

THE HISTORY OF

St. David's Golf Club

THROUGH THE YEARS





George W Schultz

One Sunday in the spring of 1896, A.J.D. (Tony) Peterson arrived at the home of George W. Schultz. According to Schultz, Peterson was “carrying a small white ball and a club with a bent iron on its end.” The previous day Peterson had been introduced to a Scottish game called “GOLF” at the recently opened Devon Golf Club, a nine-hole course located on the current site of Waterloo Gardens.

The following Saturday Peterson arranged for Schultz to play the Devon course with a set of borrowed golf clubs. Schultz apparently enjoyed playing golf enough that later on that year he, along with William H. Brooks, Dr. George L.S. Jameson (who went by “GLS”), Louis Peterson and Herman Wendell decided to organize their own golf club.

This group of founders recognized the need to generate enough members to meet the financial obligations they would face and also the need for a site large enough to build a golf course. The Founders drafted a letter with an attached sign-up sheet for people interested in membership to sign and commit to the terms of becoming members of the new club.

GOLF

It is proposed to form a golf club in Wayne and St. Davids, providing a suitable course can be found in the vicinity at a reasonable annual rental and if at least eighty (80) members will support such an organization with the annual dues fixed at Five dollars each member.

The undersigned pledge themselves to pay their first year's dues on call, in order that the links may be prepared and opened for play early in 1898.

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|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Wm. A. Brooks | 21 | Wm. A. Brooks (P) |
| 2 | L. D. Peterson | 22 | Aug. J. P. Gallagher (P) |
| 3 | Geo. W. Schultz | 23 | L. H. Boyd (P) |
| 4 | C. H. Schaffer | 24 | Wm. A. Brooks (P) |
| 5 | C. J. Young | 25 | W. H. Banger |
| 6 | R. H. Johnson | 26 | Geo. L. Allen |
| 7 | S. Jacquette (pay) | 27 | Milton M. Crane |
| 8 | A. Bailey | 28 | W. W. Patterson |
| 9 | C. H. Dougherty | 29 | H. Hanson |
| 10 | A. Peterson | 30 | Shelton A. Hibbs |
| 11 | Frederick H. Chase | 31 | Wm. A. Brooks (P) |
| 12 | H. H. Deane | 32 | Grace M. Weckerly |
| 13 | Fannie L. S. Schultz | 33 | Edith S. Weckerly |
| 14 | Fernand K. Denimore (pay) | 34 | Marian D. Weckerly |
| 15 | Emily G. Denimore (") | 35 | F. Weckerly |
| 16 | H. J. Lycett (P) | | |
| 17 | G. S. L. Jamison (P) | | |
| 18 | R. Egan Peterson (P) | | |
| 19 | Geo. O. Linn | | |
| 20 | Geo. P. Munn | | |

The solicitation efforts resulted in 123 signatures. Having exceeded the necessary 80 members, the founding group then approached a retired wallpaper manufacturer by the name of Francis Fenimore who owned a large tract of land where Eastern University is currently located. An informal group known as the St. Davids Cricket Club had previously used this ground, but that group fell apart after a grass fire ruined the field and destroyed the small clubhouse. According to Schultz, "it was largely due to his (Francis Fenimore) genial nature towards young men that we were able to use his land and form a club."



St. David's Cricket Club before Golf in Philadelphia

On October 7, 1897, the first official meeting of St.



William Wood - 1st SDCC President

Davids Golf Club (SDGC) was held in Wayne at the home of R. Evans Peterson, father of Tony and Louis (a founder). The election of officers took place that night and William Wood was elected the first President of St. Davids Golf Club and Schultz was elected Secretary.

By 1898, golf was being played on the nine-hole course at the Fenimore property. George Schultz wrote: "We, the moving spirits of the project, laid out the nine-hole course, that had natural hazards rather than artificial bunkers, and it certainly could be called 'sporting.' The small group of enthusiasts, armed with picks, rakes and shovels, built the tees and mowed the grass of the greens by our own sweat of brow. We could afford no laborers nor a professional golf instructor." During its first season SDGC played a home and

home match against the Idlewild Club of Media with each Club winning on its home course. Member Gus Gallagher set the St. Davids course record and Archer Mifflin won the St. Davids Handicap Tournament with a net 84.

