



The Osprey

November 2022

Black Hall Club
Old Lyme, Connecticut



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANTHONY C. STRATIDIS

president@blackhallclub.com



On behalf of the Board of Governors, members, and staff at Black Hall, I wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mike Sheehan and Curt Clemens for their 9 years of service to our club and announce our 2 newly elected Board members, Tammy Sparrow and Scott Farrell.

Our course is consistently recognized throughout our region as one of the finest championship level courses. This was proven once again by the "high marks" Black Hall received during the USGA's visits this year to evaluate our overall conditions. More initiatives are underway to continue to improve the conditions at Black Hall Club to further enhance our golfing experience.

Black Hall Club has always been a committee run organization by members who have donated their time and talent in service to their fellow members. If you are not already engaged as a committee member, I strongly encourage you to do so. Please see the following list of board members, officers, and committee chairpersons.

With the holidays coming up, please consider doing your shopping locally - especially in the Golf Shop! Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! 

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



OFFICERS

- Anthony C. Stratidis President
- Henry Amdur Vice President
- Lee Ann Palladino Treasurer
- Rich Bacci Asst. Treasurer
- Tom Degnan Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Henry Amdur | Richard Bacci |
| Steph Brodeur | Tom Degnan |
| Scott Farrell | Ian Featherstone |
| John Jensen | Lee Ann Palladino |
| Richard Paterson | Martin Smith |
| Tammy Sparrow | Anthony C. Stratidis |

CHAIRPERSONS

- Executive Committee..... Anthony C. Stratidis
- Finance Committee..... Lee Ann Palladino
- Green Committee Tom Degnan
- Golf Committee..... Rich Paterson
- Men's Golf Committee Mike Montanaro
- Women's Golf Committee . Pat Ermler
- Membership Committee ... Steph Brodeur
- House Committee Tammy Sparrow
- Long Range Planning..... John Jensen
- Memorial Committee..... Curt Clemens
- Carl G. Anderson Randy Clegg

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

LEE ANN PALLADINO treasurer@blackhallclub.com

I'm pleased to report that we have finished last fiscal year with strong finances that enabled the club to make significant investment in the club's equipment and facilities. The highlights of last fiscal year include:



- Income surplus of \$338 thousand as a result of reaching full membership and receiving higher than anticipated dues and initiation fees.
- Operating expenses were slightly over budget by \$25 thousand due to inflationary pressures
- An operating surplus of \$313 thousand was generated last fiscal year.
- The board of governors utilized this surplus and a small amount of reserves to buy equipment (2 fairway mowers) and improve our facilities (work was done on the outside of the club house and other facilities) in the amount of \$400 thousand.



The Board of Governors reviewed and approved this fiscal year's budget, which was up 15% over last year given the increased prices associated with fuel, chemicals, food and other goods and services that have been impacted by inflation. Therefore, the Board determined that in order to meet our budgetary expenses, dues will be increased by 5%. This will result in a \$362 annual increase for family memberships, \$260 for single memberships, \$130 for Associates and Seniors, and \$28 for Osprey.

During budget deliberations the focus was on operating performance to smoothly run the club, fulfilling ongoing capital needs, remaining debt free, and maintaining a healthy cash reserve for larger projects and emergency needs. All of these goals were met with the new fiscal year budget, and I look forward to keeping you apprised as the new year unfolds.



HOUSE

RICHARD BACCI

housechair@blackhallclub.com



The dining room is now closed for the season. Again, many **THANKS** to Kathy Lane & her staff!

A reminder to use the golf shoe cleaners before entering the clubhouse, especially when the course has had a good amount of rain.

Another reminder that all lockers must be emptied no later than December 31st to allow for our annual cleaning. Lockers will be available for next season come March 1, 2022, upon payment of the annual locker fee (\$45, shoe locker; \$80, half locker).

As the year comes to a close, please feel free to pass along your suggestions for the upcoming season. For your convenience, a drop box is located outside the office door for suggestions & payments. You may also email me at the above address.

GOLF CHAIRMAN – RICH PATERSON

The fall season often brings perfect golf weather and outstanding conditions on the course. The growing season is close to over which means that damage to the course will struggle to heal. This means it's even more important to pay attention to divots being replaced and ball marks fixed. Also while carts are still available please stay away from wet areas and maintain the proper distance around greens.

The grass area of the practice range is now closed and play from mats will depend on the weather and staff availability. However the indoor practice facility will be opening in November. This dual net practice area has been very popular the last two seasons. There is an additional fee for the indoor practice area and members must register for its use through the pro shop. Reserving use of the nets is done through an easy to use scheduling app that you can download to your phone.

DON'T FORGET ONE FINAL EVENT IN NOVEMBER, "THE 4-CLUB CLASSIC," November 12.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT: 2022**



NEW MEMBER ACTIVITIES

During the past fiscal year, 163 membership inquiries have been answered. Thirty-three of those inquiries are now new members of Black Hall, with twenty additional on the various waitlists. An acceptance rate of approximately 32.5%.

