OCTOBER 2026

# THE OSPREY

*The official newsletter of Black Hall Club*



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## President's Message

***Dr. Henry Amdur, president@blackhallclub.com***

It's hard to believe we're already heading into fall. Every time I'm on the course these days, I'm struck by how good Black Hall looks and plays. Chris and his team have done a terrific job, and I think the course is in the best condition as I've seen it in my 30 years as a Member.

And now we get to enjoy Black Hall at one of its best times of year. The changing leaves, crisp autumn air, and beautiful fall colors will soon make the course even more spectacular. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to get out and enjoy it.

There's plenty happening at the Club as we head into the fall. The Men's Closing Day tournament, always a fun event, is October 10. The following week brings our Annual Meeting and Governors Party. Please come and help us recognize Marty Smith for nine years of dedicated service to the Club and his tireless work to improve our course conditions during his tenure as Green Chair.

Finally, please come and vote on the proposed Bylaws amendments. If

*President's Message Continued*

approved, the change in the allocation of onboarding funds will help us meet the ever-increasing cost of capital equipment. Importantly, there will be no change to the value of current members' certificates or to those Members still paying toward their certificates. If you are unable to attend please mail you proxy vote in promptly.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!











## Report from the Treasurer

*Rich Bacci,*
*Treasurer@blackhallclub.com*

**PLANNING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

Over the past several years, Black Hall Club has made strategic investments in the golf course, clubhouse, and equipment while maintaining a strong financial position. As we begin fiscal year 2027, the budget is designed to support ongoing operations, continued investment in the club and its facilities, and the long-term financial health of the Club—all while maintaining a debt-free position and a healthy cash reserve.

# House Report

*Tammy Sparrow,*
*housechair@blackhallclub.com*

**A YEAR OF IMPROVEMENTS AT BLACK HALL**

October marks the beginning of a new fiscal year at Black Hall, so we thought this would be a good time to recap some of the work completed over the past year to keep our clubhouse and three rental properties in good shape. Below are some highlights of the improvements made.

At the rental properties, the home occupied by our Superintendent, Chris Konow, received a new master bathroom, as well as a new washer and dryer. The home occupied by our Assistant Superintendent, Ronald Lopez, received new countertops and a new stove.

At the clubhouse, a major focus was improving conditions in the basement to address the mold and mice issues that have affected storage areas and golf equipment in the past. Repairs were completed to help reduce summer humidity, and the food storage closet was reconstructed. A new walk-in refrigerator has also been installed.

As a reminder, the new minimums go into effect October 1; Single, Senior, and Associate Memberships - $450, and Family and Senior Family - $550.The dining room will remain open Tuesday through Sunday, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, through Sunday, October 25.

A big thank-you to Oscar and his staff for a fantastic season!

**LOCKER REMINDERS**

If you're heading to warmer weather, please make sure your locker is unlocked and emptied before you leave. For those staying through the winter, lockers must be emptied by December 31.

Lockers will be cleaned during January and February and will be available for use again beginning March 1. Locker charges will appear on your March statement.




"I love these senior citizen discounts."

# Administrative Corner

**REMINDER: DUES INSTALLMENTS**

The first of six monthly dues installments will appear on your October statement, which will be sent to you by mail or email early November. If you have not received your statement by email, please check your spam folder. If you still have not received it, kindly contact Nancy at Office@blackhallclub.com.

**A QUICK PAYMENT REMINDER**

A quick reminder regarding member invoice payments: credit cards have never been an accepted payment method, but the option was temporarily available when we launched our new member platform. Our platform provider has now disabled the credit card option.

Going forward, EFT is the only automatic payment option, with payments drafted from your bank account on the 15th of each month.

If you currently have a credit card on file, your automatic card payment will be removed. Please set up EFT using your banking information for your September statement to ensure your payment continues to process automatically.

Thank you for your help with this transition! Please reach out to the Club office with any questions, we're happy to help.

# All About the Greens

*Marty Smith, greenchair@blackhallclub.com*

**NEW BUDGET**

The Board of Governors has approved a budget that will allow us to go forward with the following new initiatives:

- Purchase of autonomous rough mowers
- Purchase of a new sprayer, walking greens mowers and Triplex greens mower
- Enhanced bunker renovation
- XGD drainage system installation on the 16th green and practice green
- Initiation of Drill and Fill green subsoil replacement program

The 27 autonomous mowers will be installed in late October. The installation needs to be done carefully, and it will take some time. It is being done by MTE and Husqvarna, the dealer and manufacturer. While we won't be using the mowers much this fall, they will be ready to go in the Spring.



