

# THE OSPREY



The official newsletter of Black Hall Club



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## President's Message

Tony Stratidis, president@blackhallclub.com

BHC is off to an excellent start for the 2024 golf season! The Men's opening day tournament, originally scheduled for April 20th, was rescheduled to April 27th due to weather conditions, and we were thrilled to host nearly 100 members. A big thank you goes out to our outstanding Golf and Maintenance staff for ensuring the event's success.

As we enjoy the beautiful grounds of BHC, let's all do our part in maintaining its pristine condition. Remember to rake bunkers properly and replace divots whenever possible rather than just filling them with divot mix. Keep our course clean by disposing of garbage in the provided trash bins and always follow the cart signs. If you accidentally knock down a cart sign with your push, electric, or riding cart, please take a moment to put it back in place. And let's make sure to keep our carts outside the bunkers around the greens.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the many members who have shared positive feedback on the continuous improvements at our club, especially the addition of our new flagpole and Post clock!

*President's message continued*

The Board has given the green light to the USGA's and Green Committee's tree removal and pruning project. Pending member approval, this project will kick off in the fall and is estimated to take five years to complete. I want to express my appreciation to Marty Smith (Green Chairman), the Green Committee, and our Superintendent Chris Konow for their extensive preparation, thoughtful research, and clear communication throughout this process aimed at enhancing the playing conditions of our golf course.

This year, three of our esteemed Board of Governors members will be completing their 9-year maximum term. In line with our by-laws, we are forming a nominating committee to interview potential candidates for these open Board positions. According to BHC's by-laws, three of the committee members must be former Board members, and the others must be certificate holders. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please reach out to Nancy Tiffany, and she will schedule an interview for you.

May this golf season be filled with memorable moments and great swings!



## House

Tammy Sparrow, [house@blackhallclub.com](mailto:house@blackhallclub.com)

When you return you'll notice changes to the front garden area. In addition to the new clock and new flag pole, the scoreboard has been removed and replaced with a new seating area. The existing scoreboard had started to rot and was only being used for 1-2 tournaments a year. A removable scoreboard will be used for tournaments when needed.

Delivery trucks are having a hard time getting through the top part of the parking lot. Please don't park large trucks or large SUVs along the front row near the garden area. We will be putting up signs soon. Reminder, there is no parking in the Manager's spot, even on the weekend.

In case of emergency, there is a first aid kit located in the Pro Shop. There is also a defibrillator and first aid kit located in the bathroom between Andrew and Nancy's offices. The staff has been trained in the use of the defibrillator.



**MEMORIAL DAY, Monday, May 27th**  
**Course OPEN at 7:00am & Dining Room OPEN**

**TUESDAY, May 28th**  
 Dining Room will be CLOSED & Course & Practice Range OPEN at 12pm

**Starting MEMORIAL DAY ...**  
 \*Golf Course & Range will OPEN at 7:00AM on weekends  
 \*Dining Room hours change to 11:00AM - 3:00PM

**Please DO NOT tee off before the course opens.**

# Treasurer's Report

Lee Ann Palladino, [treasurer@blackhallclub.com](mailto:treasurer@blackhallclub.com)



Black Hall Club has completed the first half of its fiscal year. As we stand today with full membership and completion of the club's dues collection period (October through March), revenues have come in as expected and our cash position is strong. Over the course of the fiscal year, the board of Governors has approved several strategic projects, including the member approved purchase of the adjacent land, utilizing reserves. The committee chairs and finance committee have begun the process for the next fiscal year budget. As always please feel free to contact me or any of the finance committee members if you have any questions.

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## Golf Chairman

Rich Paterson, [golfchair@blackhallclub.com](mailto:golfchair@blackhallclub.com)



Despite the rainy delay, the 2024 golf season's Men's Opening Day tournament was a great success and proved to be an ideal way for participants to make new acquaintances. Many found the addition of the upgraded practice mat on the range to be closer to hitting off grass and less impactful on their bodies. Practicing from the grass will not be available until later this month as the growing season develops further. The Short Game practice area is now open. Please observe all rules posted at the Short Game entrance.

At this time of the year, it is important for everyone to be reminded of procedures to be followed on the course. Carts should be kept 30 yards from the green. There is a cart path adjacent to the green on most holes. The cart should be directed toward that cart path when approaching the green area, and carts should not be driven around the opposite side of those greens. Par 3 holes all have cart paths and are cart path only holes. On par 3 holes, the cart starts on the path by the tee and proceeds directly across the rough toward the continuation of the path by the green. Some cart users with an infirmity will display a special flag that indicates they are allowed to ignore these rules and access designated areas that all other cart users should not. Newly sodded areas are ground under repair. Mandatory drop at nearest point of relief.

