



MAY 2019

THE RIVER

Membership Update



**We would like to Welcome the following new members to
Great River Golf Club.**

We are looking forward to having you all as members.

Pat Chute

Joe Mariano

Christian Colon

Valorie McMillan

Christine Greatrex

Robert Moore

Grant Hilinski

Stan Paulauskas

Richard Jackson

Aiden Phillips

Rick Kelly

William Phillips

Shayne & Heather Kuhaneck

John & Kathleen Yavorka

Greens & Grounds

April showers were definitely the theme last month as we had (as of 4/23) 12 days with measurable rain that totaled 4.8". Despite all that rain, I would consider April a very productive month. April's objectives were to finish filling and tamping sand in the newly renovated bunkers, perform necessary cultural programs to fairways and tees, get the course clean, start up the irrigation system (and unfortunately deal with the repairs that each spring brings), get chemical and fertilizer applications out as required, and start working into the normal routines that keep things running smoothly.

With the bunkers all being filled to the correct level, I'm very pleased with how well they are performing. Most importantly, balls are hitting into the face and rolling down the bottom as intended. The only washouts we are seeing come from surface water running in and are minor at worst. For example, last year after each rain event, #10's bunkers would take about 45 minutes to push all the sand back into place. Since installation of the Billy Bunker system, we haven't had to touch them yet! One benefit of these frequent rain storms is helping us pack the sand to minimize "fried eggs". In just the last couple of weeks I've watched numerous players hitting out of the bunkers and the shots have been very nice. We are already hearing that nice thud sound when your club hits the sand and seeing more splash on the greens then last year.

On April 16th and 17th we conducted our spring tee aeration and heavy fairway verticutting. This process went extremely well as we continue our battle against the build-up of thatch. Tee aeration consisted of $\frac{3}{4}$ " hollow tines at a 2.5" spacing, light verticutting to break up cores, dragging to reincorporate good sand, removal of thatch core, and blow. Throughout the year we will continue with monthly verticutting to minimize additional accumulation of organic material. Heavy fairway verticutting consisted of $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep verticutting, followed by vacuuming up thatch, and finishing up with a complete blowing. Once finished with the fairways, we must send a small crew out to pick up each pile and blow remaining material into the woods.



Fairway verticutter w/ vacuum following



Tee aeration in progress

Greens & Grounds

With projects finishing up and so much work going into getting the course ready for play, it has taken us much longer than anticipated to get everything cleaned up from winter. Over the past few weeks we have been sending crews out to get the largest areas taken care of. We will make one heavy push during the last week of April and, if all goes well, the only area left for cleanup should be along the train tracks. This area will be cleaned while Monday outings are taking place as workers will be out of the way and cause minimal disruption.

One of the most nerve-racking times of each spring is starting up our irrigation system for the first time. No matter how well winterization goes each fall, there will be issues. This year, in addition to the normal issues we have such as leaking heads or cracked elbows in swing joints, our system is showing its age with some more serious problems. So far this spring we have replaced (2) 2.5" and (1) 2" ball valves. In addition to being costly repairs, they require at least two crew members for 4 – 6 hours and the system must be shut down for almost two full days. Without these valves we would not have the ability to isolate a green or fairway when an issue arises. With all the major repairs complete, the irrigation system is now fully charged and ready for use.



Jeffrey getting ready to apply fairway fertilizer

Spring is the busiest time for chemical and fertilizer

applications. Many of the products must be applied within a certain time frame (usually a very small window determined by soil temperatures or growing degree days) for optimal performance. During the spring, pre-emergent herbicides are applied for crabgrass control and keeping native areas clean, insecticides for grub and weevil control, fungicides to keep plant in optimal health throughout the entire season. Fertilizer is applied in a bulk fashion to fairways and roughs. We use a slow release product that “spoon feeds” the turf throughout the growing season. This application is time consuming and must be done with accuracy to avoid mistakes.

Greens & Grounds

With April ending, we really start to get our routines in place and make sure they are followed. During the spring months when turf is slow growing, regular mowing practices are not that important. Now that turf is ready to jump, we will have to keep up with the more frequent mowing required. At no point do we ever want to remove more than 1/3 of the plant. Doing so increases the likelihood of scalping and causes undo stress to the plant. In addition to mowing, we will get back on regularly scheduled bunker raking, trimming, divot filling, and all the other tasks required to make the course consistently ready for play every day.

I am very optimistic about this season and feel we are on the right path to provide playing conditions Great River has been known for. A lot of work has gone into getting the course back, but we must continue to move forward and stick with the plan outlined by our consultant, UCONN, and the USGA.

Hole In One Club



**Congratulations to
Pete Cofrancesco!**
**Pete had a Hole in One
on Hole # 15
Sunday, April 28th**



**Congratulations to
Alex Cardona!**
**Alex had a Hole in One
on Hole #15
Tuesday, April 23rd**

Featured Student of the Month

Each month I will feature one of my hard-working students demonstrating a beneficial drill that can help you with your game.