The XGD drainage installation will start this month. It is about a three-day process, which is being done by the same company that did the 8th, 14th and 17th greens.

The Drill and Fill is scheduled for mid November. This work is also being done by an outside contractor. All the greens will be done. This process involves drilling a one-inch diameter hole that is approximately 12 inches deep and injecting the hole with kiln dried sand. A heavy layer of sand will then be applied to the green surface.

**FINAL REPORT**

This is my last report as Green Chairman. Scott Farrell is taking over next month, and I know he will do a great job.

I'd like to thank Presidents Tony Stratidis and Henry Amdur for selecting me to do this work over the last 4 budget cycles. I appreciate the Board of Governors and the membership for supporting the initiatives we have recommended.

As you know, we have proposed many new improvements, and the amazing talent of Lacey Arndt was such a huge help to me in preparing the communications we sent to the membership. Nancy Tiffany has been a valuable resource to us in all that we do, particularly with human resources and budget issues.

I'd like to especially thank the Green Committee members, who worked together to support, advise and help set the priorities of the golf maintenance program. There have been many changes, and the Green Committee has been a strong, enthusiastic and knowledgeable resource. Without their support, the course improvements would not have been possible.

*All About the Greens Continued*

Finally, and most importantly, I will greatly miss working with Superintendent, Chris Konow, and our exemplary maintenance team.

The passion that Chris and his team have for wanting to make Black Hall the best it can be is extraordinary. It comes from their hearts.

We could not have a better leader than Chris. He is honest, intelligent, hardworking, visionary and a true expert in his field. It has been a great privilege to work with him. I urge the membership to continue supporting his efforts to make Black Hall Club as good as it can and should be.




We're excited to celebrate our very own Brian Quilter, who has been named Assistant Professional of the Year by the Connecticut Section PGA!

This well-deserved honor recognizes Brian's outstanding contributions to the golf operation, his strong relationships with our members, his success on the course, and his continued growth as a professional and leader within both Black Hall and the Connecticut PGA Section.

Each year, the Connecticut Section PGA presents eleven awards recognizing outstanding performance and achievements by its members, making this a wonderful accomplishment!

We hope you're as proud of Brian as we are—and thankful to have him as part of the Black Hall family.

Congratulations, Brian! We're so proud of you!

# Membership Report

***Robb Linde, membership@blackhallclub.com***

**CONSIDERING A CHANGE? HERE'S HOW DUES REFUNDS WORK**

We love having you as part of the Black Hall family and hope you'll continue to enjoy the Club for years to come. We also understand that circumstances can change. If you're considering resignation, we want to make sure you're aware of our dues refund schedule, which begins with the start of the fiscal year on October 1:

**Refund Schedule**
October 1–March 1: 100% refund
March 2–June 1: 50% refund
After June 1: No refund

If you're considering resignation, please reach out to Lacey in Membership Services. She'll be happy to walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have.

**The following candidates have been proposed for membership:**

| Candidate | Proposer | Seconder |
|---|---|---|
| Beth Sullivan | Patricia Kurlansky | Susan McKnight |
| Richard Powers | Mark Powers | Henry Amdur |
| Andrew Kolodziejczyk | Scott Farrell | Philip Wertheim |
| Tom Piersall | Kel Tyler | Wil Bradford |
| Robert Belniak | Steve Kurlansky | Meredith Ryan-Reid |
| Matthew Fuller | Phil Perry | Alex Jenkins |
| John Giliberto | Mario DiLoreto | Norm Yester |
| Steven Perlini | Thomas Cherry | Robb Linde |
| Ben Kelly | James Kerley | Michael Mulquin |
| Robin Zubretsky | Meredith Ryan-Reid | Margaret Wade |