Don't be offended if a member of the Golf Committee or the Board decides to remind you of these rules when they see a misuse on the course. As a reminder, playing music on the course is not allowed.

Divots and ball marks need the attention of all golfers. Too many divots and ball marks go unattended, and there is no excuse for this. Most divots are replaceable. If only fragments are available, then divot mix should be applied to the proper level. Divot mix containers are available for walking golfers on the first tee, and at the end of your round, the container should be dropped off at the fountain between 9 and 18 greens.

ALL ROUNDS OF GOLF SHOULD START ON THE 1st TEE. STARTING ON THE 10th TEE OR ANY OTHER TEE IS NOT ALLOWED UNLESS GRANTED PERMISSION FROM THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF.

# Memorial Chairman

Paul Tracey, paul\_tracey4915@att.net



Over the past several months, members of Black Hall have provided the Club with two new tributes to past, present, and future members. You read about our new clock in last month's Osprey.

We also have a grand new flagpole honoring Charlie Park, who was a member of BHC for over 50 years. Charlie was a Marine and volunteered his time with Veteran Affairs. He was deeply patriotic. With Charlie's passing last year, a group of his friends formed an ad hoc committee chaired by Andy Gregor. Other members of the committee included Bruce Dupuis, Steve Merrick, Jim Bairstow, Bill Christopher, Doug Bombay, Frank Lavezzoli, John Horn, William Montrone, and Andy Balosie. As a result of their efforts and broad financial support from the Club's membership, we are all now greeted with this beautiful new flagpole!

In the coming months, we will be sharing other thoughts for potential memorials or donations which may be made to the Memorial Fund. If you have any ideas that you feel could be considered for a memorial, please contact one of the members of the Memorial Committee.

# Membership

Steph Brodeur, membership@blackhallclub.com



## INVITATION TO THE A-WAITLIST



- David Paulson
- Don Weinbach
- Tom Bivona
- E.J. D'Ettore
- Alexander Muir



The following candidates  
have been proposed for  
membership:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Antonio Dadario	Scott Farrell	Philip Wertheim
Dan Garafalo	Paul Bocciarelli	Tony Stratidis
Colin Vallance	Steph Brodeur	Tom Rose
Joshua John	Greg Benoit	Arnie Benak

# All About the Greens

Marty Smith, [greenchair@blackhallclub.com](mailto:greenchair@blackhallclub.com)

## Practice Mats for Sale!

With the installation of the new practice mat, we are selling sections of the old mat on a first-come, first-served basis.

The old practice mat has been cut into sections of approximately 5' x 7'. We are keeping some of them for winter golf, but we have 15 remaining that we are offering to sell. We also have one section of the old mat that was never used. It is in excellent shape.

In addition to the sections of the old mat that we just removed, we have 34 sections of the older mats that we had used for winter golf. These mats are faded and are at least 12 years old and are the predecessors of the mat we just removed. Even though they have been around quite a while, they still have some life left in them.



All these mats are heavy duty, AND not easy to lift. You will need to lug them home, and a truck is recommended. They are also used, and as such they are not clean.

They would make a great practice pad to use at home, and the price is a bargain:

New section of the old mat: \$150 + tax

Used section of the old mat: \$65 + tax

Used section of the older mat: \$25 + tax

If you are interested, you can make a purchase by letting the golf shop know at 860-434-2038 and it will be charged to your account. For now, we are limiting the purchase to one per member. For pick-up, someone at the Maintenance Building will usually be available to assist you loading them in your vehicle between 9AM and 3PM Monday through Friday.





# Golf Pro's Report

Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com

## Men's Golf



### 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.

### Mile Creek Match Play Qualifying

Friday, May 25th, 27th, & 28th, Tee off prior to 10:00am. Thirty-two qualifying for each flight, matches will follow.



Twilight League - Starts June 12th,  
5:15pm Shotgun

June Member-Guest - June 14th, 1pm Shotgun

Black Hall Classic - Fri, June 28th & Sat, June 29th

**BLACK HALL INVITATIONAL**  
**AUGUST 2nd-4th**

Please note that we will open up registration for this event on Wednesday, May 22nd at 8:00.

If you intend to play, you may want to mark this on your calendar calendar as this event filled up last year in just one day. Registration will be done on the Golf Genius App. An email reminder and registration link will be sent at that time.

