

THE OSPREY

The official newsletter of Black Hall Club



IN THIS ISSUE

- **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
- **REPORT FROM THE TREASURER**
- **HOUSE**
- **ALL ABOUT THE GREENS**
- **MEMBERSHIP**
- **GOLF PRO'S REPORT**



President's Message

Henry Amdur, president@blackhallclub.com

On behalf of the Board of Governors, members, and staff of Black Hall Club I want to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Lee Ann Palladino, Tom Degan and Anthony Stratidis for their extraordinary service to the club. Serving as Finance Chair, Green Chair and President these members volunteered their expertise over countless hours during their three terms on the Board.

The Annual Meeting was held on October 12, 2024.

It is my pleasure to announce our newly elected Board members Tom Dolan, Jack Johnson and Kel Tyler. The vote for approval of an assessment to fund a USGA recommended tree removal program and construction of a bathroom and hydration station on the back nine did not pass. While 2/3 of the votes cast were in favor of the assessment (138y/68n) the bylaws require a 51% affirmative vote of the paid-up certificate holders (144) to pass. The Board has received feedback from a significant

President's message continued

number of the members that they would have preferred that vote for the two was separated and that it influences their decision on the assessment. The Board acknowledges this feedback and in response will resubmit the vote as two separate requests. A **Special (Zoom) Meeting** to vote will be held on **November 16, 2024**. A proxy will be available for those members unable to attend. Please vote promptly: 144 affirmative votes is a very high bar to reach. [Click this link](#) for details on each project.

Black Hall is a committee run organization. Members donate their time, talents and perspectives to the betterment of the Club. Please consider participating in a committee by contacting the relevant chairperson; it's another way to enhance your membership experience.

The Holidays are just around the corner; consider the Golf Shop for your shopping needs.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.



OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OFFICERS

- Henry Amdur.....President
- Ian FeatherstoneVice President
- Rich Bacci Treasurer
- Lee Ann PalladinoAsst. Treasurer
- Robb LindeSecretary
- Nancy TiffanyAsst. Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

- Henry Amdur
- Richard Bacci
- Steph Brodeur
- Tom Dolan
- Scott Farrell
- Ian Featherstone
- Jack Johnson
- Robb Linde
- Richard Paterson
- Martin Smith
- Tammy Sparrow
- Kel Tyler



CHAIRPERSONS

- Executive Committee..... Henry Amdur
- Finance Committee..... Rich Bacci
- Green Committee..... Marty Smith
- Golf Committee..... Scott Farrell
- Men's Golf Committee..... Mike Montanaro
- Women's Golf Committee.... Holli Dupuis
- Membership Committee..... Stephan Brodeur
- House Committee..... Tammy Sparrow
- Long Range Planning..... Ian Featherstone
- Memorial Committee..... Tony Stratidis
- Carl G. Anderson..... Randy Clegg

Report from the Treasurer

Rich Bacci, treasurer@blackhallclub.com



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

- Income generated more than the budgeted amount of \$101 thousand as a result of having full membership and receiving higher than anticipated initiation fees, green fees, cart fees and investment income.
- Operating expenses were less than budgeted by \$84 thousand due lower healthcare costs and lower labor costs.
- The land buffer adjacent to our course was approved outside the 2024 budget for a total cost of \$192 thousand.
- In addition, the Board of Governors approved \$71 thousand in capital investments, including replacing two HVAC units that broke down in addition to the \$379 thousand that was budgeted. Therefore, the total capital spent last fiscal year was \$517 thousand which includes equipment arriving in October.
- At the end of the fiscal year, Black Hall Club posted a \$199 thousand deficit which will be subtracted from our reserves.
- The cash position at the club is at \$461 thousand below our recommended threshold of \$500 thousand.

Turning to the fiscal year that we have just entered, the Board of Governors reviewed and approved this fiscal year's budget. Last year's Budget included running a deficit due to a high reserve amount. This year the budget is based on using no reserves. Therefore, the Board determined that in order to meet our budgetary expenses, dues will be increased by 7%. During budget deliberations the focus was on sufficiently funding operations 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.



"As I see it, you've got a choice between a 'birdie' or a big sales order."

House

Tammy Sparrow, housechair@blackhallclub.com

The dining room is now closed for the season. Once again, many THANKS to Kathy Lane and her staff! I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Nancy Tiffany and Ron Furr for all the work they do to support the House Committee.