# Pro's Report

*Andrew Campbell, pro@blackhallclub.com*



## MEN'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### MEN'S MEMBER GUEST

**Thursday, Sept. 3rd**





**BEST 2 of 4 NET**

**1st -** Scott Farrell, John Emra, Dave Christie, and John Thomas (96)

**2nd -** Greg DeMichiel, Chris Gagne, Jerry Dwyer, and Tony Ponte (99)

**3rd -** Tom Kelly, Peter Kanelos, Rich Anderson, Jake Alonzo (99)

**BEST 2 of 4 GROSS**

**1st -** Jeff Riley, Chad Gengras, Robert Gengras, and Rob LaPlante (108)

**2nd -** Jon Stein, Paul Wik, John Janangelo, and James Wharton (112)

### FALL MEMBER-MEMBER

**Sept. 19th & 20th**

**OVERALL:**

1st - Greg DeMichiel & Brice Craven

2nd - Tom Kelly & Jack Johnson

3rd - Dennis Sindell & Carl DeJuliis

T4th - Mike Sheehan & John Maloney

T4th - Phil Perry & Scott Jenkins



## MIXED TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**La Fiesta, Friday, September 18th**



**1st -** J.C. & Kendra Flaherty and Zachary and Abbey Back (61)

**2nd -** Dave & Tammy Sparrow and Mike & Lee Ann Palladino (63)

**3rd -** Kim & Bob Daoust and Steve Rieth & Alicia Pierson (63)

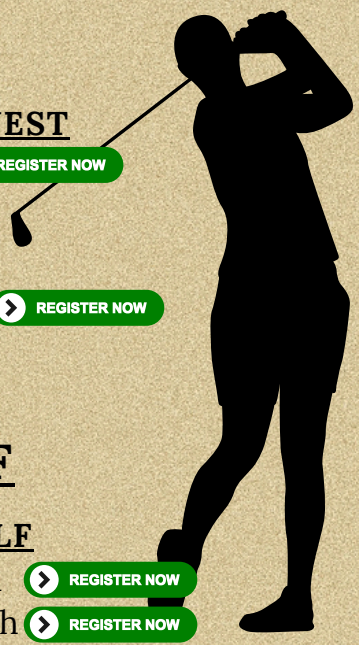
## BHC Women Bring Home the Murphy Cup!

We're excited to celebrate a fantastic accomplishment by our Black Hall women! Black Hall Club, together with Old Lyme Country Club and Fox Hopyard, captured the 2026 Murphy Cup as part of the Connecticut Women's Golf Association's (CWGA) Past Presidents' Cup Team Matches.

The Past Presidents' Cup brings together teams from CWGA member clubs for competitive match-play competition each fall, with several cups awarded across the different flights. The Murphy Cup is one of those coveted titles.

Congratulations to all of the women who represented our club and helped bring home the Murphy Cup! We're proud to see our Black Hall ladies competing at such a high level and representing the Club so well. Way to go, ladies!