Norm Yester & Jack Johnson  
Invitational co-chairs



### MEN'S OPENING DAY SCRAMBLED EGG TOURNAMENT WINNERS

#### 1ST PLACE

JEFF RILEY, MIKE SPAGNOLA, NATHAN OWEN, JIM MCARAW

#### 2ND PLACE

JT GIEGERICH, RICH PATERSON, JON WINIKUR, WAYNE HARMS

#### 3RD PLACE

TONY STRATIDIS, GEORGE LEE, MIKE MONTANARO, DIMITRI ORPHANIDES

#### 3RD PLACE

ERIC ANDERSON, BOB SEMBLER, JOHN MALONEY, TONY KAROSIS



# Women's Golf

## WOMEN'S CLINICS

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, starting Starting May 2nd through May 16th  
**Time:** 9:00 am, **Cost:** Just \$20.00 per session

## 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.

[Sign up](#)



## BHWGA Guest Day

**Wednesday, July 17th**, 8:30am Shotgun



# Mixed Golf



Enjoy fun evenings with great food and good friends!

## NINE & DINE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD



5PM Shotgun with Dinner to follow! Stay tuned for more information.

## Weekend Golfer



What society thinks I do



What my wife thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

# GOLF RULES CARTOONS

with Tom & Chip

[www.TOMandCHIP.com](http://www.TOMandCHIP.com)



# Junior Golf

## DRIVE, CHIP & PUTT

The Road to Augusta National Do you know a Junior Golfer who wants to qualify for the Drive, Chip, and Putt? For more information visit, [www.drivechipandputt.com](http://www.drivechipandputt.com) for local qualifying information.

## SPRING JUNIOR CLINIC

Our Spring Clinic is devoted to preparing Juniors for upcoming Drive, Chip, & Putt qualifying rounds later in June. We will teach & coach the kids on specific shots needed for the competition. All children are welcome! June 1st & June 2nd - 1pm-3pm

## JUNIOR SUMMER PROGRAM

There will be five sessions this summer.

**1st & 2nd Sessions** - June 18th-20th (3) days of 2-hour sessions: 9am or 11am

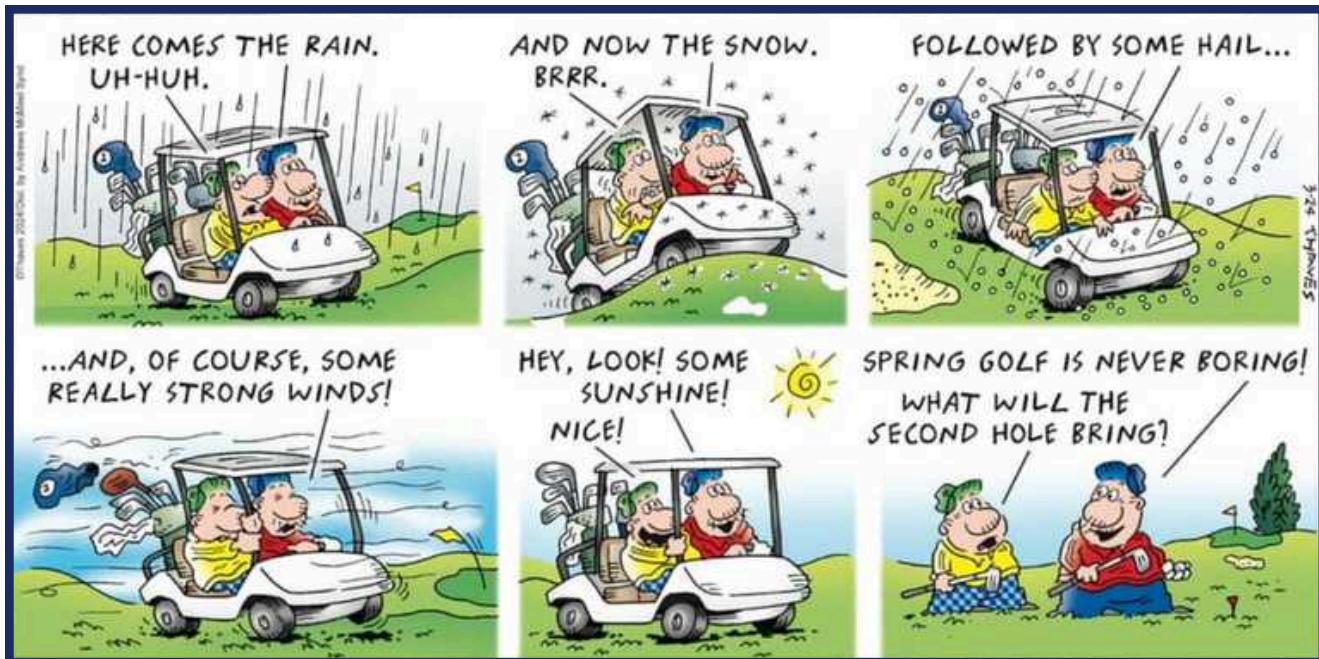
**3rd & 4th Sessions** - July 9th-11th (3) days of 2-hour sessions: 9am or 11am

**5th Session** - August 13th-15th - (3) days of 2-hour session: 10am

## TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM

Every Thursday at 4pm starting on June 13th. The clinics will last one hour and will be followed by optional golf with other Teen golfers and typically a member from our staff. Space is limited; members can sign up now, non-members may sign up starting May 30th. Please call the Golf Shop with any questions. Please click here for more information.