Reminder: All lockers must be emptied no later than December 31st to allow for our annual cleaning. Lockers will be available for next season on March 1, 2025, upon payment of the annual locker fee (shoe locker - \$45; half locker - \$80).

Many of you may recall that the clubhouse's last major update was in 2001, led by Bruce Dupuis. Can you believe it has been 23 years? This past season, we incurred a few unexpected expenses related to our aging facility, and the clubhouse is also starting to show its age. As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, a focus for the House Committee this year is to create a long-range plan for the facility, similar to what we have for the golf course. Our goal is to keep our club looking modern, maximize use of the existing structure, and ensure infrastructure functions well to avoid unexpected emergencies. As we plan for the future, we also want to understand and incorporate the many good suggestions related to space needs.

With these thoughts in mind, the Committee chose to engage with outside experts in the planning process and development of a long-range space modernization plan. An architectural firm was recently hired to assess existing conditions and facilitate discussions with the Board and BHC community on our needs. They will assist with the development of a long-range plan and implementation options. We're excited to work together and hope you'll share your thoughts with us when invited. Look for additional updates during the winter months.

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.



STAFF Spotlight

Celebrating Jack Wedge: From the Kitchen to the Finish Line!

We are excited to celebrate our talented Sous Chef, Jack Wedge, who recently crossed the finish line at his very first running race—the Hartford Half Marathon!

Jack completed the race in an impressive time of 1:49:08, with an average pace of average pace of 8:20 per mile. Out of 3,431 participants, he placed 737th overall and ranked 107th in his division—a remarkable achievement for a first race!

With plans to compete in even more races next year, we're eager to cheer him on every step of the way.

Congratulations, Jack! We can't wait to see what's next!



JACK WEDGE

All About the Greens

Marty Smith, greenchair@blackhallclub.com

Please vote to approve Tree Program

Last month the Board of Governors (BOG) asked the Membership to approve an Assessment to fund both the USGA recommended tree program and construction of a bathroom on the back nine. The vote failed by four votes because 144 “yes” votes were required (the 144 number represents 51% of the fully paid certificate holders). The vote was 138 yes and 68 no votes.

The BOG has decided to ask the Membership to vote again, this time with the Tree Program as a separate question. It will be asking the Membership to approve an Assessment of \$386,000 billed to 367 members over a three-year period, or \$351 per year.

The Tree Program is a vitally important project to improve the agronomic health of the course. It will also improve playability, removing trees that have grown so large that they now interfere with the design of the golf course. A full description can be found by [clicking here](#).

I ask all members to please consider approving this project. Should you have any questions, please email me at greenchair@blackhallclub.com or call me or text me at 860 575 0552. Thank you.



NOVEMBER GOLF REMINDERS

****SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th****

PRACTICE RANGE CLOSES

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

November and December

Golf Shop Hours: 8:00AM-4:00PM;
Closed Mondays Starting in December.

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



In Memoriam



Honoring the Legacy of
Our Former Members

 **Jean Marriott**

 **Betts Chadwick**

 **Claudia Kelly**

“When someone you love
becomes a memory, the memory
becomes a treasure.”

Author unknown



Membership

Steph Brodeur, membership@blackhallclub.com

Our Membership is Growing, Thanks to You!

We're thrilled to share that this year has been a fantastic success for member growth at Black Hall. Membership increased by 37% over last year, with a steady flow of inquiries and new faces joining us throughout the season.

Our existing members have truly driven this growth—80% of new members came to us through your recommendations! Even more exciting, 15 new members joined our community this season with no prior connections, drawn by the welcoming spirit and exceptional experiences Black Hall has to offer. Let's keep the momentum going! Invite your friends, family, and colleagues to join us, and be part of shaping the future of Black Hall.

New Members!

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

*Michael Epright

Invite to A-Waitlist

*Joshua Miller

The following candidates have been proposed for membership:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
David Wurzer	Chris Roy	Nathaniel Stone
Ian Kelsey	Jeff Riley	William Conrad
William J. Lindenmayer	Bill Attridge	Jack Kearns
Jeffrey Knaus	David Watkins	Christopher Lafond

Stay in the Know with Black Hall Member Communications!

