President’s Letter
December 2013
Robert J. Grossi

The Board approved the 2014-2015 budget at our most recent meeting. About four years ago the Board adopted a policy to move to a family dues model and away from our current a-la-carte dues model. The objective would be to move to one fee for a married certificate holder, which would include spouse and juniors, and a lower fee for single certificate holders. To do this, the spousal fee has been lowered and the junior and intermediate fees have remained the same, while other fees have increased by a modest 1%. This can be accomplished because we are holding the line on expenses while our costs continue to increase. I would like to thank Dan Aboyan, the finance committee and the Board for their efforts in creating this realistic budget.

The members’ response to the Employee Christmas Fund has been extraordinary. It is our policy to distribute 100% of the funds received to our employees using a formula based on seniority and wages. The funds will be distributed to our employees on December 20th and I would like to thank you for your generosity.

I would like to thank Jim Byrne for all his efforts over the last two years. The club has never been in better shape. We are fortunate to have a great membership and a board which understands we have to continue to improve our club. We have had great leadership and Jim has continued that tradition.

I want to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our By-Laws require any member desiring to change his or her membership classification (including deleting spousal golf privileges and/or juniors) to notify the Club in writing of such change no later than January 10, 2014, changes to be effective February 1, 2014.

If you do not request a status change by that date, you will be obligated to pay the dues for the fiscal year 2015 at the rate of your current membership status. Please also remember that our annual dues become due and payable in full as of February 1, 2014. It is only as an accommodation that the Club allows payment of the annual dues in two installments.
House Committee
December 2013
Peter King

St. Davids celebrated the holiday season in style last Saturday night with our 5th Annual Christmas Cocktail Party. Over 150 members and guests enjoyed a fun and snowy evening together as Chef John McManus cooked up a spectacular assortment of delicious hors d’oeuvres to complement the Ballroom’s festive decorations and the members’ good cheer. We also had a wine raffle and the winners were: Lisa King, Sean Costello, Mike Stephano, Keith Martin, Carl Fridy and Bill Douglas.

Thank you and congratulations to Club Manager Bill Phillips, John McManus, Jill Moore, Bethany Dresser, Pandora Andrews, Jim Tague and the entire Clubhouse staff for all of their extra efforts which truly made this a night to remember!

Just a reminder that our **Christmas Brunch** will be celebrated Sunday, December 22 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. This year’s event will include a Children’s Menu.

The Club’s **New Year’s Eve Dinner** is December 31. Dinner will be held in the Grille and Fireside rooms and will include an acoustic guitar player with dinner and a three-piece group for music and dancing following dinner.

Our annual **“Clean out the Fridge” Party** is set for **Saturday, January 18th** and following a brief four week break, the Club re-opens for our 2014 season on **Friday, February 14, 2014.**

The flyers for the above events are attached to this email.

As always, kindly reserve your spots for these events by e-mailing Bethany at bethany@stdavidsgc.com or by calling 610-688-2010, ext. 225.

I would like to thank all of the members of the House and Entertainment Committee for their contributions this year. Our group includes Mary Block, Sandy Lindberg, Susi Bruhns, Ginny Carr, Regina Sullivan, Shannon Grimes, Lisa King, Jim Zdancewicz, Shannon Tomoe, Rich Fiedorek, Dot Costello, Ken McKeown, and Gene Sullivan. I would also like to thank Bob Grossi for his leadership as Chair for the past three years as we all wish him well in his new assignment!

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year as the Committee works to bring fresh and fun ideas for the Club’s Social Calendar.

Thank you for supporting St. Davids and a very Merry Christmas to all!
Green Department
December 2013
Joe Nattle

The month of November was a cold month; it averaged 2.1 degrees below normal. We actually had a record low November 25 of 20 degrees. Precipitation wise we pretty much finished at where we should be for the month, right around 2.75 inches.