Sometime in 1898, Francis Fenimore informed the Club that he was going to begin selling off lots on his property and the Club would have to find a new site for its golf course. Schultz was chosen by a Site Committee to sound out Miss Martha Brown and Mrs. Samuel Chew, sisters who owned a large tract of land (120-acres) on both sides of Lancaster Pike at the 13-mile post, between St. Davids and Radnor. The ladies were amenable to a lease, but insisted there would be no liquor served and no bar on the property.



Martha Brown

Professional John H. Harrison who was managing the golf sales for Gimbel's Department Store laid out the golf course and construction began. Herman Wendell, who was in the construction business, did most of the golf course construction without cost to the Club. The first nine holes opened for play in 1899. That year, St. David's hired its first golf professional, Harry Gullane, who had been the professional at the Philadelphia Country Club the year before. Gullane commenced work in April. He revised and supervised the construction of the second nine holes. Gullane, an accomplished golfer from North Berwick, Scotland, proceeded to finish seventh in the U.S. Open at the Baltimore Country Club that September. He also finished second in the driving contest at the U.S. Open with a drive of 264 yards, two feet and nine inches.



Clubhouse with Porch

A farmhouse on the property that dated back to the early 1800's was converted into the Club's new home. Several of the Directors papered and painted the rooms of the farmhouse at their own expense and built a long porch. An article in the Philadelphia Inquirer stated: "The clubhouse has been finely furnished throughout, and fitted with every improvement. It is now the centre of interest for Philadelphia and suburban golfers, and will be the scene of considerable social activity during the coming winter."

The Charter incorporating St. David's Golf Club was issued on March 20, 1899 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and listed all the Officers and Directors including Dr. Jameson, President. The Club had over 300 members, which included many women, and was prospering while operating under a conservative financial philosophy (no debt). The first Club Champion was Gus Gallagher. Louise Bergner won the Women's Championship. The President's Cup, which was also the men's club championship, was played on November 30, Thanksgiving Day with the low 8 players to playoff at match play during December. The final was actually played on the first Saturday of January.



*Dr. Jameson
President 6 years*

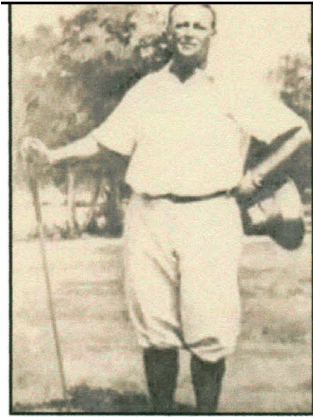


1899
*Augustus "Gus" Gallagher
Club Champion*

*Louise Bergner
Women's Club Champion*



In February 1900, St. Davids joined the United States Golf Association. That same month SDGC became the sixth member of the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP) and the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia (WGAP). That year our members were active participants in all associations including the men's and women's team matches. James Govan followed Harry Gullane in 1900 as Golf Professional and Golf Course Superintendent at SDGC. Govan served SDGC until 1914 when he

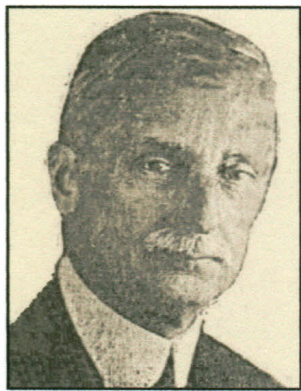


George Crump

left to join our member George Crump, as the first golf professional and course superintendent at the recently opened Pine Valley Golf Club, which Crump had designed and founded.

As golf began to be played on the new links, Mrs. Chew and Miss Brown, the landlords were dismayed that golf was being played on Sunday mornings. The ladies and the Club reached a compromise that play would not begin on Sundays until 1:00 PM. The members had overcome the ban on liquor sales and a bar by keeping a liquor supply in their lockers.

