

# The Tee Times

*The official newsletter for the Stoughton Country Club*

## Letter from the General Manager

Welcome to the 2021 golf season. This has been an exciting new season in so many ways.

First, we're busy! Our golf memberships have hit new records, rising from 221 to 298 this year, up by one third. As those memberships are comprised of individual, corporate, family and couples' categories, that means we have roughly 400 golfers eligible to tackle our challenging, spectacular course this year.

Add in 82 social memberships this year and our dining room and bar are also busy!

Why the surge in membership? Easy. We've got a spectacular course (a terrific product) at a very reasonable price.

But we also saw a surge in membership due to the state and county COVID restrictions. As people were no longer commuting and doing their work from home, they had more time for golf. Plus, golf at SCC was a safe way to get outdoors and play a game in which players are well spaced.

Our challenge this year is to retain our fantastic new membership and grow our social membership even more - which I'm confident we'll do.

One way to build those new memberships into long-term loyal members is for all of our veteran members to help them feel welcome. Please introduce yourselves. Offer new members a chance to pair up with you for a round, or even offer to buy them lunch or a drink.

After all, our club is only as good as our members, so in that sense we're all ambassadors for our club's success.

And for you new members? Please don't hesitate to reach out for help, lessons, information, or just to help get yourself acquainted with our course and our facilities. You can contact me personally (cell 262-490-9074, email: [brad@stoughtoncountryclub.com](mailto:brad@stoughtoncountryclub.com)) or reach out to our golf pro, Steve Hlavacek at the Pro Shop (608-873-8464). We're here for you!

As always, we'll list our upcoming tournaments and events on our sign outside the Pro Shop door. Also, don't hesitate to visit our website [www.stoughtoncountryclub.com](http://www.stoughtoncountryclub.com) to reach out to us, follow and sign up for events, or peruse our restaurant menu and our Chef Troy's latest specials.

In fact, you may not realize this, here's a cool feature that most clubs can only dream of offering: You can access the course, restaurant and bar by boat!

Not only can members "boat" over to play the course, but you can also order food and drinks from the club to go while you're boating on the lake. To order from the water, give us a call (608-873-7861.) We're here to serve! (Pun intended?)

In addition to record numbers of members, we've also had nearly perfect April weather with almost no rain, which has translated into extremely heavy use of the course. (In fact, we're still checking the record books to see if April set a course record in rounds of golf.) Enjoy!



*General Manager Brad Calaway*

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DRESS CODE

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH



## Drone Captures Beautiful Canvas

When long-time SCC member Mike Stolen approached his nephew last year about using his drone to get aerial photographs of Stoughton Country Club's 18 holes of golf nestled next to the shores of Lake Kegonsa, his reaction was immediate:

"The course is a beautiful canvas. This will be exciting," said Jay Ashe, who, even at 20 years old, is an experienced drone pilot and aerial photographer.

Today Ashe's "beautiful canvas" is on display every time SCC's members enter the club house. A hardwood cabinet at the entrance of the bar - dedicated to Mike's late father Doug -- frames a video display that offers members a continuous aerial view of their century-old course and its 6,335 yards of beautifully manicured golf.

"It took some getting used to," Ashe said of the project. "But once I got the hang of it, it got to be fairly easy and was really a fun project."

Ashe didn't grow up golfing. It was his interest in meteorology which he's been studying at MATC, using his professional-grade DJI MavicAir II drone to chase storms. He was recruited for the project by his uncle Mike, a professional in the printing and graphics industry, who with his family, has been a lifelong member of the club.

"It's not just about flying over and shooting the golf course, explained both Mike and Jay. "The challenge is to capture the course in its best light - usually in the early morning or early evening -- then heavily editing all the footage so the result is a seamless aerial video tour of the course."

The drone is "cool," Jay explained, because it allows tighter shots of the course's beauty at unique angles and from varying altitudes - and can do it at a tiny fraction of what it would cost to rent a far clumsier, less flexible helicopter.

"The drone video of the course is so impressive that the club is already thinking



about the next step," explained General Manager Brad Calaway.

"We'd like to do this again in a way that will allow members to easily view each hole as they play the course," he said. "It would be similar to the way television broadcasts an aerial view of each hole during PGA tournaments - and give each SCC member an added tool as they determine how to approach each hole," Calaway said.

And yes, he added, it is "very cool!"



## Golf Joke of the Month



I recently played a round of golf with a friend. The first hole was a long par 4 with water to the right and a steep ravine to the left. My friend took out a new sleeve of balls. He drove his first ball into the ravine. Undaunted, he took out a second and hit it into the water -- followed by a third drive into the water. As he took out a second sleeve of new balls, I asked:

"Why don't you use an old ball?"