I call this one **The Three Link Backswing Drill**. This drill is great for those players who take the backswing too inside and lift to the top of the swing and as a result make that dreaded over the top move on the downswing! In this drill, the first link is to take the hands to the back thigh with the shaft matching the shaft or alignment stick on the ground diagonally (Figure 1). Next step is to hinge the club and turn so the butt of club sets at target line (Figure 2). And last position is to rotate shoulders and chest so to set the club at the top without any arm lift (Figure 3). Do this without a ball first and get a bunch of repetition, then start hitting balls with this drill stopping in these three positions. After some practice you'll start to get the feel of linking these three positions together into a nice smooth backswing



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Food & Beverage



Dear Members & Guests,

It is the time of year we look forward to here at Great River. It is so nice to see all the familiar faces, as well as new ones, we all call our Members, or as we like to say, our “Family”. Our F&B Team is always working hard to provide you with excellent food and service to exceed your expectations!

The new menu has been under way for about a month now and appears to be well-received! As the Spring & Summer months progress, we will make some changes to our specialty nights offered. Our plans are to change Tuesday and Wednesday nights, which will provide excitement and uniqueness. Our goal is maximizing “Freshness” by utilizing our local farms and on-premise garden to keep the Farm to Table theme alive and well through the year. Be on the look out!

On the event side of things, Easter Brunch was a great success, with 380 guests served. Mother’s Day Brunch is right around the corner, on May 12th. We will feature carving and omelet stations, traditional breakfast items, lunch entrées, as well as our outstanding dessert display. Reservations are filling up fast, be sure to make yours today!

We look forward to serving you, your families, and guests!

Thank you,

Dan Piccoello
F&B Director

Mike Legen
Executive Chef

Mother's Day Brunch

GREAT RIVER GOLF CLUB

Sunday Brunch 10am-2pm

Adults – \$45.95 | Children 5-12 – \$22.95 | Under Five – Free

Includes a complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosa

Bakery Selections

Bagels, Croissants, Danish, Scones, Muffins

Butter, Cream Cheese, Preserves

Sliced Seasonal Fruits

Build Your Own Waffle & French Toast Bar

Fresh Made Belgium Waffles, Challah French Toast, Assortment of Toppings and Sauces

Seafood Display

Sliced Smoked Salmon, Capers, Red Onions

Traditional Shrimp Cocktail

Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes, Old Bay Remoulade

Soup and Salads

Tomato Bisque

Classic Caesar Salad

Arugula Salad, Mozzarella, Orange, Toasted Pistachios, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Selection of Artisan Breads & Rolls

Breakfast and Entrée Selections

Bacon, Sausage

Eggs Benedict

Classic Home Fries

Roasted Vegetable Gluten Free Quiche

Sautéed Chicken Breast Lemon, Caper Sauce

Penne Pasta Primavera, Garlic & Oil Sauce

Grilled Salmon, Roasted Tomato Gazpacho Sauce

Cheddar Cheese Duchess Potatoes

Spring Vegetable Medley

Made to Order Omelets

Choice of Assorted Breakfast Meats,
Cheeses, & Fresh Vegetables

Eggs Whites Available

Carved to Order

Honey Roasted Turkey Breast, Pan Gravy, Cranberry Chutney

Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin, Traditional Gravy

Herb Crusted NY Sirloin, Horseradish Crème Fraiche

Dessert Finale

Selection of Cakes, Pies, Brownies, Cookies

Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Includes a Mini Children's Dessert Buffet with Assorted Goodies



Thank you to the
Sacred Heart University Hockey Team
Sikorsky &
Great River Golf Club Staff
who volunteered to clean up the Housatonic shoreline.
We picked up over 43 bags of garbage and a 55 gallon drum.



Event Planner Corner

Greetings!

We welcomed Spring with many special events including the annual SHU Alumni Easter celebration and our first wedding of the season. Congratulations to newlyweds Allie & Sal! We were honored to host your special day! In addition, we welcomed many brides and babies to be, and hosted our 3rd annual Spring Bridal Show by Wedding Steps.

As we look ahead to the next few months, we are excited to host more special events and celebrations. And as always, look forward to seeing our beautiful property and ballroom buzzing with weddings, parties and corporate events. I'm sure you would agree; how lucky we are to be able to share with our guests such a beautiful golf club!

I'd love to help plan your next special event. If you know of anyone looking for the perfect venue, please have them give me a call at 203-876-8051 ext. 132.