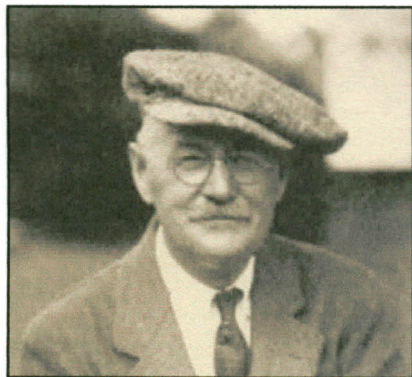
In 1916, the lease on the golf course property was going to expire and a group of members believed it was time to seek out another site for a golf course that would be owned by the Club. In May, SDGC entered into an option agreement at a cost of \$1,000 on a piece of ground in Upper Merion Township. As it turned out the majority of members at SDGC were not thrilled about moving to the proposed site because its location was viewed as inaccessible except by automobile and the idea of laying out a new course was not appealing. Following a special meeting of the members, it was announced that the Club had rejected the plan to move and had agreed to a satisfactory new 15-year lease on its present site. Several of the SDGC members, which included A. J. Drexel Paul, decided to exercise the Upper Merion option and formed the Gulph Mills Golf Club.



*James Willcox
SDCC President
1921 to 1928*

St. Davids continued to grow and thrive into the early 1920's. By 1925, with six years left on its lease, and unable to negotiate a reasonable price to purchase the existing golf course, the Club's Officers decided to again explore moving the golf course to a new location where SDGC would own the ground. A well-attended membership meeting was held on Saturday, April 18, 1925 at which the members unanimously agreed to a plan presented by the Officers. The plan was to purchase the 129-acre farm and farmhouse of the late John Henry from its present owners Paul D. Mills and A. J. Drexel Paul. The necessary financing included a \$500 charge to

each member. According to Club President, James M. Willcox, the farmhouse would become the new clubhouse. The Club would not become a Country Club, and the policy of



Donald Ross

maintaining a Golf Club, simple but comfortable in its appointments would remain. Renowned golf course architect Donald J. Ross was engaged to design the new course.

On July 31, 1925, St. Davids Golf Club consummated the purchase of the ground (82-acres) on the clubhouse side of Upper Gulph Road from Mills for \$98,000. The Club didn't have to make settlement on the 47.6-acre tract owned by Drexel Paul until April of the next year. On August 19th the Public Ledger reported, "The land has been surveyed and a course planned by Donald Ross." The article also stated, "So fast do rain and snow run off and so swiftly does the ground dry out that play will be possible virtually all the year round." Work then began clearing the ground, but it did not have to be rushed since there was still a period of six years left on the Lancaster Pike lease, which did not expire until September 30, 1931. In October a bent grass nursery was planted and in September 1926 the bent grass stolens were taken from the nursery and plugged into the green sites.

On June 10, 1927, St. Luke's School, which was located on the southern edge of the new golf course property, held its final commencement. That same day SDGC added to its property by purchasing 25 acres from the owners of the school. With the acquisition of that property, the plans for a clubhouse changed. Instead of using the farmhouse, the clubhouse was now going to be located among the compound of buildings on the school campus. Because of its proximity to the new clubhouse location, what was to be the third hole (and currently is) became the starting hole and the second hole became the 18th hole. The former gymnasium would be the men's locker building and included a tiled indoor swimming pool facility. All the buildings would be modernized and St. Davids would become a modern Country Club.



*St. Luke's School
One of Seven Buildings*

The new course was opened for play on Saturday, October 1, 1927. It was a beautiful fall day and over 200 members played the course for the first time. Many felt the new course was among the finest in the country. Temporary clubhouse facilities in an old school building were used pending completion of the renovations to the main clubhouse. The newly renovated clubhouse facilities were opened on April 28, 1928.

On January 18, 1929 the former Devon Hotel, home to the four-month old Valley Forge Military Academy, was destroyed by fire. Needing a facility to continue the school, Major Milton Baker, school founder and Superintendent contacted SDGC that same day. By that



*Farmhouse and Barn in 1928
On left 18 green, a par 3
On right 9 green, a par 4*

evening the students were housed in the old St. Luke's School dormitories. Baker had planned to rebuild in Devon but found that SDGC might be agreeable to selling the school property. An agreement was reached and the Club sold the property to Valley Forge Military Academy, which continues on the site to this day.