[REGISTER HERE](#)





## GOLF SHOP NEWS



### Swing Into Spring with Our Spectacular Golf Gear!

Ready to upgrade your gear and take your game to the next level? Swing into spring with our fantastic golf equipment! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, we've got everything you need to hit the fairways in style! Our shelves are stocked with brand new merchandise, and we're ready to help you gear up for your best season yet. We want to you feel comfortable shopping for your golfing needs.

Here's what you can expect when you shop with us:

- **Black Hall Prices:** Enjoy discounted prices on all clothing and accessories, every day!
- **Top-notch Equipment:** Our equipment is competitively priced with off-course superstores, plus you get the added bonus of demos, service, and expert advice! Free
- **Club Fitting Sessions:** Want the perfect fit? Our club fitting sessions are free and easy. Just give us a call to schedule your appointment!
- **Demo Days:** Every day is a DEMO DAY here! Swing by and try out countless combinations of demos while you're at the club. Don't wait, try it today!
- **Fitting Days:** Want a personalized fitting experience? Mark your calendar for our scheduled fitting days with staff and product specialists with an experience using radar and extensive options. By appointment only, so sign up in the golf shop!
  - XXIO: Friday, May 10th - 1pm-4pm
  - Mizuno: Thursday, May 16th - 3pm-6pm
  - Taylor Made: Saturday, May 18th - 10am-2pm
  - Callaway: Sunday, May 19th - 11am-3pm
  - Ping: Saturday, May 25th - 10am-2pm
  - Titleist: To Be Determined - Keep your eyes our for more information.

**Trade-In, Trade-Up:** Ready to upgrade? Don't know what to do with your old clubs? Trade them in with us! We'll let you know how much you can get towards new gear. It's a win-win - declutter



### It's a small world!

Member Mike McCarthy was playing golf at Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand and when he finished his round the pro looked at his club head cover and said "is that from Black Hall?" The pro was Eric Smith, who was an Assistant Pro at Black Hall.



## 5 TIPS TO QUICKLY GET YOUR GAME INTO MID-SEASON FORM AFTER THE WINTER



Here are some great tips and advice from teachers and players highlighted on golf.com.

1. CHECK YOUR FUNDAMENTALS
2. GET FLEXIBLE
3. SLOW YOUR TEMPO
4. REDISCOVER YOUR TOUCH
5. DIAL IN YOUR MENTAL GAME

To read the full article, [click here!](#)

## MAY AT A GLANCE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <b>MAY 2024</b>		1 <b>LADIES DAY</b> SPRING GOLF	2 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	3	4
5	6 <b>CSGA BILL HERMANSON TWO-MAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP</b> 36 Holes Course Closed	7 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	8 <b>LADIES DAY</b> SPRING GOLF	9 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	10	11 <b>SPRING MEMBER-MEMBER</b> 8:30AM Shotgun
12 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	13 <b>GOLF COURSE &amp; PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM</b>	14 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	15 <b>LADIES OPENING DAY</b> 8:45AM Shotgun 11:00AM Meeting	16 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	17 <b>MEN'S MEMBER-GUEST</b> 1:00P.M. SHOTGUN DINNER TO FOLLOW	18
19	20 <b>GOLF COURSE &amp; PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM</b>	21 <b>WOMEN'S CLINIC</b> 9:00 A.M.	22 <b>LADIES DAY</b> MULLIGAN TOURNAMENT 8:00-10:00AM Starting Times	23	24	25 <b>MILE CREEK QUALIFYING</b> First Tee now opens at 7:00AM on weekends & holidays through Labor Day
26 <b>MILE CREEK QUALIFYING</b>	27 <b>MILE CREEK QUALIFYING</b> GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPENS AT 7:00AM <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	28 <b>GOLF COURSE &amp; PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM</b>	29 <b>LADIES DAY</b> STABLEFORD 8:00-10:00AM Starting Times	30	31 <b>THAMES VALLEY MATCHES</b> 8:00AM Shotgun	