



# The Osprey

APRIL 2020



*Black Hall Club  
Old Lyme, Connecticut*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**CURT CLEMENS** [president@blackhallclub.com](mailto:president@blackhallclub.com)

As you have read in our recent email updates, the Board and staff are doing everything possible to provide for your safety at Black Hall. You must do your part by adhering to the rules and recommendations that we are temporarily operating under. We will keep you updated on any changes that may occur.

Planning is underway to provide an excellent season of golf and related activities at Black Hall once we are able to resume full operations.

A special thank you to our staff and committee members for all the extra work and effort that they have been doing during this trying period.

*"One thing that golf teaches you is humility."* ~Robert Wagner



## In Memoriam

ζ **Mercedes Stanners**

ζ **Larry Doyle**

*"A great soul serves everyone all the time.  
A great soul never dies. It brings us together  
again and again."* ~Maya Angelou



## ALL ABOUT THE GREENS

**TOM DEGNAN** [greenchair@blackhallclub.com](mailto:greenchair@blackhallclub.com)

Now that the course is back open, but with new rules, please remember to avoid touching the flag stick. Reports are that there are still members removing the flag stick when they putt. Currently we are raising the cup so the ball bounces off rather than going into the hole. When we start mowing the greens, we will not be able to leave the cup raised. Instead we will leave it flush with the ground, which will allow balls to bounce or roll through the cup. While we realize this is not ideal, there are a lot of aspects of the golf game that are not ideal at this time, but we can at least be thankful that the course is open.



The cancellation of the 4-Ball tournament in late April and the unprecedented warm weather may allow us to aerate the greens early this year. This will allow the healing process to get under way and lead to better greens sooner in the season. I am not sure when it will occur, but we will be watching the weather and will send notification out when we pick a date. Lastly, there will be a lack of sand on the course to fill divots until we are past the virus restrictions, so it is more important than ever to replace ALL your divots. Please be considerate of the other golfers and remember this.

## MEMBERSHIP

WE ARE ON TWITTER, FB, & INSTAGRAM!

### TONY STRATIDIS

membership@blackhallclub.com

I hope this message finds every member in good health. We all wish the golf season was in full swing but, following the safety guidelines, we can still get out and enjoy our course.

Although we are restricted to members only play, now is the time to think of family, friends and coworkers who would love the opportunity to be a member at Black Hall. Playing golf at Black Hall remains a quiet sanctuary where our members can get out and enjoy one of their favorite parts of life.

We are still accepting membership applications during this time. If you have any questions about membership, please reach out to a member of the Membership Committee or Moira (membership@blackhallclub.com)



*The following individuals have been proposed for Membership:*

#### CANDIDATE

M. Peter Feicht

#### PROPOSER

Tony Stratidis

#### SECONDER

Brian Abely  
Jack Ready

#### CANDIDATE

Jack Murphy

#### PROPOSER

Alex Romeo

#### SECONDER

Tony Stratidis  
Rich Paterson

#### CANDIDATE

Edward Freeman

#### PROPOSER

Jonathan Pope

#### SECONDER

Rob Tyler  
Ryan Zrenda

## The 19th Hole



## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

MIKE SHEEHAN treasurer@blackhallclub.com

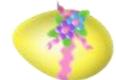


I hope you are all safe and healthy during these difficult times.

As we are now half-way through our fiscal year, our revenues and expenses are tracking well with our budget. That being said, we realize that the coming months will likely create some financial challenges for the remainder of this fiscal year and next.

I'll be working with our staff and the Finance Committee to explore, and when appropriate, apply for financial assistance that may be available to the Club on the State and Federal levels. Much of this is brand new legislation, and there are many questions and much uncertainty. However, we intend to do all that we can to maintain the strong financial condition that Black Hall and its members have always enjoyed.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me.



## HOUSE

### LEE ANN PALLADINO

housechair@blackhallclub.com



We appreciate your continued understanding during these difficult times.

The Clubhouse is presently closed to members and the opening of the dining room is on hold until further notice.



Rest assured we are taking this opportunity to thoroughly clean the clubhouse and to complete many projects.

When the doors eventually open, you will notice that the outside scoreboard decking has been replaced, lighting in the locker room has been updated, and the hallways, doors and ceilings have been painted. And of course, we will be unveiling our new patio furniture.

Until then, we hope that you all stay safe and healthy and we will be ready for your return.



# GOLF PRO'S REPORT

ANDREW CAMPBELL pro@blackhallclub.com



We have never seen a month like March in all of our lives and I hope April is a bit less memorable to say the least. As we have cancelled all our events until mid May, we are still planning and preparing for an enjoyable season as we are afforded. When the “light turns green,” our staff will be ready to go!

As April begins and the clubhouse is forced to be closed, I am getting inquiries about meeting the needs of some of our members. This is generally a busy time in the golf shop with new arrivals of clothing, equipment and the like. A bit different these days, but I am responding to emails and soon I will send out some more information on how we can serve the membership from a “closed” golf shop.

Additionally, our Titleist Loyalty Promotion is happening once again this Spring, details and ordering information are coming soon in an email.



Stay safe and don't hesitate to reach out by email if there is anything you might need. Strange times, let me know if I can help in any way.

## THE POSITIVE PARADIGM

### + EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Grandchildren are reconnecting with their grandparents all over the world as the younger teaches the older generation how to Houseparty and Zoom.

Younger generations are realizing that socialization & people physically present in their every day lives actually matter. OMG! There's more to life than Instagram "likes"!?

Parents are seeing teenagers they haven't seen in months. "Honey, do you know who these children are?" "No idea. I thought you knew."

That crazy coworker who smells like cats, taps her pencil and reads out loud while working? Yup. You don't have to see her for awhile! (but maybe you kind of miss her....)

Neighbors are learning about neighbors. "I never even knew they HAD a dog, Marge! Unless they're walking someone else's dog at 2:45pm every day now.....I'll write it in the log."

You may never have to put on pants again. Video conference call from the waist up, groceries delivered to your door, only family & your dog at home.....

"Working" from home can be done from the golf course. AND your spouse is happier the more time you spend there!

### IF YOU NEED A LAUGH.....

(courtesy of Bill McNamara's Golf Book)

Fred, playing as a single, was teamed with a twosome. Eventually, they asked why he was playing by himself on such a beautiful day.

"My dear wife and I played this course together for over 30 years but this year she passed away. I kept the tee time in her memory."

The twosome were touched at the thoughtfulness of the gesture but one asked him why no one from among her friends and family was willing to take her spot.

"Oh," responded Fred, "they're all at the funeral."



A small, private plane was flying over southwest Florida when all of a sudden the engine died, miles away from the airport.

The pilot turned to his wife and said, "Don't worry, honey, there are dozens of golf courses in this area. I'll just land on the next one I see."

To which his wife replied, "What do you mean 'don't worry'!? I've seen you play. You'll never hit the fairway!"

*Lots of time to golf these days! But just in case you need something else to fill your day..... A few CT STATE PARKS*

#### FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK, GROTON, CT

Revolutionary War history, site of the 1781 massacre led by traitor Benedict Arnold

#### HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK, WATERFORD, CT

Panoramic view of LI Sound, Harkness mansion, acres of lawns, stately trees & spectacular gardens.



#### ROCKY NECK STATE PARK, EAST LYME, CT

Sandy beach, picnic areas, numerous hiking trails & open walking areas.