Best Regards,

Gail Hunt

Social & Corporate Event Sales Manager



Upcoming Social Events



MEMBER HAPPY HOUR

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH, 2019
FIREPLACE PATIO
4:00 - 7:00 PM
COMPLIMENTARY APPS & CASH BAR



SECOND ANNUAL MEMBER PIG ROAST

**FEATURING LIVE MUSIC
FROM T&T DREAMIN**


\$47.95 PER PERSON + tax



**PIG ROAST
BARBECUE BRISKET
BARBECUE CHICKEN
POTATO SALAD
CAESAR SALAD
CORN ON THE COB
COLESLAW
GARDEN FRESH VEGETABLES
DESSERT
CASH BAR**

**JUNE 28 | 6:00 PM
Fireplace Patio**

RSVP to karina@grgolfclub.com



JOIN US FOR

Island Night

July 26, 2019

6-9 PM

\$45 per person + tax

Live Steel Drum Performance

Jerk Chicken Wings
Spiced Grilled Swordfish

Island Curry Lamb

Red Snapper Ceviché

Conch Salad

Pineapple Roasted Pork

Savoy Cabbage Coleslaw

Sweet & Sour Shrimp

Caribbean Style Salad, Mango Vinaigrette

Dessert

RSVP to Karin Attolino

203-876-8051 ext. 111 or karina@grgolfclub.com



Thursday, May 30th

6:30pm

\$45 Per Person

Complimentary Glass of Wine Included

Golf Operations



I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for any confusion that might have been caused by our Handicap Flag Policy and to thank our members for their patience and understanding with our staff as the policy is administered. The Handicap Policy and how it relates to cart occupancy all stems from our commitment to making Great River Golf Course the best it can be. When a handicapped player is the sole occupant of the cart it limits the amount of cart traffic on the course especially on holes that are more susceptible to cart traffic damage. As the season progresses and turf growing conditions improve, the cart path only policy will be relaxed. Soon, weather permitting, we will return to our 90-degree cart policy. The 90-degree policy basically requires that all golfers stay on the cart path until they reach the approximate location of their ball and then turn 90 degrees to their ball. We ask that carts avoid driving down the fairways and adhere to this request. Holes #6, 9 and 17 will remain cart path only so hopefully this will alleviate some of the inconveniences caused by the Handicap Cart Policy.

As the course continues to improve, we ask again that all our members and guests do their utmost in maintaining ideal course conditions by fixing their ball marks, and two or three others on the putting surfaces, as well as fixing their divots by using the divot mix provided. Additional staff will be used to perform these tasks as well. We rely heavily on our members and guests to take care of their golf course and do their part in providing the best playing conditions possible. Anyone observed not following these requests should politely be asked to do their part as well. Together we can make a huge contribution to the overall quality of the course and ensure that Great River continues to be a superior golfing experience.

Pro Shop Corner



On behalf of the Staff here at Great River Golf Club, I welcome you to the 2019 Golf Season! We have an exciting year in store for you and are looking forward to seeing you back at the club.

As you assess your equipment needs this Spring, we are thrilled to inform you of all our new offerings in the shop.

Peter Millar, Turtleson, Under Armour Apparel & Footwear, FootJoy Apparel, Footwear, Gloves and Outerwear, johnnie-O, TB Phelps footwear & belts, Ecco, Travis Mathew apparel & headwear, Oakley & Maui Jim sunglasses.

Remember to stock up and use your member discount.

Along with all the newest collections we have all the newest equipment from Titleist, TaylorMade, Callaway, Mizuno & Ping.

UPCOMING FITTING DAYS

TITLEIST MAY 10TH 2:00PM - 6:00PM	CALLAWAY MAY 17TH 1:00PM - 4:00PM	MIZUNO MAY 22ND 2:00PM - 6:00PM	TAYLORMADE JUNE 15TH 10:00AM - 2:00PM
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Tournament Club

Twilight Golf League Wednesdays

May 15th - June 26th

Tee times start at 4:36PM

Sign up with a partner or we can help you find a partner. This fun competition will be every Wednesday starting May 15th and ending June 19th. Tee times will begin at 4:36PM with happy hour in the Member's Grill Room after your match. Sign up to play in the Pro Shop.

COST: \$100.00 Per Player

Format:

- Nine Hole Match Play with two person teams
- Each week will feature a different format
- Matches are played using HDC
- Teams will accumulate points each week for winning their match

The Great River Open is Back!

Saturday, May 18th, 1st Round Matches

Tee times starting at 7:30AM

Match Play using 100% handicap. Matches will be drawn randomly. Winners will advance to next round and matches must be played by a certain date. Semi and finals will be played July 27th-28th.

COST: \$50.00

Spring One Day Member- Guest

Friday, June 7th, 1:00PM Shotgun

Entry Fee/Team: Invite up to 3 guests

\$250 a team, \$125 for each additional guest

Format: Better Ball of Two Gross and Net

Sign-Up Deadline: May 29th

Prizes: 1st, 2nd Gross & Net

Food and Beverage: Lunch and Dinner in the Member's Grill Room.