

THE OSPREY



The official newsletter of Black Hall Club



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President's Message

Tony Stratidis, president@blackhallclub.com

There is no better indication that we are about to begin a great new golf season than the Masters Tournament!

Men's Opening Day is Saturday, April 20th and Ladies Opening Day is Wednesday, May 15th. Please make every effort to participate in these events as it's a great way to kick off a new season, while renewing old friendships and making new ones. Registration will be done through the Golf Genius app or by calling the golf shop. An invite to sign up will be sent out via email.

The winter projects have just about wrapped up with additional tree removal, pruning and ground cover clearing.

The Green Superintendent and staff, Green Committee members and the Board are focused on providing our membership with the continued and improved playing conditions that a "Championship" golf course like Black Hall Club deserves!

President's message continued

A special thanks to all the committee members, chairpersons, and our staff for all their continued hard work in making Black Hall Club so special!

House

Tammy Sparrow, house@blackhallclub.com

Winter projects are wrapping up as we prepare to open for the season.

The Dining Room will open on Saturday, April 13th. Initial dining room hours will be Tuesday through Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The hours will be expanded to 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. If you plan on having lunch on a rainy day please call the kitchen or golf shop in advance to ensure they are open. We will continue to offer both Grab-N-Go and call-in food orders options this year. The phone number for call in orders is (860) 213-9024.

As a reminder, your March statements included locker rentals, handicap fee, and Men/Women's golf charges. Club Storage charges will be on your May statement. Please contact Nancy Tiffany with any questions.



**BLACK HALL CLUB
DINING ROOM**

OPENING
Hours



MONDAY
CLOSED

TUESDAY - SUNDAY
11:30AM - 2:30PM

*Hours listed are from April 13th-May 26th

☎ (860) 434-5171, To Go Orders - (860) 213-9024

All About the Greens

Marty Smith, greenchair@blackhallclub.com

When the weather warms up, we will be installing a new Turfhound mat on the practice range. The Turfhound product utilizes dual density technology, comprising a foam core with a hard bottom layer and a synthetic grass top layer. The mat will not be as hard as the existing mat, making it easier on the joints.

The new mat has a tee insert sleeve that allows you to use the standard tee of your choice, and there is a section of longer length "rough" turf at each station.



All About the Greens continued

This product has been installed all around the country, at some of America's premier courses such as Merion and Pebble Beach. Locally, it has been installed at Bulls Bridge, Brooklawn and Shelter Harbor. Turfhound is presently rebuilding their website, but a good description of the technology is on this YouTube video: [Turf Hound Golf Mat](#)

Fairway and greens aerification

Our maintenance crew has done an excellent job completing all the fairway aerification. All the tees except for the par3s have also been completed. This is a big job and getting it done early allows for better conditions this Spring. Our superintendent Chris Konow is implementing a revamped green aerification plan this year that should result in better green health. The aerification of the greens will be done as soon as the weather allows.

Tee boxes will be open on April 5, weather permitting!

Membership

Steph Brodeur,
membership@blackhallclub.com

To our new members - A warm and hearty welcome to our vibrant community! We're thrilled to have you join us at Blackhall Club and can't wait to embark on this exciting journey together.

Whether you're eager but uncertain how we "Tee It Up" at Black Hall or simply have a few queries swirling in your mind, fear not! Our dedicated Membership Services representative, Lacey Arndt, is here to make your transition seamless and enjoyable. Feel free to reach out to Lacey via phone at (860) 434-2038 or shoot her an email at membership@blackhallclub.com. She's your trusty guide, ready to assist with any questions or inquiries you may have. Your satisfaction and enjoyment are our top priorities!

Once again, welcome aboard! We look forward to creating lasting memories and sharing many rounds of golf with you.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Black hall would like to extend a sincere welcome to the following Members

- James Sasso

INVITATION TO THE A-WAITLIST

- Jack Ozycz

The following candidates have been proposed for membership:

| <u>Candidate</u> | <u>Proposer</u> | <u>Second</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Thomas Bivona | Ron Milardo | Jeff Dominick |
| Jack Ozycz | Sam Ozycz | James Sasso |
| Joshua Miller | Michael Nevins | Ed Nevins |
| E.J. D'Ettore | Frank Leone | TBD |
| Don Weinbach | Scott Farrell | Glenn Sieber |
| David Paulson | Matt Guanci | Richard Rosenthal |

Golf Chairman

Rich Paterson

April brings the start of a new golf season. The Maintenance staff has made a tremendous effort throughout the winter season in order to have the course in great shape as early as possible. When you see them please let them know you appreciate their efforts.

The practice range will be opening April 6th using just the artificial turf mat and then on April 20 comes the Opening Day tournament which is a great way to start the season and become acquainted with your fellow members.

During the winter months I've noticed some golfers have been ignoring that the course is closed on Monday mornings until noon. Monday morning closure allows the crew to accomplish maintenance without interference from golfers. Please abide by this rule throughout the year.

