

THE OSPREY

The official newsletter of Black Hall Club



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President's Message

Henry Amdur, president@blackhallclub.com

As winter blankets Black Hall in a frosty embrace, Connecticut golf enthusiasts find themselves longing for the lush greens and warm sunshine of the fairways. The crisp air and snow-covered landscapes render the beloved sport nearly impossible, leaving a void in the hearts of those who cherish the game. The absence of the satisfying swing, the camaraderie with fellow golfers, and the serene beauty of the course is deeply felt. Winter's chill serves as a stark reminder of the seasonal limitations, making the anticipation for spring's thaw and the return to the greens even more poignant. Alas, for the snowbirds among us there is no respite from the hooked drivers, topped fairway shots and missed short putts. One wonders who is better off?

Meanwhile, there is no rest for Chris and the maintenance crew. Trees cut down by the outside contractor have been cut up and hauled away saving the membership six figures on the assessment this year alone if we had the outside contractors to the added work.

President's message continued

Bunker relining continues along with a host of other winter chores. The foundation is poured for the back 9 restroom. While this has been perfect weather for executing these projects the frozen conditions this winter will delay the spring rebirth of the course. Be Patient; you can't rush Mother Nature.

House

Tammy Sparrow, housechair@blackhallclub.com

The House Committee is looking forward to another golf season. The dining room will open for the season on Saturday, April 12th. As a reminder, current locker renters will be automatically billed in March. Your March statement will also include handicap and tournament (men/women) fees.

If you would like to rent a locker this season or cancel your locker rental please contact Nancy. Locker fees for 2025 remain unchanged: Half lockers - \$80, Shoe lockers - \$45. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have suggestions for the House Committee at housechair@blackhall.com.



Did You Know?



Here are some interesting golf tidbits to get you excited for the new season!

- ◆ Golf balls were originally made of wood! In the 14th century, golfers used wooden balls before transitioning to feather-filled leather balls called "featheries" in the 1600s. The modern dimpled golf ball was introduced in 1905!
- ◆ St. Andrews in Scotland is considered the 'Home of Golf' - The Old Course at St. Andrews has been played for over 600 years, making it one of the oldest courses in the world.
- ◆ Spring weather affects your golf game! Warmer temperatures cause golf balls to travel farther, while colder air makes them go shorter by about 2 yards per 10-degree drop in temperature.
- ◆ The Masters Tournament always starts in April, marking the start of golf season for many! Since 1934, Augusta National Golf Club has hosted The Masters, one of golf's most prestigious events.
- ◆ Why do golfers yell "Fore"? It's a warning call to alert others of an incoming golf ball. The term likely comes from the military, where soldiers shouted "Fore!" as a warning for friendly troops to duck during cannon fire.
- ◆ The longest recorded drive in golf history was 515 yards! In 1974, Mike Austin set this record during a professional event. His secret? A perfect combination of speed, power, and a tailwind!
- ◆ A hole-in-one is more common than you think! The odds of an amateur making an ace are about 1 in 12,500, but PGA pros see much better odds at 1 in 2,500.

All About the Greens

Marty Smith, greenchair@blackhallclub.com

What a winter!

Unlike past years, we have had a long, old-fashioned winter at Black Hall. We could not have had better weather for starting the tree project!

When we were developing the priority plan for work to be done, we had a wish list that we could only achieve if we had perfect conditions. Not only did our crew and outside contractor get all the work done, but we have also been able to get additional work completed. Our crew alone did work in-house that would have cost \$100k if we had used an outside contractor. Ronald Rodriguez, our new Assistant Superintendent, has done a great job at being the lead of the in-house tree removal effort.

At this stage, one-third of the USGA recommended plan has been completed.

Mid-February last year it was so mild that we had started the fairway aeration. This year it probably won't be until mid-March before we can start aerifying. Being a month later means our fairways and greens won't be fully healed as early in the season as they were last year. Playing conditions will be affected, and we ask for the patience of the membership.

We are excited that we will be putting into service two major pieces of equipment. The new GPS-enabled sprayer will allow pinpoint applications of chemicals and fertilizer, which will be more cost effective and environmentally friendly. It will allow us to target specific turf issues precisely and apply treatment only where it is needed.