To which he responded: "Because I've never had an old ball."

*Heard any new family-acceptable golf jokes lately? Send to GM Brad Calaway baypro2@gmail.com or Paul Pitas at pmpitas@charter.net - or just recount them to golf pros Steve or Darcy as they try to help you correct your swing!*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 19th:** Women's Spring Fling
- May 25:** Chip-N-Sip Starts
- May 30th:** Member Golf Event
- June 2nd:** Bourbon Day
- June 8th:** Chip-N-Sip
- June 25th-26th:** Men's Invitational
- June 29th:** Chip-N-Sip
- July 4th:** Member Golf Event
- July 13th:** Chip-N-Sip



## New Wine

We have added 3 New Wines for the summer. Two of them are from Harbor Ridge Winery. (Owned by members Chris & Betsy Folbrecht). Harbor Ridge merlot and their Harbor Ridge Sauvignon Blanc (Savvy Blonde). We have also added a new red blend from Daou Vineyards. It's called Pessimist, come out and try one. CHEERS to a great golfing season.

### White Wine

- DECOY**  
Chardonnay  
Sonoma County, California  
10 glass 38 bottle
- WILLIAM HILL**  
Chardonnay  
Central Coast, California  
9 glass 32 bottle
- HARBOR RIDGE**  
Sauvignon Blanc  
Wisconsin  
12 glass 40 bottle
- SCHMITT SOHNE**  
Piesportez Michelsberg  
Riesling  
Germany  
7 glass 24 bottle
- MIRASSOU**  
Moscato  
California  
7 glass 24 bottle
- LAMARCA**  
Prosecco  
Veneto, Italy  
9 glass

### Red Wine

- DECOY**  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Sonoma County, California  
12 glass 40 bottle
- STORYPOINT**  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
California  
9 glass 36 bottle
- DAOU VINEYARDS**  
"The Pessimist"  
Red Blend  
Paso Robles, California  
12 glass 40 bottle
- HARBOR RIDGE**  
Merlot  
Wisconsin  
12 glass 40 bottle
- ALAMOS**  
Malbec  
Mendoza Argentina  
9 glass 36 bottle
- RODNEY STRONG**  
Pinot Noir  
California  
10 glass 38 bottle
- House Wine**  
By CANYON ROAD  
5.50 glass  
Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, White Zinfandel  
Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir

## From the Grounds Crew

Our up and down weather this spring has confused the grass on the course! It varies between not growing at all to growing too much and we're unable to keep up with the mowing. We'll soon see growing conditions normalize. The course has seen more rounds played over the last year than any other year since I have been here.

While it is great to see members enjoying the course, it comes at a cost in the form of wear and tear. Some of it is unavoidable, but some is not. Here's what you can do:

- Please fill divots and repair ball marks. The ball marks on #6 and #9 seem to be the worst most likely due to the approach to the green. Specific to #9, I ask everyone to stop taking extra shots at the green after your round. I'm seeing divots near the 100-yard marker where people are hitting extra balls.
- Be aware of the traffic patterns caused by the carts. If an area is becoming worn, do not continue to drive over it. Keep ALL FOUR tires on the cart paths especially at tees and greens and turns in the path. Many areas have been worn down to the dirt because the tires go just off the path.
- Please help minimize single riders in carts. If you and your golf partner have been fully vaccinated against COVID, I would encourage you to discuss riding together.

You may have noticed trees have been removed on Hole 6. The township cut two of them down because they were diseased ash trees. They took the cherry tree by the back of the tee because it was half dead. A large oak near the green there had split in half, dropping large branches, so it too was removed. It may look different, but the playability of the hole should not be impacted too much.

See you on the course and have a great summer.

## Meet Matt Ellingson - SCC's Five Time Champ!

Matt Ellingson, Stoughton Country Club's five-time course champion, doesn't seem as though he'd be the guy dominating the club's 54-hole Championship tournament every August.

After all, his first love is baseball, which he played at Stoughton High School instead of golf. He didn't play college golf or travel the country as an up-and-coming amateur.

At 33 years of age, he's a born-and-raised Stoughton native where he works in insurance for Mike Chandler, another SCC member, with Farmers Insurance offices in Stoughton and McFarland. He still plays baseball, basketball and, well, "any sport involving a ball."

What Matt possesses as a champ is a life-long experience in golf and an athlete's approach to a game that is mentally and physically demanding as well as it is precise.

