies and half-truths – this is intentional and part of the murder investigation.
- Since a good investigator must ask good questions, suspects must only offer information that is asked for by the investigators. They should **NOT** offer information that has not been directly requested.

The murderer **DOES NOT** know he or she committed the crime. This means the suspects don’t have to be good liars. The solution is contained in “The Denouement.”

Fore!

Instructions for the person who will facilitate the event

If you are a role player, then you already have a formal part in the investigation. Your role as facilitator means you will have to stay in character while ensuring that the investigation is conducted effectively.

If you are not one of the six role players, you may want to create your own character and come in costume. You could be, for example, *Lawrence Law*, the Sheriff who signed the letter on page 22. To facilitate the mystery event, do the following:

1. Review all of the information in this packet so that you are familiar with the mystery. **REMEMBER: If you are attempting to solve the crime, do NOT read “The Denouement” in advance. It contains the solution to the case.**
2. As the guests arrive, hand them a copy of the letter, along with a clue and a copy of *The Scorecard*. (The newsletter on pages 26 and 27, NOT the official scorecards on page 29.) Tell them to talk with as many people as they can to acquire information about Holin Wunn.
3. The suspects have been told to arrive 15 minutes early. When they do, take them aside and review the *Special role player information* on page 5. Answer any questions they may have. It will be up to you to get people seated so that the role players can each say a few words about Wunn and their recollections of yesterday.
4. Keep the event moving by following the instructions on pages 2 through 5. Make sure everything happens at the right time.
5. **If you are not one of the role players**, after you read “The Denouement,” lead the guilty party away to jail. If you want to, you can use toy handcuffs to make the arrest. If you want to stage the arrest in this way, let the suspects know you will do this.
6. Take a bow for a job well done!

the last few weeks, he's been using yellow tape to keep people away from certain areas of the course.

Plus, he is trying to renew your romantic relationship, saying he never got over you. He proclaimed he would do anything for you. You smiled, but didn't respond.

The match teed off today at 9am. You saw Nemo Brandt walk toward the first tee dressed in Holin Wunn golf gear. **Strangely, it looked like he was carrying two golf umbrellas even though it was a bright, sunny day.** You made a few comments to the national press, but weren't in the gallery because you were in your office in the country club taking care of some last-minute details, including publication of "The Scorecard."

Plus, you've never been able to watch Wunn play golf because it makes you think of Moose's death.

You assigned several people to cover the match and take photos. You planned to be on the 18th green to watch the final putts. A Sadasi Sports ad promoting Holin Wunn Golf Gear would be in the publication.

You were able to keep track of the match via reports from the club's staff. When you heard that the golfers were approaching the 16th tee, you stepped out a side door. It was a beautiful sunny day without a hint of a cloud in the sky. **You were gone from your office for about 15 minutes.**

When you returned, Macon Green was there. He looked exhausted. He said the match had reached the 16th green and he needed to relax. He said, his work was done. The two of you talked for about 30 minutes, then you said you needed to leave to watch the end of the match. That's when you heard the commotion.

You looked out your window as Wunn was carried into the clubhouse. You ran over to the scene as he was placed on a couch and medical personnel pronounced him dead. In the flurry of activity, no one had taken any photos, so you had to go with an old picture on the front page of "The Scorecard?"

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Say this when asked to speak:

As president of Porous Pines Country Club, let me say how sorry I am that this historic match had to end this way. Even though he didn't have many friends here, we all knew what a great golfer Holin Wunn was.

He took his first club championship at Porous Pines 12 years ago after the tragic death of my husband, Moose Trapini. None of us will ever forget Moose. He was a fantastic golfer and the love of my life. *(Sniff and start to cry, then take a deep breath and continue speaking.)*

As you may recall, I made a few opening remarks when the match teed off at 9am. I wasn't in the gallery, but I planned on being on the 18th green as the whole thing ended.

I never got to there, though, because I was in my office when Wunn was carried into the clubhouse. I was told he'd collapsed on the 18th tee. I don't know what could have happened. Maybe he had some sort of secret medical condition. Investigators tell me a report will be issued soon with more details about his death.

One thing I'm certain of - his passing will affect a lot of people. Now, I guess Birdie Bigelow is the resident champion here.

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Sandy Trapini
President, Porous Pines Country Club

You, **Sandy Trapini**, are the president of the Porous Pines Country Club, a position you were elected into by the club's membership two years ago. Most people only serve in that position for a year, but you like the attention and power that comes along with the title, and your supporters re-elected you. **You were born "Sandra Beech," and married into the wealthy Trapini family 27 years ago when you were 21 years old.**

Your parents are now deceased, but they would be proud of you if they could see what you've accomplished. After all, they barely scraped out a living running a corner store. Now, you are a wealthy widow with more money and prestige than they could ever have dreamed of.