The month of December has started off on a snowy note. We already have 7.6 inches of snow here at the course, and over 10 inches at the airport. In fact, dating back to when records were started; when the airport has had 10 inches or more of snow in December, only one winter finished with normal or below snowfall wise. So it's not much of a leap to say we are on our way to a snowy winter. Some food for thought, the last 2 years where we had over 10 inches in December was 2009-10 and 2010-2011. If you aren't familiar with those years, 2009-2010 had 78 inches of snow and 2010-2011 had over 40 inches.

With the recent snowfall, it pretty much shuts us down until the snow melts. Before the snow, we completed all of our tasks that we wanted to complete for the month of November. In addition, Mottin Golf finished five and seven greens. This gave us a chance to top-dress and roll both greens using plywood. Once the snow clears we have projects out on the course that we want to get to. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Golf Committee
December 2013
Ken Jones

Not much to report on the Golf program in December when there's 5-6 inches of snow on the ground. But we got in our two out-of-season events before the snow. The Black Friday Scramble held on the day after Thanksgiving and Cross Country Golf held December 7th were both big successes and will be repeated on next year's calendar. There's some talk about an “end of the world” event happening before Christmas but I don't know much more than that. Speaking of next year's calendar, it's up on the website under Golf and sports two new events. One will be an alternate shot tournament held on a Friday in August and the other will be a season ending banquet where all of our champions are celebrated. While we might not be able to play golf now, the bar is open at St. Davids.
Proposal for invitation to membership has been received from the following. Please contact Mark Pulos with any questions or concerns at mark.pulos@gmail.com or 610.416.4669.

<table>
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<td>Brian Martin</td>
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Membership Development Continued
December 2013
Jack Lord

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New Members

- Mr. & Mrs. Randy Cusick (Sandy)
  102 Waverly Circle
  Phoenixville, PA 19460
  RES: 610-415-9499

Address Changes

- Mr. Peter King
  E-mail: peterjking009@gmail.com

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Pilates

We are scheduling the Pilates classes again this winter for the women of St. Davids. We are hoping that any of you who wanted to join the class but never had the chance will have opportunity to do so now. The classes will start on the 3rd Monday of February (February 17th) and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:15 in the Grill Room. The instructors are Beth Downey and Sally Pillion and will cost $12.00 a lesson. Anyone interested should contact Beth Downey at bethdowney76@comcast.net.

Pilates is a low impact core strengthening exercise geared to all fitness levels. Please bring a towel, mat and water to class and wear comfortable clothing. You will have a great time while helping your body get stronger.

See you on the 17th,
Ginny Carr
This month we have a guest contributor, our member Charles D. “Charlie” Bissell. Charlie has an extensive knowledge of Philadelphia’s historic families and people. The article below is about a famous lawyer who was one of the early members of SDGC before the 1930s.

**George Wharton Pepper**
by Charles D. Bissell

Perhaps you saw a recent piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer about one of our members. You then might surmise I am referring to Mr. Pierre Brondeau regarding Philadelphia Real Estate, or the nice piece on our Mr. John Cooper and the resurgence of Rye Whiskey in the U.S. Both worthy of mentioning but instead I refer to former member, the late United States Senator George Wharton Pepper. The article was researched and written by The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

George Wharton Pepper was born in Philadelphia in 1867. Upon receiving a Bachelors Degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1887, Pepper went on and graduated from the U. of P. Law School top man in his class. He served his alma mater as both a distinguished Law Professor and later a Trustee of the University. Pepper is also one of the founders of the prestigious law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Active in Pennsylvania Republican politics he was appointed to the United States Senate upon the death of Boies Penrose in 1922. Later that year he won a special election for the senate seat, serving for the next four years. In 1926 he ran for the Senate again and was defeated by Harold Vare in the Republican primary (Vare won the general election but was never seated due to election fraud). Interestingly Vare’s nephew Edwin H. Vare, Jr. married Glenna Collett who was one the greatest women amateur golfers of that era or any era.