St. Davids was now faced with the need for a clubhouse facility. Under the leadership of President Charles W. Bayliss and Building Committee Chairman Frank H. Mahan, the old farmhouse and barn on the site of the present clubhouse were torn down and construction on the new clubhouse began in

November 1929. It officially opened in June of the next year and served the membership until 2005 when the current clubhouse replaced it.

The 13th and 14th holes were reconfigured between the time the new course was opened in 1927 and the completion of the clubhouse in 1930. The 13th hole on the original layout was a par three and the 14th a long uphill par four to the present site of the 14th green. These holes were changed to the present configuration of 13 being a dogleg par four and 14 a par three.

The Club managed to continue its operations through the "Great Depression" of the 1930's. A significant event for the Club in 1936 was the recommendation of golf course architect A. W. Tillinghast to change the par four 9th hole. Mr. Tillinghast thought the hole was too short for a par four. Under his recommendation, the hole was shortened slightly by moving the green to its present location making it a par three.



Transportation via Horse & Buggy

Golf and limited social activities continued at the Club through the Second World War. Dues for SDGC members serving in the armed forces were suspended during this period. Food rationing impacted usage of the Club, but limited meals were served. There were also driving restrictions due to gasoline rationing. To help members commuting to the Club by train, transportation between the course and the Wayne train station was provided by SDGC via horse and carriage that was driven by the

locker room attendant. Dr. Fred Aldridge donated the carriage to the Club. In 1943, the Tredyffrin Country Club, located in Paoli, closed and many of its members joined St. Davids. This helped greatly as the SDGC membership had dropped to 120 members.

The financial situation at the Club was deteriorating and the Club was in arrears on its \$200,000 mortgage. Valley Forge Military Academy was rumored to be considering making a proposal to purchase the Club property. At this time, a group of young members including Bill McLear and George Brown, referred to as the "Young Turks," orchestrated a plan to save the Club. George Brown, a banker, was sent to discuss the delinquent payments with the mortgage holder. He was able to negotiate a 2% reduction (6% to 4%) in the interest rate and forgiveness of all delinquent interest.

In 1949, St. Davids went through a recapitalization by calling in all the existing Certificates for \$10.00 each and reissuing them for \$200 each. This was prompted by a requirement of the lender that the mortgage be reduced from \$160,000 to \$125,000 by March 1, 1950. The recapitalization also generated an extra \$20,000 in cash for some necessary clubhouse improvements. The plan worked and the Club entered the 1950's in sound financial condition.



*George McKenzie
"Mr. Mac"*

The Club prospered and grew through the decade of the 1950's and into the 1960's. Two longtime employees of the Club passed away during this period. George McKenzie, Golf Course Superintendent for over 25 years retired in 1955 and died a year later. Tommy Robinson, Head Golf Professional died in 1959 after 45 years of service to the Club. In December 1959, Jimmy Johnson followed Robinson as the Head Professional. Jimmy was a fine player who competed in eight U.S. Opens and eight PGA Championships.

During the early 1950's, the Junior Program at St. Davids grew and thrived with as many as 60 juniors participating. The program was run by the Women's Golf Committee and had the support of the Board of Directors and professional staff. This program was regarded as one of the best in the Philadelphia area. Many of our juniors enjoyed success in competition including Judy Moulton who was twice runner-up in the WGAP Junior Girls' Championship, and played in the 1955 USGA Girls' Junior Championship. In 1956, Bobby Lindinger won both the GAP and the Pennsylvania Junior Championships along with qualifying for the USGA Junior Amateur Championship.

Other juniors who distinguished themselves included Jill Nesbitt who won the WGAP Junior Girls' Championship three times and Elizabeth Stanley who won it once. Brett Upper, another graduate of the Junior Program in the middle 1970's, went on to play in 154 events on the PGA Tour. In addition, former juniors Dave King, Mac Burns and Jay Howson would collectively go on to win 16 SDGC Club Championships. There are a number of current Club members who got their start in golf as St. Davids' juniors.