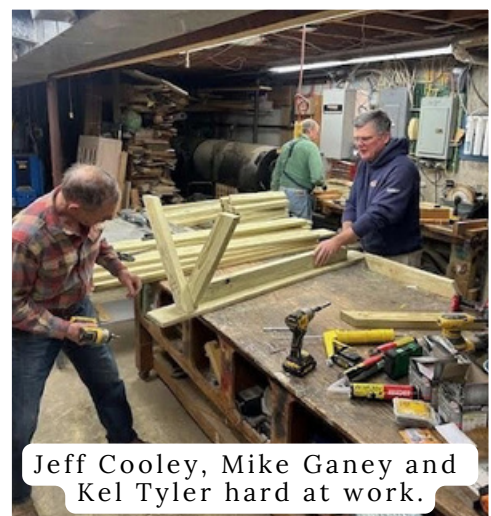
We are also going to be utilizing an aerifier designed specifically for the rough. We have not historically aerified the rough. It should improve both soil and turf, resulting in less hard-pan and thicker grass.

Bench update!

Once again, our volunteer "Detail Committee" comprising Kel Tyler, Will Conrad, Mike Ganey and Jeff Cooley, have constructed 10 more benches for the club. Their contribution is much appreciated!



Jeff Cooley, Kel Tyler and Will Conrad.
No beer is visible in this photo



Jeff Cooley, Mike Ganey and
Kel Tyler hard at work.

Membership

Steph Brodeur, membership@blackhallclub.com

Recruiting Members

If you have been discussing Black Hall membership with friends, family or work associates we thank you! Historically, over 70% of Black Hall Members are recruited by current members.

If you can think of someone that is interested in joining but not fully committed, we encourage them to complete the application as there are waiting lists. For those not fully committed to joining, a benefit of the waitlists is “extra time to decide” (likely several years). Once the applicate reaches the “A-List”, they will be afforded limited playing privileges during which they can “test drive” Black Hall at a minimal cost.”

If you have any membership questions, please reach out to Lacey at Membership Services, membership@blackhallclub.com or by phone (860) 434-2038.



Invite to A-Waitlist

*Philip Z. Wertheim

*Michael Samek

The following candidates have been proposed for membership:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
David Schluger	Matt Guanci	Mike Mawdsley



Golf Pro's Report

Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com

March 2025...

While work preparations continue behind the scenes, we are planning to open the golf shop on Tuesday, March 18th, at which time guest play may begin again for the season. Additionally, we have scheduled the practice range to open on Friday, April 5th. In the meantime, if you should need anything or have any questions, I can be reached by email.

The 2025 Calendar is on our [website](#) and can be accessed without logging in to your account. It can be found at the bottom of the home page as well as inside the Member Page after log-in. We will continue to use Golf Genius and the App for all of our events, however, it is not yet active for the coming year until further notice.



Golf Pro's Report continued:

OPENING DAYS

The Men will kick off with the "Scrambled Egg" tournament on Saturday April 19th. The tournament will be an A-B-C-D blind draw, with a "Scramble" format. A buffet breakfast will start serving at 8:00am, golf will begin at 9:00am and the day will be rounded out with awards and a luncheon. Breakfast, prizes and lunch are all included in the Men's Club annual fee.



Looking ahead on the Women's side of the things is their Opening Day on Wednesday,

May 14th. This is a fun nine hole event with a shotgun start of 8:45 with an 11:00 meeting & luncheon. BHWGA will have two Wednesday of "Spring Golf" on April 30th & May 7th, which will offer organized golf options prior to Opening Day.

GOLF TRAVEL

If you are planning a golf trip, there is one thing you need... a high quality travel bag for your clubs. Whether you ship them or bring them on the plane, a good travel bag is the key to protecting your precious weapons. 😊

Club Glove is the travel gear company used by the Tour Pros! Club Glove now has a complete line of travel gear that you can customize with our logo, your name or initials and choose from a number of colors. If you would like to shop, [click here](#) and follow the simple instructions. You won't make payments on the site, we will charge your account after the product is delivered. You can choose to have it shipped to Black Hall or to your home. You will also get a 10% discount on any item purchased. If you need travel gear or golf travel gear, this is the time and place to do it. The store will be open for the month of March, closing on March 31st. Let me know if you have any questions.

Also coming soon in early March in a separate email; the **ProV1 Titleist Loyalty Promotion** will be back!

2025 JUNIOR CLINICS

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 17TH-19TH	session 1 - 9:00-11:00am Session 2 - 11:00-1:00pm
JULY 8TH - 10TH	session 3 - 9:00-11:00am Session 4 - 11:00-1:00pm
AUGUST 5TH - 6TH	session 5 - 9:00-12:00am

Registration opens April 1st