Rounds of golf have been steadily increasing since the renewed interest after Covid hit. With that there is the potential for less than enjoyable rounds due to SLOW PLAY. We can all do our part to avoid slow play by paying attention to some of the following situations.

Be ready to play when it's your turn by:

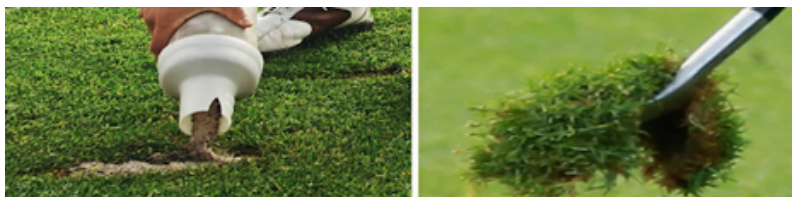
- Making club selection and getting your practice swings out of the way while others are hitting.
- When riding together don't sit and watch each other hit but separate and both get ready when it's time to hit.
- On the greens pick out your line while others are putting and be ready to go when it's your turn.
- Save your story telling for walking down the fairway. There is nothing more annoying than someone telling stories when it's time to tee off.
- Pay attention when a ball is hit off-line so you will spend less time looking.
- Play READY GOLF.
- Speak up to your playing partners when you notice your group is falling behind.

We all have a responsibility to keep OUR COURSE in the best playing condition possible. There is nothing more aggravating than to see a huge divot just left in the fairway as a tribute to a player's bad swing. Replacing divots depends on the depth and integrity of the divot.

The deeper the divot, the more likely it is to have soil and roots attached to it, which makes it a good candidate for replacement. A shallow divot with no roots or soil has no chance of survival, so there's no point replacing it.

Do your part by:

- Replacing or reseeding your divots and other divots that are missed.
- If you are not riding pick up a seed mix container on the 1st tee and drop it off when done near the fountain on 9.



- Fix your ball mark on the green and any others that you notice.
- Rake your mess and others properly in the traps.

Post Clock Update

Bruce Dupuis, Clock Committee Chair

Late last summer, the Board entertained, and ultimately approved, the idea of creating a lasting tribute to Black Hall members who, over the past 59 years and for many years to come, volunteer their time and talent, to make Black Hall one of the finest golf clubs in the State of Connecticut.

Our new Post Clock, being installed as this note is written, is the result of that approval and is intended to be a lasting symbol in recognition of those members past, present and future who get engaged and volunteer their time and talent to manage the operation of Black Hall.

The Clock Committee and the Board wish to thank all of the members who contributed funds to make this project a reality. The entire cost of the clock, including its installation and related landscaping, was raised by member donations. That generosity is representative of the members' commitment to Black Hall and of their appreciation of the work done by their peers.

Our fund-raising efforts for the Clock are now officially and successfully concluded! The Committee is appreciative of the Board for all of its efforts, Lacey Arndt for her monthly Osprey messages, Nancy Tiffany and Andrew for their advice and support, and especially Chris Konow for his help in getting this Clock planted in his precious turf!

About 8 months from start to finish! We hope you enjoy your "Member's Clock"!

Clock Committee: Bruce Dupuis, Chair
 Frank Leone
 Rich Paterson
 Tammy Sparrow





Golf Pro's Report

Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com

Welcome to April! With the arrival of spring, we're all eager to dust off our clubs and hit the golf course. We're thrilled to announce the return of Brian and Andrew to our team, joining Lacey and myself for another exciting season. Their smiles, expertise, and familiarity with the club and our members make them invaluable additions. We're truly fortunate to have such a fantastic team!

As we move into April, the golf course is transitioning to normal operations. Tee boxes will be open on April 5th, and single cups are now in place on the greens. We're also delighted to welcome guests now that the golf shop is open. Mark your calendars: the practice range will be available starting Saturday, April 6th, and bag room services will commence on Saturday, April 13th. The use of golf carts will be evaluated based on conditions, and we'll notify you as soon as they're permitted.

Let's make this season on the greens one to remember!

Men's Golf

OPENING DAY "SCRAMBLED EGG"

Saturday, April 20th, 9:00am Shotgun Start
Buffet Breakfast and Lunch after golf are both included. Scramble format and FUN!!

SPRING MEMBER-MEMBER

Saturday, May 11th, 8:30am Shotgun Start
Pick your own partner, 18 hole Stableford
Join us for a fun and stress free format!

MAY MEMBER-GUEST

Friday, May 17th, 1:00pm shotgun
Our first Member -Guest of the year, invite 1 or 3 guests for a great day! Dinner to follow.

MEN'S TWILIGHT LEAGUE

The league will begin in June but now is the time to start forming your teams. If you are generally around on Wednesday nights, this is great time! We plan for 8-10 weeks of matches with 3 person teams and 2 play each week. Nine holes of golf and a social hour with dinner following golf. If you don't have a team, let us know, we can help!