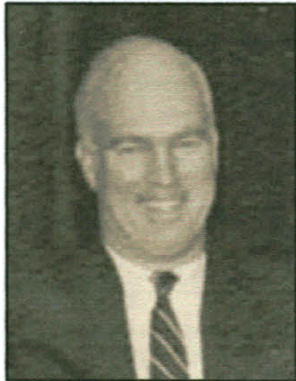


Jill Nesbitt

For many years St. Davids has prominently displayed several paintings by longtime member Charles Morris Young. Mr. Young was still an active member of the Club when he died in 1964 at the age of 94. Young was recognized by the National Academy of Design in New York in 1956 when a painting by him of his SDGC foursome was placed on exhibit at the Academy. The three other members in the painting were Sed Duke, Al Whitaker and Phil Moulton.



Charles Morris Young



*Victor Mauck, Jr.
President 25 years*

In 1965, Victor Mauck was elected to the Board of Directors for the first time. This is significant as Victor was a member of the Board every year through 1996 except 1971 and 1972. He would serve the Club as President for 25 of those 30 years.

Peter Trenham was hired as our new Golf Professional in December of 1965, replacing Jimmy Johnson who had resigned. Pete was responsible for the development of Jill Nesbitt, Brett Upper and Jay Howson into successful tournament players. He played in a USGA Senior Open and a PGA Seniors' Championship along with winning the Philadelphia Section Senior Championship twice. Pete served as the Section PGA President and is a member of its Hall of Fame. He is now the historian for the Philadelphia PGA.

The early 1970's were a difficult time in American history due primarily to the Vietnam War. Private Clubs were unpopular and things were no different at St. Davids where, by 1973, the Club had 31 Certificates available.

By the mid-1980's under Mauck's leadership, St. Davids continued to operate in a fiscally sound manner and the Club had developed a waiting list of 20. Society was becoming more casual and Victor recognized that the Club needed to change with the times. He led the Board in developing a plan to add an addition to the clubhouse that included a casual dining room along with an enlarged and modernized kitchen. The new dining room (Terrace Room) was opened in 1987 for casual dining. It rapidly became very popular with the members.

In 1994 the Club engaged golf course architect Brian Silva to renovate the golf course. The renovation involved rebuilding all the bunkers on the course and adding some new bunkers, particularly on the left side of the third fairway and the right side of the seventh fairway. The fourth, sixth and 14th greens were re-built and a fourth set of tees was added creating the current green (forward) tees.

John Y. "Jay" Howson, Jr. was elected president in 1996, following Victor Mauck. Victor Mauck completed his 30th year as a member of the Club's Board of Directors. He was honored in September for his many years of service and subsequently made an Honorary Member of the Club. In January of that year the membership approved construction of an outdoor patio for dining. Construction started almost immediately and the patio opened on May 1.

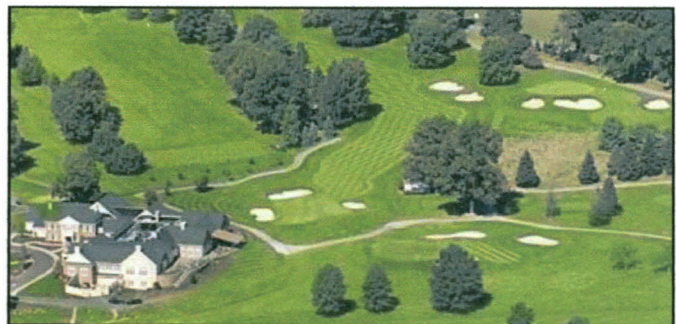
That same year SDGC observed its Centennial. The Centennial Celebration was chaired by J. Paul Rowe and consisted of a number of events throughout the year. Highlights included a picnic on July 3, complete with fireworks and attended by over 800 members and guests. At the picnic a plaque bearing the names of the founders was placed near the first tee commemorating the 100th Anniversary. The plaque was imbedded in soil that was transported from the site of the original nine-hole course on what had been the Fenimore property. On October 18th over 200 members attended a 100th Anniversary black tie dinner dance.



