

— April 2026 —



THE OSPREY



The official newsletter of Black Hall Club



IN THIS ISSUE:

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

President's Message

Dr. Henry Amdur, president@blackhallclub.com

Well, it's been a long winter in Connecticut—and, to paraphrase a recent The New York Times article, it's not over yet.

The Many Seasons of BHC

- Winter
- Fool's Spring (a few warm days that trick you)
- Second Winter
- Spring of Deception
- Third Winter
- Actual Spring
- Summer
- Hell's Front Porch (peak humid Old Lyme heat—like last year's CT Open)
- False Fall
- Second Summer
- Actual Fall

As best I can tell, we're currently in the "Spring of Deception" phase—so brace yourselves for Third Winter.



President's Message Continued

All that said, the course has held up remarkably well. Chris reports that we avoided the feared frost damage to the greens, and Year 2 of the tree project was completed before the snow cover set in. That same snow, however, delayed access for stump grinding, fairway aeration, and other early spring work typically possible during milder winters.

Please be prepared—and patient. Opening Day for the golf shop and kitchen remains on schedule, and before long, Actual Spring will arrive...sometime in May.

I look forward to seeing you then.

P.S. Don't forget to read and comment on the Bylaws draft I shared in last month's Osprey. [Click here](#) for last month's newsletter that includes links to the Lite, Medium, and Full versions.

House Report

Tammy Sparrow,
housechair@blackhallclub.com



House Update: A New Season Begins

As we welcome the start of a new season at the Club, we're excited to share some updates!

Please join us in welcoming our new Head Chef, Oscar Diaz. Chef Oscar joins us after an impressive 24-year tenure at Clinton Country Club. He looks forward to continuing the lunch offerings you've come to know and enjoy. We're pleased to have him in the kitchen for the season ahead.

We're also happy to welcome back our returning dining room team. Many familiar faces will be back to provide the same great service, helping to create a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for all of our members and guests.

The Dining Room will officially open on Saturday, April 11th, with initial hours of Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Beginning Memorial Day, hours will expand to 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. On rainy days, we recommend calling the kitchen or golf shop in advance to confirm availability.

This season will also introduce a few enhancements to improve your experience. Most notably, members will now have the option to order food directly through the Club's app for takeout. Whether you're finishing up a round or simply looking for a convenient option on the go, this feature is designed to make things a bit easier.

Billing Reminder

Your March statements include locker rentals, handicap fees, and Men's/Women's golf charges. Club Storage fees will appear on your May statement. For any billing questions, please reach out to Nancy Tiffany at office@blackhallclub.com.

We're looking forward to a fantastic season ahead—see you in the dining room and on the course!



In Memoriam



Honoring the Legacy of
Our Members



Peter Bulkeley



John Opeka

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile
because it happened."*

Dr. Seuss

All About the Greens

Marty Smith, greenchair@blackhallclub.com

SAVE THE DATE

USGA Discussion on

Improving Course Conditions

May 22, 5pm, Black Hall Dining Room

All Members Encouraged to Participate

On Friday, Memorial Day weekend, Elliott Dowling, USGA Agronomist, will be at Black Hall to discuss the variety of ways that we can improve course conditions. Course conditions at Black Hall are good, but we can improve them. Taking conditions to the “NEXT LEVEL” will require more labor, equipment and resources. At this meeting, Elliott will discuss the recommended steps required to improve conditions, and Chis Konow, our Superintendent and the Green Committee will discuss the cost of implementing these recommendations. [Click here](#) for a brief video featuring Elliott Dowling.

The improvements we have identified include creating healthier greens that will result in more consistent green speeds more often, firmer and healthier fairways and rough, better maintained bunkers, and leveled tees. We will also discuss the equipment replacement plan that we are recommending, as well as some long-term capital requirements including the irrigation system.

This is an important meeting for all members. Please try to attend. We want to share with the membership the options for improvement and receive input as to whether the membership is happy with the good conditions we presently enjoy or would support moving to a higher level of improved playing conditions. The meeting will be recorded and will be available on the club website.

Superintendent's Corner

Chris recently sent out a memo to the membership regarding coming out of the winter and getting the course ready to play this Spring. If you have not had a chance to read it, please [click here](#).

BLACK HALL CLUB
DINING ROOM

We Are
Open
Starting

APRIL 11TH

MONDAYS
CLOSED

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



MON	11 AM - 6 PM
TUES	8 AM - 6 PM
WED	8 AM - 6 PM
THURS	8 AM - 6 PM
FRI	8 AM - 6 PM
SAT/SUN	7 AM - 6 PM
HOLIDAYS	7 AM - 6 PM

Membership Report

Robb Linde, membership@blackhallclub.com

Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy Update

To provide greater clarity and consistency, the Club has updated its Leave of Absence (LOA) policy.

Below is a summary of the key changes:

Single LOA Category:

- The Club now offers one simplified Leave of Absence category, which requires Board approval.