Of the 53 new or waitlist members, 35 were introduced through current members, ~66%. Our best marketing tool remains our current members and, therefore, we are reinstating the voucher program; propose a new member and receive a voucher for 3 Guests & 2 carts.

Black Hall’s fiscal year began on October 1st, if there is someone you know considering membership, you might want to advise them to join ASAP as our fiscal year will allow them to enjoy great conditions during this year’s Indian Summer.



We continue to give all our new members the welcome basket we created last year.

The 3-year payment plan introduced last year continues with a handling fee of 10% on the bond portion for the 2nd and 3rd payments.

MARKETING

Due to the number of incoming members, the Membership Committee did not deem it necessary to spend the marketing budget to pursue further interest in Black Hall. Black Hall is at capacity with both a Regular and Associate waitlist for the first time in many years.

**CURRENT MEMBERS
COMMUNICATIONS**

In an effort to keep our members informed of important information and events here at Black Hall, we continue to utilize the following avenues to “get the word out”: Informative



emails, Osprey Newsletter, Text Messages, and Facebook Private Group Old Bogey.



RESIGNATIONS

Twenty-one members have resigned since this time last year. However, two were already part of our Osprey program, three were regular memberships moved to Osprey, and four were Associate Members.



WEBSITE

The BHC website is a valuable tool for member information. In addition to many other attributes, it includes our club calendar, full dining menu with take-out number, you can access a member directory with email addresses and also a PDF of our own Yearbook with addresses and phone numbers.

Thank you to all who served on the Membership Committee this past season!

The following have been proposed for Membership:

<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDRS</u>
Caius Mergy	TBD	TBD
Peter Machnik	TBD	TBD

INVITATION TO “A” WAITLIST

- Fred Hedberg
- Geoffrey LaMarche
- Marc Mascola
- Craig Thompson

NEW MEMBERS!

Black Hall would like to extend a sincere welcome to the following new member:

- Ben Tarlov
- Joseph Worthen



Happy Thanksgiving!

2022 Greens Committee Annual Report



2022 was our second year of moving the fairways towards faster and firmer conditions at Black Hall and year two was quite different from year one. Drought conditions this year tested our emphasis on hand watering. The results were fantastic! Our initial concerns of a loss of fairway and rough turf were not a concern at all. Minimal impacts to the rough and practically no loss of turf in the fairways, was evidence of a lot of hard work by our staff this year and the membership seemed to agree. There were plenty of positive comments by members and guests about the conditions at Black Hall this year.

Another big change to our maintenance program this year included two new fairway mowers with the addition of grooming brushes that increased the practice of grooming our fairways from twice a month to three times a week. The Green Committee's budget had a new fairway mower identified for 2023, but supply chain challenges made timely equipment purchases impossible and the likelihood of obtaining this equipment in 2023 was not certain. Black Hall's long-standing relationship with Toro, provided us with a great opportunity this year. Toro offered us 2 new fairway mowers with grooming brushes being used at this year's US Open and we jumped on it. The Board acted quickly and approved the expenditure, bringing the expense for 2023 and a second budgeted mower for 2024, forward into this year, showing their commitment to improving playing conditions on the course. The improvement of our fairways has been very noticeable by the membership. Next, we will be looking at adding grooming equipment to our approach mowers and continue the push towards better fairway conditions.



Our biggest project this year was the improvement to the 14th tee, adding a back, elevated tee consistent with the Tee committee's recommendations. While there has been discussion about adding back tees to a few holes in the future, at this time, all our planned tee improvements are now complete.

Bunker improvements were completed this year on the 14th and 15th holes and are planned again for this winter. We will continue to upgrade 3 to 6 bunkers per year in-house and use the waste material taken out of the bunkers for fill around the course covering rocks or roots.

Tree removal work has been slowing over the last couple year, but will continue, focusing on removing trees around the course that impact air flow and sun, as recommended by the USGA and the Green Committee. Tree root pruning has been added to our maintenance practices this past year with the purchase of a tow-behind root pruner. This has had a noticeable improvement on drought-stressed turf near trees that no longer have to compete for water and nutrients with the surrounding trees.

Finally, the USGA made it back out the Black Hall for an end of the season visit in September to assess the conditions after this year's drought and their conclusion was, we had an extremely successful year. I hope you all agree.

I would like to thank Phil, Chris, our entire crew. and the Green Committee for their hard work, participation and input throughout the year and the Board for commitment to improving the quality of playing conditions at Black Hall and the timely approval of the resources necessary to help our staff get it done.

Thank you.

Tom Degnan, Chairman



GOLF PRO'S REPORT

ANDREW CAMPBELL pro@blackhallclub.com



Don't put those club away yet!! There are always plenty of gorgeous days in November to play golf and be outdoors! We hope one of those days will include our annual **Four Club Classic** on Saturday, November 12th. Nine holes, four clubs, LOTS of fun!! This is a 1:00pm shotgun on the front nine with drinks, snacks and prizes to follow golf. Sign up in the golf shop as a group or by yourself and we will pair you up!