*SDGC Clubhouse
May 2005*

The Club thrived through the 1990's with a full membership and waiting list. In 2001, Jay Howson stepped down as President and Paul Rowe was elected President. Paul served as president for two years, during which time the Board recognized the need to do something with the clubhouse that was over 70 years old. The idea of spending a large amount of money on the clubhouse was not embraced by the membership at large and while the plans were shelved, this initiative proved to be the catalyst for the Club's ensuing long-range plan.

In 2003, Jay Howson returned to the Board and was elected President. The Board began working on a long-range plan to identify the needs of the Club. Attracting new members remained difficult. The lack of a full-shot practice range was clearly a liability in attracting new members along with the condition of the clubhouse and some needed work on the golf course. Golf Course Architect Ron Prichard, who specialized in restoring Donald Ross golf courses, was hired to develop a plan for a restoration of the golf course. In September of 2004, the Board presented to the membership for its approval a comprehensive plan consisting of four separate projects. These projects were: a



*Full-shot Range (L)
Revised 17th and 18th Holes (R)*

new maintenance building; significant renovations to the clubhouse; implementation of the golf course restoration plan and construction of a full-shot practice range.

Each of the projects was approved by the membership and construction started on the range the morning following the membership meeting. The practice range was conceived by two members, Mike Dingus and Andy Sweeney, and designed by Ron Prichard. The plan involved replacing the par four 17th hole with a new par three and rerouting the 18th hole into a dogleg right down the old 17th fairway while using the existing, but modified 18th green. The full-shot practice range was then built on the former 18th fairway. Chipping and putting greens along with a practice bunker were part of the final product.

Construction on the new maintenance building got underway and the building was completed in March of 2005. In the meantime, the clubhouse restoration ran into problems when the bids exceeded the amount the membership had approved. At a membership meeting in December 2004 the Board announced it was committed to improving the clubhouse, but it was going to reconsider the plan because of its higher than anticipated cost. The Board informed the membership it would report its recommendations for the clubhouse to them soon after the Annual Meeting four months hence.

Following the Annual Meeting in March of 2005, the Board presented a plan to tear down the existing building and build a new one at a cost of \$6,500,000. The Board informed the members that the new clubhouse would try to capture the informal nature and farmhouse appearance of the present facility. The reaction from the members who were present was very favorable. The members were informed that a presentation would be made around Labor Day with the bidding process completed and a builder selected, at which time the members would either approve or reject the plan. They were also informed that there would be periodic meetings to review the plans and get member input. The final plan was approved by an 84% favorable vote and one month later razing of the old clubhouse began.

The membership and staff of St. Davids were integral in the completion and success of the major projects, the building of the membership and the transformation of the Club. Over 100 of our members were involved in various phases of these efforts in a tireless and unselfish way and many of our staff members gave us the support to insure our success.

The new clubhouse was completed in less than 14 months and opened on November 19, 2006 with over 500 members attending a grand opening cocktail party. The enthusiasm displayed by the members for the new clubhouse was very gratifying to the many who contributed to the final product. Jay Howson announced he was stepping down as President as of December 31, 2006.



Dan Aboyan, then serving his eighth year on the Board, was elected President. Restoration of the golf course, which had been put on hold during the clubhouse construction period, was restarted in 2008. The new clubhouse and practice facilities had a major impact on membership growth, positioning the Club for the future. Over the next seven years ending in 2015, guided by Ron Prichard and led by Peter Conlan and the Restoration Committee, the Club completed a restoration of the golf course, doing several holes every year. Greens and fairways were expanded, trees were removed, bunkers were rebuilt and sometimes moved. Slowly the golf course returned to the 1927 design and feel that Donald Ross had imagined. It is a much better golf course now than before the restoration took place.

In 2009, the financial recession hit the country and St. Davids hard. Membership declined to 248 Certificate Holders (with a cap of 300) and the use of the Club declined as members' pocketbooks and net worth were severely impacted. By tightening belts and not having much debt, the Club weathered the storm and by 2010, the Club was coming back to more normal levels of activity. Dean Kandle was hired as the Club's new Head Golf Professional in 2011 and he reinvigorated the Club's golf operations. Activity levels rose gradually as Dean ran a top-notch golf program for men, women and juniors. Member events that had not sold out for quite a few years started selling out in minutes and now the problem became how to accommodate all the member interest in golf at St. Davids. As the golf course got better with all the restoration work, so did the golf operations led by Dean.