Want to stay updated on the latest happenings, events, and important club news? We've made it easy to stay connected and informed. Be sure you're tuned in to our current member communications:

- Informative Emails – Direct updates, straight to your inbox!
- The Osprey Newsletter – Our monthly newsletter, filled with club news, events, and insights.
- Text Alerts – Quick and timely texts for important updates.
- Black Hall Club Golf News (Private Facebook Group) – Reminders of upcoming tournaments & events, schedule changes, and more!
- Website Updates – Check “Latest Updates” at the bottom of our homepage for current club news.

Don't miss out! Join our channels to make the most of your Black Hall experience. For more information on membership or if you need help connecting, please reach out to Lacey at Membership Services.



Golf Pro's Report

Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com

Men's Tournament Results



MEN'S CLOSING DAY

Saturday, Oct. 5th

2 of 4 Shamble

1ST

Brett Wentzel, John Quagan, 122
Jack Johnson, Andrew Hinckley

2ND

Todd Lake, Mark Lvoff, 125
Ian Featherstone, Rich Bacci

2ND

Tom Saltsman, Randy Clegg, 125
Carl DeJuliis, Henry Amdur

Play With the Pro Season-Long Tournament Results

MEN'S RESULTS



NET

1ST

Fred Fichman, Rich Bacci, 128
Will Rodgers, Andrew Campbell

2ND

Jeff Mehler, Keith Kriet, 129
Rob Hougrand, Andrew Ferrucci

WOMEN'S RESULTS



1ST

Holli Dupuis, Ethel Davis, 129
Mary Ellen Hoag, Andrew Ferrucci

2ND

Jane Fox, Lee Ann Palladino, 132
Tammy Sparrow, Brian Quilter

2ND

Dede Derosa, Kacey Constable, 132
Kim Spano, Brian Quilter

Member Spotlight

2024 *Girls* **Players TOUR**

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ELLE REID

Season Highlights...

- Won the 18-Hole Don Miklus Memorial Junior Open
- 2nd in the 18-Hole Lyman Orchards Junior Open
- 2nd in the 18-Hole Tallwood Junior Classic
- 2nd in the 18-Hole Pequabuck Junior Classic
- T2 in the 18-Hole DeNicolo Memorial Junior Open
- 2nd in the Players TOUR Finale

PGA
Connecticut Section

I have a tip that can take five strokes off anyone's game.

It's called an eraser.

- Arnold Palmer

GOLF SHOP NEWS

Get a head start on holiday shopping at the golf shop! Shop great brands like Holderness and Born, Peter Millar, Foot Joy, Ahead and more! Don't miss out on our CT OPEN Championship Gear! They will make great comfort wear and great gifts. Check out the fun gear and get yours while supplies last!

Looking for the perfect gift for the golf lover in your life? Discover our collection of must-have golf accessories, sure to impress any golfer. Plus, enjoy complimentary gift wrapping to make gift-giving even easier.

We also offer personalized services, including special orders and convenient shipping options to surprise loved ones near and far. Shop with us for a simple, affordable way to spread holiday cheer—we're here to help at every step!



GOLF SHOP HOLIDAY PARTY
DECEMBER 7th,
1:00PM - 4:00PM

WINTER INDOOR PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP

In order to keep up with rising utility and replacement costs, the Board of Governors is requiring a minimum of 50 people to sign up by NOVEMBER 16th in order to move forward with this initiative.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS:

- 2 indoor hitting bays set up in the dining room
- \$100 for the entire winter season (fee to offset utility/upgrade costs)
- Facilities open November 22nd - March 30th
- Hours of operation: DAILY; 9:00AM-4:00PM
- UPGRADED Launch monitors would be available
- Lessons available upon request
- You may reserve your practice times in advance



YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE WINTER MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO USE THE NETS

To sign up: email pro@blackhallclub.com, call or see us in the shop!





Black Hall, Fall 2024
Photo by, Dr. James McArw

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 NOVEMBER 2024  					1	2 SUPERINTENDENT'S REVENGE OPEN TO ALL FOOD DRIVE TEE OFF BEFORE 12:00PM
3 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS	4 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM  VETERANS DAY	12	13	14	15	16
17  PRACTICE RANGE CLOSED FOR THE SEASON	18 GOLF COURSE CLOSED UNTIL 12:00PM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28  THANKSGIVING	29	30