Having our artificial turf on our practice tee allows us to extend the range season. The range will be open at least through Sunday, November 20th from the mat. Carts will also be available until then. Enjoy Black Hall in November!

Our bag room staff & services are finished for the season; if your clubs and carts are still in the basement, please plan to bring them home on your next visit. *THANK YOU!*

MEN'S GOLF



OCTOBER MEMBER-GUEST RESULTS

"1-2-3" Friday, October 7th

BEST 2 OF 4 NET

1st Tony Stratidis, Tony Ponte, Greg DeMichiel, & Chris Gagne 120

2nd John DeMarsilis, Calvin DeMarsilis, Shawn Lawton, & Dom Palmieri 123

BEST 2 OF 4 GROSS

1st JC Flaherty, Matt Lindauer, Joe Covill, & Bill McKiegan 140

MEN'S CLOSING DAY RESULTS

"2 of 4 Shamble" Saturday, October 15th

1st Todd Lake, Mike Palladino, Mark Powers, & Paul Dunphy 123

2nd Tom Degnan, Jim O'Leary, Scott Chasse, & Rich Bacci 124

3rd Jim Hamsher, Tom Impelliteri, Mike Ganey, & John Madsen 127



NOVEMBER GOLF REMINDERS

**** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th ****

- PRACTICE RANGE CLOSSES

WE ARE NOW OPERATING ON LIMITED STAFF & THE BAG ROOM IS CLOSED.

- If you use the putting or chipping green, please retrieve your own balls

2022



SEASON-LONG PRO-MEMBER

Thank you for playing with us; we look forward to playing with all of you next year!

MEN'S/MIXED GOLF

GROSS

1st Marty Smith, Scott Venditto, Eric Moore, & CARTER 124



NET

1st John Giacchetto, Kelly Rainey, Lynn Giacchetto, & CARTER 129

2nd Keith Kreit, Jeff Mehler, Rob Hougrand, & BRIAN 133



WOMEN'S GOLF

1st Lee Ann Palladino, Mary Featherstone, Tammy Sparrow, & BRIAN 124

2nd Beth Rodgers, Betsy Lomas, Joan Flynn, & BRIAN 127

Coming Events

OPEN TO ALL!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

Fall Four Club Classic

1:00PM Shotgun; 9 holes





GOLF PRO'S REPORT, CONT.

ANDREW CAMPBELL pro@blackhallclub.com



GOLF SHOP NEWS

NOVEMBER SAVINGS

Save an additional 20-40% on select men's and women's clothing
Get a jump on some holiday buying!

The golf shop is still stocked with many great items heading into the holidays and we hope that you consider us as an option for some of your holiday gift buying. We will continue to provide personal services including special orders, shipping items out to others and gift wrapping.

Easy & Affordable!

GOLF SHOP ONLINE

Reminder! You may now shop for Black Hall logoed items on our website!

Access the link by going to www.blackhallclub.com, hover over "GOLF" on the top menu and then choose "SHOP ONLINE." You may also access the online shop *from the golf shop page* OR *by scrolling down the homepage* to another link where you see a picture of the shop.



A cure for those cold-weather golf blues....

WINTER INDOOR PRACTICE AREA



- 2 indoor hitting bays set up in the dining room
- Winter Season Membership available
- Facilities open Nov. 1st-Apr. 1st
- Hours of operation: Daily, 9AM-4PM
- Launch monitor will be available
- Lessons with Andrew available upon request
- You may reserve your time in advance

YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ORDER TO USE THE NETS!

To sign up or for info:
Call or visit us in the golf shop
OR email Andrew: pro@blackhallclub.com



"I awoke this morning in devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."

~R.W. Emerson



NOVEMBER GOLF SHOP HOURS



Mondays: 11am - 4pm

Tuesday - Sunday: 8am - 4pm

The practice range (Inside & Out) will close at 4PM. Carts should be returned at this time as well!



You are ALL cordially invited!

Holiday PARTY



SATURDAY | 10 | DECEMBER
1PM-4PM | 2022

Black Hall GOLF SHOP

Please join us for an afternoon of wine, drinks, music, hors d'oeuvres

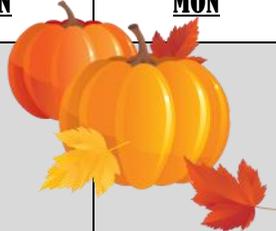
& holiday cheer!

Mark your calendars;
we would love to see you!!



NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	GOLF COURSE & RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	8	9	10	11	12 FALL FOUR CLUB CLASSIC 1:00PM SHOTGUN 9 HOLES
13	GOLF COURSE & RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	15	16	17	18	19
20  PRACTICE RANGE CLOSES FOR THE SEASON	GOLF COURSE & RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	22	23	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	25	26
27	GOLF COURSE & RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	29	30	SAVE THE DATE! GOLF SHOP HOLIDAY PARTY SATURDAY, DEC 10TH 1:00-4:00PM 		



COURTESY OF SKIP HUBBARD