In 2012 now that the golf course was being restored and the golf operations were in good hands, the Club began to look "Inside of the House", i.e. the food and beverage operations of the Club. A new Clubhouse Manager was hired, Bill Phillips from Applebrook Golf Club and the Head Chef was replaced and both steps were right as the food and beverage quality improved dramatically.

In 2017 the Club started on the long overdue replacement of the near 30-year old golf course irrigation system. More importantly, a search for a well on the Club's property was completed. Since the course was opened in 1927, water had been purchased to irrigate the golf course, which in recent years had averaged nine million gallons of water per year. Up

employees who maintained the golf course. All operating businesses were ordered to close to prevent the spreading of the virus. Only essential businesses could remain open, and golf clubs and courses were not deemed essential. It could have been disastrous for the golf course, but the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, relented when golf trade groups made a plea that golf courses be maintained.

After guiding the Club as President through the financial recession in 2009, President Mark Rhodes now had to steer the Club through a worldwide pandemic. The golf course was shut down for play for seven weeks, but luckily the medical experts had determined that playing golf was safe as it was outside, and it was a socially distanced activity. Play returned to the course on May 1, 2020 with no carts or caddies – members had to walk and carry their golf bags. The clubhouse was closed until the early summer of 2020 but many people ate and drank outside as the spread of the virus was more prevalent inside. While food and beverage sales were much lower than previous years, golf as a pandemic activity took off and rounds were up some 20% over previous levels. Now the problem was members getting access to the course. Federal government financial programs helped the Club tremendously. The Club was able to keep its employees on the payroll with assistance from the federal government and generated healthy operating surpluses in 2020 and 2021. Discretionary capital spending was halted pending the outcome of the pandemic.

In 2021 given the popularity of golf after Covid and the improvements that the leaders of the Club had made over the past 15 years in the clubhouse and golf course, the Club generated a waiting list for Certificates. The “Great Resignation” that started during the pandemic had an impact on the Club’s senior managers. In the 15 months from November 2019 to January 2022, all the top three management positions at the Club left – Golf Course Superintendent, November 2019, Head Golf Professional, August 2021 and General Manager, January 2022. After nine years as the Superintendent, Joe Nattle left the Club. That ended a 45-year reign by Henry Wetzel, as Joe had trained under Henry prior to his ascension as Superintendent in 2012. Collin Harley, a First Assistant at Aronimink Golf Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club, was hired in early 2021 as the new Golf Course Superintendent. He made remarkable strides with the golf course conditions and the members saw significant improvements to the golf course. After 11 years as our Head Golf Professional, Dean Kandle resigned in August 2021 to pursue a golf-related industry position. He was sent off with a nice party and new Gibson electric guitar given to him by the members.

In early 2022, Tyler Santacroce was hired as our new Head Golf Professional. Tyler came from the First Assistant’s position at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. He takes over a very healthy golf operation with golf rounds at an all time high at 28,000 rounds.

Bill Phillips our General Manager announced his resignation in early 2022 to return to Applebrook Golf Club, so as Tyler was coming in the door, Bill was walking out the door. Jon Anthony LaRocca was hired as the new General Manager in March 2022 – he is coming from the Clubhouse Manager position at Plainfield Country Club. He is from a long family line of club managers. His father, two uncles and brother are all either retired or current GMs in private clubs.

Jon Anthony left the Club in December 2022 and was replaced by none other than Dean Kandle, our former Head Professional. Dean is one of many of his brethren, former PGA Club Professionals, that ascend to the General Manager position at a private club. His familiarity with the members, the Club's culture and its employee base will hold him in very good stead.

After 125 years, the Club published a club history book in September 2022 and marked its 125 year anniversary in 2022. The book is 267 pages long and a fitting tribute the Club's long, rich history. Pete Trenham, the Club's Historian, was instrumental in getting the Club's history right and complete. The 125th Anniversary was marked by numerous golf and non-golf events throughout 2022 culminating in a black-tie Gala in November 2022.