Pepper was the attorney for the Philadelphia Phillies. In a famous 1915 law case he was the lead attorney for the National League and Major League Baseball in a famous action brought by a new baseball league called the Federal League which had just completed its first season. Pepper defended Major League Baseball’s Reserve Clause. Up until 1975 major league baseball players signed one year contracts. Each contract also contained a section called the Reserve Clause which stated that the player was still under contract to the team and bound to only negotiate with that team for the following year. The Reserve Clause was abolished in 1975 as a result of Curt Flood’s refusal to report to the Phillies after being traded by the St. Louis Cardinals at the end of the 1969 season.

The case itself was heard by Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis, he of the famous Black Sox Scandal and later the first Commissioner of Baseball. The Federal League’s lawsuit stated that the Reserve Clause was a violation of anti-trust laws. Pepper’s argument in defense of the Reserve Clause was that the anti-trust laws existed for the pricing of commodities and did not apply to labor. All parties hurried to complete the trial before the beginning of the 1915 baseball season but Judge Landis reserved judgment. The outcome was that Landis sat on his decision and by the end of that year the Federal
League was out of business having merged some teams with Major League Baseball (Landis never issued a ruling).

The Inquirer article featured a poem by George S. Chappell that appeared in Philadelphia Lawyer: An Autobiography, in 1944.

“G. Pepper of Penn is a model for men,  
A Bulwark in peace or in war,  
With character rounded and solidly founded  
On learning and logic and law.  
When Senators bicker of tariff or liquor,  
As Senators will now and then,  
The speediest stepper is certainly Pepper,  
George Wharton Pepper of Penn.  
Let me further explain that in spite of his brain  
He’s an athlete, as every one knows,  
And if questions logistic evolve toward the fistic  
He’s always right there on his toes.  
With these multiple talents of brain power and balance  
Who is there, I ask, in the Sen.  
Who can stack up with Pepper, the mental Mazeppa,  
George Wharton Pepper, of Penn!”

George Wharton Pepper of Penn, the United States Senate and St. David’s Golf Club!!!

Pepper was a member of SDGC from at least 1916 to 1923 while living at 1730 Pine Street in Philadelphia. His wife was the secretary of the SDGC Women’s Golf Committee in 1921. Pepper died in Devon in 1961 and for a brief period of time was the oldest living former U.S. Senator.

I will see you in March

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**Book Club**

The Book Group meets usually on the second Thursday of the month, at 10:30 in The Board Room.  
Lunch at 11:30.  All Are Welcome.

Jan. 9th, 2014 - *A Walk in the Woods*, by Bill Bryson  
A humorous memoir about hiking on the Appalachian Trail

Jan. 18th – Feb. 14th - Club Closes for Winter Break
From the Head Golf Professional, Dean Kandle:

**Golf Shop Clearance!**
In case you haven’t seen the emails, our final clearance for 2013 is underway! All men’s fall apparel (Polo, Peter Millar, Fairway & Greene, Cutter & Buck and more) is 30% off until December 14th when it all goes to 40% off! If you can wait and are willing to take the risk, all men’s fall apparel will be 50% off on December 21st and 22nd! Everything in the shop is on sale including all ladies fall apparel at 50% off until Christmas and other discounts up to 75%! Don’t forget to use your credit. It expires at the end of the year.

**Game Improvement Packages for Holiday Purchase**
A number of members have already taken advantage of some exciting game improvement packages we’re offering in 2014. We have packages to fit all levels of players and each one is tailored to reach our ultimate goal of lowering your scores! Contact a member of the Professional staff for more details.

**Winter Shutdown**
As a reminder, the golf shop and bagroom will be closed from Sunday January 12th through Friday February 14th. The last day to pick up your clubs will be Saturday January 11th. Please make every effort to gather all that you’ll need during the shutdown!

**Golf School Availability**
Sick of the snow already? Well winter is not even here yet! We still have limited availability remaining for the men’s golf school February 7-9. Take advantage of this chance to get out of the cold and improve your game with instructors from St. Davids. Contact me for more information.

