



PIPER

HIGHLAND COUNTRY CLUB

JANUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most difficult challenges I have discovered since joining the Board of Directors three years ago is working with the Finance Committee and my fellow Board Members in projecting an accurate budget for the upcoming year. As I'm sure you are aware, membership dues are the most vital source of revenue for any club.

Although the budget is set before the end of the year, the Finance Committee and Board of Directors never know the actual number of members in each category until the end of the new membership promotion in early spring. One of the early indicators or whether or not it's going to be a good year come on December 31, when resignations and membership change are received. You can therefore understand how anxious the entire Board gets while waiting for the final tallies.

As is always the case, even in good economic times, we did receive a number of resignations. Also, the erosion from Full to Limited members continues, but I'm happy to report that it looks like the progress we made in 2011 will continue in the New Year.

We entered January with a total of 367 members: 25 more than we had at this time last year. The number of Limited Members is up by 17 from a year ago to 108, but the total for the Full Membership category is down by 3 to 109. It's important to point out that this is the first time in the club's history that the differential between the two categories is so low. The trend of Full Members dropping down to the Limited category continues, as 8 members made the shift before the December 31 deadline.

The good news if you're a Full Member is that it will be that much easier to sign-up and/or qualify for tournaments such as the President's Cup, Ralph Allen, and Fall Member-Member. The bad news, of course, is that when the number of Full Members decreases, so does important revenue from their tournaments.

As I announced in an email blast last month, the Board decided not to act on my recommendation to allow Full Members an early opportunity to sign-up for popular weekday events such as the Men's Spring and Summer Twilight Leagues and Friday Member-Guest Tournaments. The Board did add value to the Full Membership category by unanimously approving a motion to reduce the cost of Club Care to \$50.

A special thanks to those of you who contacted me personally with your concerns about making changes to my proposed new sign-up policy. I agree with many of the points you made and forwarded those concerns to all members of the Board.

In addition to comments on the current operation of the club, I welcome suggestions on how to ebb the ongoing flow of members from Full To Limited. Among the ideas I received to date is opening tournaments that are not filled to Limited Members. While I agree that the move would increase tournament participation, my fear is that it would accelerate the erosion even more. In a move that would surely impact the number of Full Members, it was suggested that if the club ever has more Limited than Full Members, the Board should approve an earlier start time for Limited Members on weekends to 11, 10:30, or 10 a.m. As you can see, there are many opinions on how we should proceed and it's obvious that there are no easy answers.

Over the next couple of months, I will be collecting data on other clubs in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island that have membership

(continued)

2012 Officers & Committees

President	Peter Gay
Vice President	Tim Gilmore
Secretary	Debbie Donadio
Treasurer	Joe Fogarty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Gilmore	Vice President
Debbie Donadio	Secretary
Joe Fogarty	Treasurer
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Rick Smith	'12
Bob Gay	'12
Joe Fogarty	'13
Tim Gilmore	'13
Brian Goad	'13
Ray LeBlanc	'13
Steve Nelson	'13
Peter Costello	'14
Peter Gay	'14
Derek Johnson	'14
Rich Tetreault	'14

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Brian Goad, Chairman	
Debbie Donadio	Liz Cochrane
Frank Pirri	
Rich Tetreault	

GREEN COMMITTEE

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Jerry Hennessey	Richard O'Brien
Steve Finocchi	Ray LeBlanc
Neil Reilly	Paul Parker

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Steve Nelson, Bob Gay, Co-Chairmen	
Chris Hanson	
Bob Gilmore	Ted Carmone
Peter Roque	Chad Lareau

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Armand Brunelle	Jim Brennan
Colleen Duffy	Drew Chapman

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Jay Poirier	Rick Smith
Ray LeBlanc	Stacy Alsfeld

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Bob Thresher, Co-Chairman	
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Armand Brunelle	

WGA

Brenda Alsfeld

CLUB HOUSE MANAGER

Charlie Cote

CONTROLLER

Alice Tarquino

PGA GOLF PRO

Drew Chapman

SUPERINTENDENT

Steve Murray

www.highlandcountryclubattleboro.com

Levels similar to ours. I'm hoping that the information will prove valuable and provide new ideas. In the meantime, keep promoting Highland to family and friends.

By the way.....Happy New Year!

PETER GAY

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

Well who would guess we would still be playing golf at this time of the year? In discussing things with Steve Murray he will try to leave greens open as long as he can. Once he decides to close the greens and go to temporary greens we will send out an e-mail blast to inform all members. Temporary tees will stay until the opening of the 2012 season.

With the great weather it also allows John and Steve to work on the course which will be very noticeable in the spring. We also had most if now all of the tree stumps ground.

A thank you to Neal Reilly of REILLY TREE SERVICE for the loan of this machine for a couple of projects.

We have instructed the office that on any questions about the course that you contact any committee member.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE THAT MY (Bill Murray) E-Mail address has changed. New address is bma55033@gmail.com

**BILL MURRAY
GREENS COMMITTEE**

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Two weeks of winter down-eleven to go. An email blast will be going out to all members in the next week to get feedback on all tournaments. Any suggestions on how to improve tournaments, ideas for new tournaments, or comments on whether we have too many or too few tournaments will be greatly appreciated.

**STEPHEN NELSON
TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR**

WGA CORNER

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Until this week we have seemed to skip the weather that goes along with this time of year. And it seems that most of us have been enjoying it. I know a number of people that began the New Year by playing a few holes on the course. What a great way to begin this year! I began it by dancing into it at a wedding of the son of a close friend. It also was a great way to start the year. We will start our WGA New Year with a "Girls Night Out" on Thursday evening, January 19 at 6pm in the Grille Room. The plan is to reconnect with everyone over dinner and continue the evening with some games of LRC (Left Right Center-a dice game), so plan on bringing a few dollar bills with you. I hope that you can join us and if you are planning on it, please email me or give me a call. The next Book Club discussion will be held on Thursday, February 2 at 6pm in the Grille Room. The book we are reading is *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht. Please let me know if you are attending this meeting. I will make reservation for dinner with Donna. I highly recommend that you participate in the Bowling Night that is being planned for Saturday, February 25. It has been a fun evening in the past and is sure to be again this year and is open to all the membership. We have chosen *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent for our March 1 Book Club meeting. For all of you that have made new Year's resolution to get in shape to improve your golf game we will be offering golf conditioning sessions on the last four Thursday evenings in March. They have been designed and will be lead by Terri Gormley. So mark your calendars and I hope to see many of you in early 2012.

**BRENDA ALSFELD
WGA CHAIRMAN**

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