"I don't have any secrets in what I'm doing," he says modestly. "In fact, I have sort of a baseball golf swing which is unusual. But I guess I can compare it to baseball in that both require extreme eye-hand coordination - and, to be honest, hitting a baseball is a lot harder."

"Baseball has probably also been helpful with nerves and how to control them when the pressure is on," he adds.

But he's also experienced in golf. At two years of age, his step-grandfather Phil Schoenbeck, a former SCC member who built hand-tailored clubs, built a set for Matt - and he's been playing ever since at courses around the region, including the last eight years at SCC.

Schoenbeck gave him tips to get started and he comes from good golf stock.



"My parents really helped me learn the game. And everyone in my entire family plays golf, including my mom, my dad, aunts, uncles and my grandma and grandpa."

He's also careful not to take things too seriously. Reflecting on his chances of a sixth championship the last week in August, he defers modestly:

"I don't know. There's a lot of young guys out there these days and they're pretty good!"



**The WSGA net Partners was held at The Legends at Bergamot Golf Club in Oregon, Wisconsin on Monday, May 10th. SCC Members Derek Westrum and Larry Donaldson partnered up and won the event. Congratulations to Derek and Larry!**

## Golf Tip of the Month



What's the most common problem SCC's golf pro Steve Hlavacek sees these days - and what's his advice to help correct it?

"Too many golfers feel they have to use their hands to help power their drives - and, as a result, they lose power in their swing," he says.

"To 'learn' the correction," he says, "take two golf gloves and nestle them in each armpit. Keep your feet planted and your arms straight. As you turn your body to strike the ball, the gloves should stay put. If they don't, you're losing power."

Hlavacek recalls that a former LPGA golfer's parents actually tied her arms together at the elbows to force her to keep her arms straight. It worked. Betsy Rawls went on to win eight major championships and 55 LPGA tour events and is now a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"We tend to rely way too much on our hands," the veteran golf pro says. "The real power comes when your arms, legs and body are all working as one."

## DRESS CODE FOR THE GOLF COURSE



### MEN



**SHIRTS:** Collared shirts, golf sweater, windshirts

**PANTS:** Golf pants, jeans (clean, no rips or tears), tailored shorts

**SHOES:** Golf shoes or trainers

**SHIRTS:** T-shirts with vulgar words or images, sports jerseys or muscle shirts

**PANTS:** Shorts that are 4 inches above the knee, beach shorts or jogging pants

**SHOES:** Flip flops, work boots or any footwear with a heel



### WOMEN



**SHIRTS:** T-shirts, sleeveless shirts that are not spaghetti strap

**PANTS:** Mid thigh shorts or skirts, long pants or jeans (no rips or tears)

**SHOES:** Golf shoes or trainers

**SHIRTS:** Cropped tops, spaghetti straps, T-shirts with vulgar words or images

**PANTS:** Anything shorter than mid-thigh, beach shorts or jogging pants

**SHOES:** Flip flops, work boots or any footwear with a heel

**The above must be adhered to at ALL TIMES! Please do not be offended if you are asked to change.**

## Follow Us On Social Media!



**Instagram:**

**@stoughtoncountryclub**



**Facebook:**

**@Stoughtoncc**

# Kitchen Fire - Menu Update

Dear members,

As many of you many know, we had a small kitchen fire over Mother's Day (of all days!). The fire was quickly contained, but the fire suppression system – which worked perfectly – made a mess of things, rendering a lot of equipment useless until it can be thoroughly cleaned.

Fortunately, we're insured. But this is going to take some time to clean up the mess and upgrade kitchen equipment to ensure that everything is up to state standards - and our standards - for high quality.

Unfortunately, we don't yet know how long our kitchen will be closed as we're still receiving estimates. But it will likely be a few weeks before we can fully reopen with our full dining room menu.

In the meantime, we're doing our best to serve you with limited "fire menus" from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thank you all for your understanding and patience.

GM Brad Calaway

## MENU

### Available for lunch 11-3:

- Boxed Turkey Swiss wrap with chips-\$12.00
- Boxed BLT Wrap with chips-\$12.00
- Boxed Crab Louis salad with ranch-\$12.00
- Boxed Berry Salad with raspberry vinaigrette-\$12.00
- Boxed Ham and Cheddar sandwich with chips-\$12.00

### Available from 2-5:

- Grilled Hot Dog with chips or potato salad-\$9.00
- Grilled Burger with chips or potato salad-\$9.00
- Grilled Brat with chips or potato salad-\$9.00
- Grilled Cauliflower Steak with chips or potato salad-\$10.00