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS



## MEN'S GOLF

**OCTOBER MEMBER-GUEST**
Friday, October 2nd REGISTER NOW
12:30PM Shotgun

**MEN'S CLOSING DAY**
Saturday, October 10th REGISTER NOW
9:00 AM Shotgun

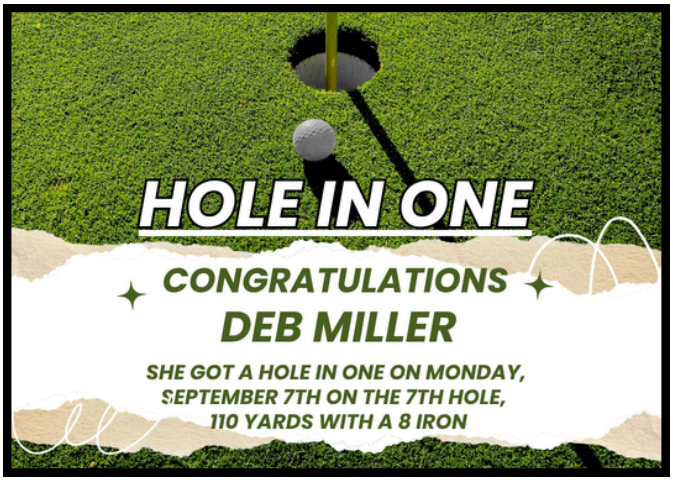
## WOMEN'S GOLF

**LADIES DAY - FALL GOLF**
Wednesday, October 7th REGISTER NOW
Wednesday, October 14th REGISTER NOW

## MIXED GOLF

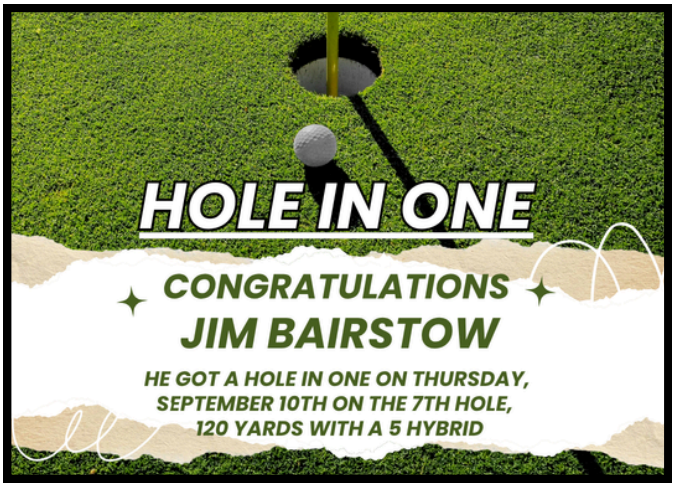
**SUPERINTENDENT'S REVENGE**
Saturday, October 24th










# Four Aces in Five Days!

Something was definitely in the air at Black Hall this September! In an incredible stretch of just five days, four members recorded a hole-in-one!

Congratulations to Ron Furr, Deb Miller, Kelly Rainey, and Jim Bairstow on their amazing shots!

It started with three aces in just two days, and then, as if that wasn't impressive enough, Jim Bairstow added another one three days later!

Four hole-in-ones in five days is an incredible run—and one we're pretty sure doesn't happen every day! Congratulations to all four of our newest ace-makers. We're wondering... who's next?

# GOLF SHOP NEWS

**Demo Clubs: Time for a Return**

As we head into the final weeks of the season, it's time to round up our demo clubs! Each fall, demo drivers, irons, and putters are returned to the manufacturers as part of our annual inventory process.

If you currently have a demo club on loan, please return it to the Golf Shop at your earliest convenience. Haven't made it to the Club recently? No problem—just give us a quick call, and we'll be happy to help arrange a return.  Thanks for helping us wrap up the demo program for the season!

**Pro Tip: Embrace the Layers**

Crisp mornings and cool afternoons are all part of fall golf! The secret to staying comfortable is simple: layers, layers, layers.

Start with a breathable shirt, add a pullover or vest, and keep a lightweight jacket nearby for those extra-chilly mornings. You'll stay comfortable without feeling bundled up.

Stop by the Golf Shop to check out our latest fall apparel and find a few new favorites for the season ahead!




# STAY CONNECTED

**Stay Connected with Black Hall by Text**

We're making a change to the way we send text messages! Beginning January 1, 2027, Black Hall will be transitioning our member text messaging to our new Synergy platform so that all of our member communications can be managed in one place.

To continue receiving important Club updates, reminders, and other helpful information by text, members will need to give permission to receive text messages through the new system.

Please take a moment to complete the short form below to give us permission to text you through Synergy:
Sign Up to Receive Black Hall Text Messages

We appreciate you taking a moment to complete this step and look forward to staying connected with you!

# CAUGHT ON CAMERA!



**Beautiful Red Tailed Hawk**
*Photo taken by Henry Amdur*



**Stunning Bald Eagle on Three!**
*Photo taken Melissa Lipkvich!*

Black Hall Club

## OCTOBER 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2<br>**MEN'S MEMBER-GUEST**<br>12:30 PM SHOTGUN<br>DINNER TO FOLLOW | 3 |
| 4 | 5<br>GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON | 6 | 7<br>**LADIES DAY**<br>FALL GOLF | 8 | 9<br>**PAST PRESIDENTS GATHERING**<br>1:00PM - 1:30PM<br>DINNER TO FOLLOW | 10<br>**MEN'S CLOSING DAY**<br>9:00AM SHOTGUN<br>BREAKFAST AT 8:00AM |
| 11 | 12<br>GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON<br>*COLUMBUS DAY & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY* | 13 | 14<br>**LADIES DAY**<br>FALL GOLF | 15 | 16 | 17<br>**ANNUAL MEETING & GOVERNORS COCKTAIL PARTY**<br>4:00PM |
| 18 | 19<br>GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24<br>**SUPERINTENDENT'S REVENGE**<br>OPEN TO ALL<br>TEE OFF BEFORE NOON |
| 25<br>Closed<br>DINING ROOM & BAG ROOM CLOSE FOR THE SEASON | 26<br>GOLF COURSE & PRACTICE RANGE OPEN AT NOON | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31<br>*HALLOWEEN* |