**2014 Golf Staff**
I’m excited to announce some changes to our Golf Professional staff for the upcoming season. Senior Assistant Professional, Mike Paukovits, will be transitioning to Teaching Professional. Mike is very excited about this transition as it provides him the opportunity to spend more time sharing his passion for golf instruction with the membership at St. Davids. Mike will be able to provide more instruction opportunities in the form of clinics, schools and group coaching sessions to further grow our instruction program. Patrick Butkus and Mike LaBella are both planning their return for 2014 and Patrick has been promoted to Senior Assistant Professional. We will fill in the balance of the staff to ensure that we maintain the appropriate level of service for the members at St. Davids.

As we come to a close to 2013, I would like personally to thank the Board, the Golf Committee, the membership and the staff for another great season. It’s such a pleasure to be the Golf Professional at St. Davids and I’m anxiously awaiting another successful season in 2014. I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Down the fairway,
Dean
Winter is the Perfect Time to Work on Your Game

By Mike Paukovits, Teaching Professional

It’s the middle of December and due to snow on the ground and decreasing temperatures, our access to the driving range and golf course are now limited. But even though we live in an area where the weather is too cold and sometimes makes it impossible to go to the range or play golf, we can still satisfy our itch to work on our golf games during the off-season. If you are a die-hard golfer who is unable to get away to a warmer climate this winter, you will need to find other ways to work on your game! Believe it or not, the winter season is the perfect time to improve a few neglected areas of your golf game including: putting, chipping, pitching practice, and even working on your setup and full swing.

**Putting** - All it takes is a smooth indoor carpet or a putting mat made of artificial turf with a hole. Putt into a glass at the end of hallway, or you can purchase a metal putting cup. A great drill while putting indoors is to try to make three putts in a row from three, four, and five, all the way up to ten feet. The goal is to make three in a row before you can move to the next distance. Another drill is to put a quarter underneath your ball and keep your eyes on the quarter as it drops to the ground after you’ve hit the putt and completed your stroke. A training aide to help your putting path, such as alignment sticks for a putting track, is also very helpful. Do you have a pre-putt routine? If not, now is the time to make develop one. I use a black sharpie line to help square up my putter head, this makes putting alignment just about automatic.

**Chipping and Pitching** – As a junior golfer I would try to chip into a small net off of a mat in our finished basement. This was great practice because it forced me to have a good setup, become more accurate, and use proper technique because if I missed the net I ran the risk of breaking something! We also had a ping pong set in the basement and I soon discovered that a safer way to work on my chipping was to use ping pong balls. The damage you can do is little to none and you can get a great feel for creating backspin. Focus on a good setup with a narrow stance and weight forward, slight hinge during backswing to get the club up, strike down on the ball to pinch it off of the carpet, and maintain a firm left wrist position through impact. For pitching, give yourself a small obstacle to go over in order to force you to hit the ball higher with more hinge during the backswing.

**Full Swing** – If you have the space, set up a net and hitting mat in your basement or garage. Swinging in front of a mirror is one of my favorites; you get instant visual feedback on how you are doing. You should have an idea of what positions to look for during your backswing and downswing. Mirror work is also good for developing better posture at address. Work on a contrast drill in order to help your posture. First, setup with too much knee flex and a rounded back on purpose. Next, setup with no knee flex and standing very tall with your upper body. Now setup in between those two extremes and have a slight knee flex, bend over from the hip flexors while keeping your back flat and relaxing your head so your eyes are able to comfortably look down where the ball will be located. Our brains need contrast in order to develop these skills and the mirror will give you visual confirmation of what an athletic setup should look like and what the wrong way looks like as well.

This type of training can sometimes be more valuable than hitting a large bucket of balls on the range. So don’t wait until the snow melts or the weather improves, you can do a lot to improve your golf game during the cold months. You should also be setting your golf related goals for the 2014 season. Remember, you only have from now until the end of December to purchase our discounted lesson packages. This is a great time to set up your lessons for next season and to make a commitment to improvement. The professional staff is excited to help you achieve your goals and become our next success story!

Happy Holidays,
Mike