You have always had an affinity toward athletes and have read the sports page avidly. In high school, you met someone else who could quote every stat in the book - especially the ones about golf. **His name was Macon Green. The two of you became an "item," and everyone assumed you'd be together for life. That's when Mike "Moose" Trapini entered the picture.**

Macon and you were in the gallery at a high school golf tournament between your high school, City Central, and the exclusive high-class high school from the other side of town, Pines Academy. "Moose" was the star of the Pines Academy golf team and it was love at first sight. You made a point of meeting him after the match which was won by the Academy thanks to Moose's golf skills. **After that, you were inseparable.**

Moose's parents, Cautina and Shooten Trapini, owned Trapini Investments, LLC, the company that had purchased the land and developed Porous Pines Country Club. They accumulated a fortune in land dealings and Moose was their only child.

The two of you dated throughout college and were married a month after you graduated. A year later, your only child, Rita, was born. She is now married and living in another state.

You had an idyllic life. When his parents died, Moose

inherited the investment company. He spent most of his time on the golf course at Porous Pines, though. All of this changed 12 years ago. **That's when an arrogant new member of the country club, Holin Wunn, came on the scene.**

Moose had been the club champion for many years, but Wunn was certain he could take the title away. Wunn confidently proclaimed this to everyone. **Moose confided in you that Wunn was very good and might be able to beat him.** With the annual tournament only a few weeks away, Moose worked in a few extra rounds of golf to hone his skills.

It was during one of those rounds that a sudden storm came up. Moose was intent on finishing it. The shiny metallic driver that he was swinging made a perfect lightning rod. **He was struck by lightning and died on the 18th tee,** leaving you a widow with a child and a substantial fortune.

Two weeks after Moose's funeral, Wunn became the new club champion. **You couldn't help but feel that Moose wouldn't even have been on the course that day were not for Wunn's arrogance.**

Because of his golfing skills, Wunn attracted quite a following among the members at Porous Pines. This irked you to no end. Plus, he had a tendency to date a string of women and never make a commitment. **That's how you met Carrie Bagshot about a year after Moose died.**

Wunn dated her and brought her to the club for about six months before the inevitable - they split up due to his opinion that men were superior to women. **You took a liking to her, and the two of you discussed your mutual dislike of Wunn.**

Carrie was a good amateur golfer, but didn't have the money to pay the club's high membership fees. You wondered if she'd ever caddied. She hadn't, but was willing to give it a try. **So, for the last decade, she's been honing her golf skills while learning the ins and out of Porous Pines.**

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The best-recognized caddies at Porous Pines are members of the Klubs family. **Token Klubs, in fact, was hired by Holin Wunn to be his personal caddie at tournaments.** Now that Wunn is the regional men's champion, Klubs has also gained notoriety. Token's cousin, **Wooden Klubs is also a caddie at the club.**

The Klubses are a bit arrogant about their knowledge of golf. Token Klubs, in particular, has a reputation for being aloof. To you, it would seem like **Klubs and Wunn would definitely have a personality clash.**

And then, someone from your past appeared on the scene. It was your old flame, **Macon Green.** You'd lost track of him through the years and, when he unexpectedly showed up at Porous Pines, **you used your influence to help him find employment.** Green had become an expert greenskeeper, and an opening existing at Porous Pines. **So, for the last 10 years, Green has been responsible for keeping the course in world-class condition.**

Last year, a new opportunity popped up. **You found out that pro Birdie Bigelow needed a caddie.** You were certain that Carrie would be perfect for her. She was hired and, since then, Carrie and Birdie have forged a great relationship. Birdie easily defeated all comers to become the women's regional champ.

Sandy Trapini

And, Holin Wunn, was constantly in the news. His interview in "Tee It Up" magazine last year showed his true attitude. He proclaimed male golfers to be far superior to their female counterparts and that he'd never allow a woman to outdo him. **This sexist opinion infuriated Birdie and she was determined to prove him wrong on the golf course,** trouncing him in match play. You were all for this and told Birdie of your past experience with Wunn.

Wunn avoided Birdie after the article was published - probably to forego the possibility of being embarrassed. **But, three months ago, for an unknown reason, he agreed to the match.** Birdie was ecstatic. The date was set and a press release was issued.

The word was out that Sadasi Sports Gear, a German company owned by **Nemo Brandt, was developing a**

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new line of golf gear with Wunn's name on it. The company's logo, the "Sheesh," had helped propel the company to world prominence. **Birdie felt that she deserved this honor much more than did Wunn.** Wunn signed a promotional contract with Sadasi five years ago.

Two months ago, an unforeseen opportunity arose. A man was waiting for you when you arrived at Porous Pines. He was wearing dark glasses and a hat pulled down over his eyes. He removed his hat and glasses and introduced himself as **Genrik Brandt, president of Keenie Sports, a new company that was making inroads in the sports gear marketplace.** You'd heard about him.

He'd recently split with his brother, Nemo, to form a rival company. He asked that your conversation be confidential and wanted your opinion about Birdie Bigelow. He said he was signing sports figures to new promotional contracts and Birdie was in his sights.

Then **Nemo Brandt** also appeared on the scene. **He was at the club to place an ad in the Porous Pines newsletter, "The Scorecard," and to talk with the media about the match.** You spotted him in the "19th Hole" lounge talking with Wunn.