Women's Golf

BHWGA OPENING DAY

Wednesday, May 15th, 8:45am Shotgun Start
Luncheon & meeting will follow golf.

There are **two "Spring Golf" events starting on Wednesday, May 1st**, these are PRIOR to Ladies Opening Day.

WOMENS CLINICS

Ladies, mark your calendars because it's time to elevate your golf game! Our highly anticipated Women's Clinics are back!

Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, starting April 30th and running through May 16th
Time: 9:00 am, Cost: Just \$20.00 per session

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, our clinics are tailored to suit golfers of ALL skill levels. Led by our expert team, these sessions promise to fine-tune your technique, boost your confidence, and most importantly, have a blast on the course! At the end of each hour-long session, we'll pair up those itching to hit the course for a fun round of golf.

Golf Pro's Report Continued:



GOLF SHOP NEWS

GOLF EQUIPMENT

Golf equipment is arriving daily in the Golf Shop. Featured lines will include Ping, Titleist, Callaway, Taylor Made and XXIO. Our job is to make sure that you purchase the right clubs for YOU. Custom fitting your equipment is the best way to ensure this and we now have a new launch monitor to help us. Custom fitting is FREE, does not require a purchase, and comes with an educational experience and often times some swing instruction. Please don't hesitate to ask questions you may have.

SPRING APPAREL

We have received some very nice NEW performance apparel for the Spring weather: jackets, mid layers, rain wear and more. Men's & women's selections and more merchandise arriving daily! Capitalize on clothing that works for you, you won't be sorry!

Trade In & Trade Up..Do you want to upgrade but don't know what to do with your current or old clubs? Let us know what you have and we can tell you how much you can trade them in for towards a new club or a new set of clubs! Help to reduce the cost of your new equipment!!

April Promotions

Spring Clearance Sale: Tons of left over apparel with 50% off while supplies last. Don't miss out!

GOLF SHOP HOURS

Mondays
11:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday - Friday
8:00 am - 6:00pm

Saturday - Sunday & Holidays
7:00am - 6:00pm

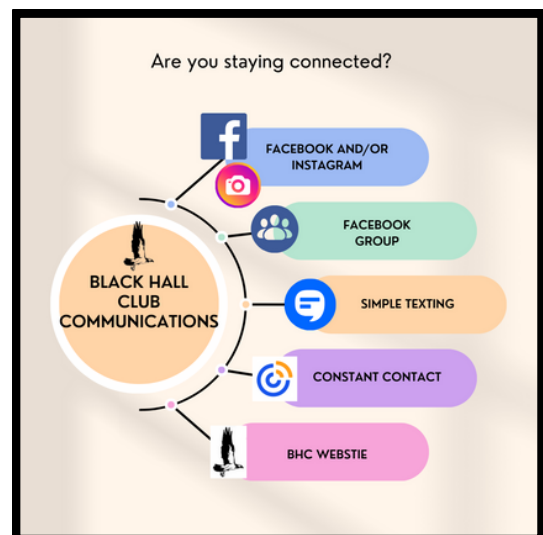
2024 Yearbooks are in! Click here for an e-copy

STAY CONNECTED WITH BLACK HALL

Ensuring you're well-informed about all things Black Hall is our priority! Here's how you can stay connected and up to date with our communications:

1. **Join Our Facebook Group & Follow Us on Instagram:**

Become part of our active community on Facebook and Instagram. Like and follow our page to receive updates, newsletters, event reminders, golf shop sales & promotions, member & staff highlights, photos, and more! To join our Facebook group, search for "Black Hall Club Golf News" or visit [this link](#).



Black Hall Communications Continued







2. Sign Up for Text Updates: Stay informed about closures, delays, or changes to our schedule by signing up to receive text updates from us. [Click here](#) to subscribe!

3. Receive Our Osprey Newsletter: Don't miss our monthly Osprey Newsletter and other important information sent via Constant Contact. Please ensure you're receiving emails from us by checking your Spam folder. If you're not receiving emails, contact Lacey at membership@blackhallclub.com.

4. Explore Our Website: Log into your account on the Black Hall Club website at [this link](#) to access a wealth of resources including member golf information, the calendar of events, the yearbook, Dining Room menu, staff contacts, and more! If you need assistance logging in, reach out to Lacey at membership@blackhallclub.com.

We're dedicated to keeping you connected and engaged with all that's happening at Black Hall. Thank you for being part of our community!

APRIL AT A GLANCE

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----|--|--|
|  | 1 GOLF COURSE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6  PRACTICE RANGE OPEN FOR SEASON GOOD FRIDAY |
| 7 | 8 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13  DINING ROOM & BAG ROOM OPEN FOR SEASON |
| 14 | 15 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 MENS OPENING DAY SCRAMBLED EGG TOURNAMENT 9:00 A.M. SHOTGUN BREAKFAST & LUNCH BUFFET |
| 21 | 22 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM | 30 WOMEN'S CLINIC 9:00 A.M. |  | |  | |
| | | | | | |  |