Commitment Period:

- Members who elect to take a Leave of Absence are committed to that status through the end of the Club's fiscal year.

Eligibility Limit:

- A Leave of Absence may not be taken for more than two consecutive fiscal years.
 - Dues Refund Schedule: Requests made prior to June 1 will receive a refund equal to 50% of annual dues, not to exceed the amount already paid toward the current fiscal year.
 - Requests made on or after June 1 are not eligible for a dues refund.

These updates are intended to streamline the process while ensuring fairness and consistency for all members. If you have any questions about the LOA policy or your eligibility, please feel free to contact Lacey by email or phone at (860) 434-2038.



New Member!

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

***Joel Faxon (RS)**

The following candidates have been proposed for membership:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
James Casey	Patricia Cambridge	TBD
Whitman Seymour	Robert Ferreira	Henry Amdur

Robert Trent Jones Society News....



Our Club is a member of the Robert Trent Jones Society and you are cordially invited to join other Society Member Clubs for two + days of golf and comradery on the renown RTJ-designed North & South Courses at Firestone CC, September 11-13 th in Akron, Ohio.

This is the first time in the Society's history where you can play both a major championship venue (PGA '60, '66, '75) and another RTJ-designed course. RTJ Society members will get to play at a significant discount. This will be the 22 nd annual gathering of the Robert Trent Jones Society. Take a deep dive into Society happenings while enjoying two days of friendly golf competition and networking with fellow RTJ Society Member Clubs across the country. [Click here](#) for registration information.



Pro's Report

Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com

Welcome Back to Another Great Season

We have a new face on the Golf Professional Staff this Spring as we say hello to our newest Assistant Professional, Drew Gromko. Drew is from Canterbury, Connecticut and has come to us most recently as a staff member of TPC River Highlands. A graduate and golf team member of Eastern Connecticut, Drew is excited to get started and begin to meet all of you as you arrive for your first rounds of golf this season. Be sure to come in and say Hello!

You will also see the smiling faces of Brian Quilter and Lacey Arndt again this season in the golf shop. We are eager for the season to start so let us know if we can help you with anything!

Andrew Ferrucci has moved down the road to Shelter Harbour Golf Club in Charlston, RI. Andrew was a valued member of our team and family at Black Hall; he will be missed and we certainly wish him well in his new endeavors.



MEN'S GOLF

OPENING DAY "SCRAMBLED EGG"

Saturday, April 25th
Buffet Breakfast and Lunch after golf are both included

8:00am Breakfast, 9:00am Shotgun Start, Scramble format; FUN!!

SPRING MEMBER-MEMBER

Saturday, May 9th
8:30am Shotgun
Best Ball Stableford - Gross & Net

MAY MEMBER-GUEST

Friday, May 15th, 1:00pm shotgun
Our first Member-Guest of the year, invite 1 or 3 guests for a great day!



WOMEN'S GOLF

BHWGA OPENING DAY

Wednesday, May 13th - 8:45am Shotgun Start
Luncheon & meeting will follow golf

There are 3 "Spring Golf" events on April 22nd & 29th, and May 6th.

LADIES CLINICS

Our clinics will be on **Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning on April 28th and ending on May 14th.** The clinics will begin at 9:00am. At the end of the hour, we will pair up whomever wants to play some golf. No matter your level of experience, we'll make you feel at home with either group.

The cost of the clinics will be \$20.00 per session. Get ready for the season and take advantage of this great opportunity for golfers of ALL skill levels!!

Golf Shop News

Spring Apparel Has Arrived

Freshen up your on-course look with our new spring performance apparel. We're now stocked with lightweight jackets, mid-layers, rain gear, and more—featuring both men's and women's styles. New items are arriving daily, so be sure to stop in and find something that fits your game and the season.

New Equipment In Stock

The latest golf equipment is arriving daily, with top brands including Ping, Titleist, Callaway, and TaylorMade.

Our goal is to help you find the right clubs for your game. The best way to do that is through a custom fitting, and we now have a new launch monitor to enhance the experience. Fittings are complimentary, require no purchase, and offer valuable insights into your swing—often with a bit of instruction along the way.

Trade In & Trade Up

Thinking about upgrading your clubs? Bring in your current set and we'll evaluate their trade-in value, which can be applied toward new equipment. It's a great way to make your next upgrade more affordable.



APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 PRACTICE RANGE OPEN FOR SEASON
					GOOD FRIDAY	
5 EASTER	6 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON	7	8	9	10	11 DINING ROOM & BAGROOM OPEN FOR THE SEASON
12	13 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON	21	22 LADIES DAY SPRING GOLF	23	24	25 MEN'S OPENING DAY SCRAMBLED EGG TOURNAMENT 9:00 AM SHOTGUN BREAKFAST & LUNCH BUFFET
26	27 GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON	28 WOMEN'S CLINIC 9:00 AM	29 LADIES DAY SPRING GOLF	30 WOMEN'S CLINIC 9:00 AM		