When Wunn left, you told Nemo Brandt that it was Bigelow who should have her own line of sports gear. In fact, **you revealed she was attracting the attention of a rival sports gear manufacturer, but you weren't at liberty to say who it was.**

Sandy Trapini

Macon Green has become one of the premier greenskeepers in the nation. **Now, he is a finalist for the coveted "Greenskeeper of the Year" award from "Tee It Up" magazine.** But, a wrench has been thrown into his candidacy. **Lately, the course has become the victim of an infestation of gophers.** New gopher holes seemed to be popping up daily. Macon is doing everything he can to fight the pests, working overtime when necessary. You often see him on the course with tools and rodenticide trying to get things under control. **For**

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Your Clue #1

Carrie Bagshot has a particular interest in the famous Sadasi "Sheesh." Her parents, **Plastique** and **Landry Bagshot**, owned the advertising agency that designed the logo for **Nemo** and **Genrik Brandt** when they started their company 20 years ago.

Your Clue #2

You've heard from people who know that **Sandy Trapini** and **Macon Green** were high school sweethearts and it looked to everyone that they would end up married. However, Sandy was swept off her feet by **Mike "Moose" Trapini** and the two were wed. Some people say Macon still carries a torch for Sandy.

Your Clue #3

Toten Klubs isn't the only member of the family who caddies at Porous Pines. Toten's first cousin, **Wooden**, is also a caddie. The two of them have been close friends their entire lives.

Your Clue #4

You've heard rumors that **Birdie Bigelow** is being courted as a spokesperson by at least two sports gear companies. If she wins the match with Wunn, it could be worth millions.

Your Clue #5

Holin Wunn's promotional contract with Sadasi Sports Gear expires in a few weeks and, so you've heard, Wunn is holding out for a lot more money. Now that **Nemo Brandt** has invested in a premier line of golf gear with Wunn's name on it, Sadasi could be left holding the bag unless Wunn signs a new deal.

Your Clue #6

It was **Sandy Trapini** who suggested that **Carrie Bagshot** become a caddie at Porous Pines. The two of them took a liking to each other while Carrie was dating one of the members over a decade ago. Since then, Carrie has become an expert at reading the nuances of the Porous Pines course.

Your Clue #7

During a recent round of golf at Porous Pines, you couldn't help but notice that a lot of the course was blocked off with yellow tape. You wondered why greenskeeper **Macon Green** was keeping people out of these areas.

Your Clue #8

Although she has been at Porous Pines Country Club since **Holin Wunn** became a member 12 years ago, **Sandy Trapini** has never been in the gallery at any of his tournaments. It's as if she can't stand to watch him play golf.

THE SCORECARD



Official Newsletter of the Porous Pines Country Club

Wunn Wiffs One Hole Away From Historic Win

Controversial Champ Chortles Final "Fore"

The long-awaited match between women's regional champion Birdie Bigelow and men's regional champion Holin Wunn reached a tragic ending this morning when Wunn collapsed and died as he was teeing off on the 18th hole. Wunn, who had trailed Bigelow most of the day, had gone ahead by one stroke when he sank a short putt on the 17th green.

Wunn then took a short break between the 17th green and the 18th tee to get out of the sun and drink some water. Spectators report that he was jittery and sweating profusely as he lined up his tee shot. Then, as his driver reached the zenith of its arc, he suddenly keeled over and collapsed. He was transported to the club house where medical personnel pronounced him dead.

This "battle of the sexes" was the direct result of an interview published last year in "Tee It Up" magazine in which Wunn declared that men are far superior to women as golfers and that he would use his influence to ensure that women would never compete in men's tournaments. Bigelow reportedly took offense at this and challenged Wunn to a head-to-head match. Wunn had repeatedly told reporters, "no comment," before agreeing to the match three months ago.

Since then, Porous Pines has been



The 18th tee at Porous Pines Country Club where Holin Wunn collapsed this morning. (This photo from club files was taken three weeks ago.)

the focus of a lot of attention. Both champions are members of the country club, and tensions have run high as fans of both golfers had their say. Bigelow's long-term caddie, Carrie Bagshot, was very vocal before the start of the match this morning, saying, "Someone needs to show Wunn that he can't treat women the way he does. I have no doubt that Birdie will do just that," she smiled. "In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if his own caddie, Toten Klubs, is secretly rooting for Birdie."

Klubs, known as a man of few words, rushed by reporters and said nothing. It's been rumored for many months that the relationship between

Weather perfect for Wunn's fateful finale

The skies were blue and sunny without the hint of a cloud as Holin Wunn and Birdie Bigelow teed off for their round of golf this morning.

Club president Sandy Trapini said, "If you were in the gallery, the only thing you wanted was sun block and a little shade.

"Great weather has always been a hallmark of playing at Porous Pines," she stated. "At least the world got a chance to see our course basking in the bright sun. Too bad about Wunn's death. It sort of spoiled things."

Continued on back page