

MFC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY **2024**



629 CHESTER AVENUE  MOORESTOWN  NEW JERSEY

A letter from the President

President: Brian Deam

Email: president@moorestownfc.com



Dear Members,

So, who are you rooting for in this year's Super Bowl? I do not have a horse in this race but will root for a competitive game and the 49ers.

John and his team are using the off-season to complete various improvement projects in the clubhouse and on the course. New kitchen equipment was purchased and installed, the basement was organized and de-cluttered, and they are securing new furniture for the bar area. With guidance from the Green committee, dead trees are being removed on the course and will be replaced in the spring with new mature trees, not tiny saplings, in strategic locations.

Maureen and I enjoyed a wonderful "Ode to Italy" Saturday night dining event last weekend. Chef Fredrick and his team continue to impress with the quality and variety of dishes. More events are scheduled for February and March so, keep your eyes open for announcements. Come on out and enjoy.

Our resignation / new member ratio is well balanced thus far, which is a good sign given the historically higher-level of attrition at the beginning of each year. But we still need your help to secure new members, so please continue promoting the club to your friends, family, and colleagues. The 2024 membership package and applications are available in the Business Manager's office.

We welcomed 23 new members in January! Check out the new members and their categories on page 14.

The Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th, at 7 pm in the clubhouse. In addition to the normal agenda, we will provide an update on the irrigation system replacement project and seek your approval for a change in our Certificate of Ownership redemption policy.

At the January 23rd Board meeting the Board approved an update to the Code of Conduct's Use of Social Media section that states "The Club has the right to use images, videos, etc. of members, employees, guests, etc. in club-related newsletters, social media, etc. without prior approval or consent." The updated document is on the website.

Please stay current on your account to avoid a late fee -- we do not like assessing them and you do not like paying them.

Did you know that February is named after the Roman festival of Februa, a month-long period of sacrifice and atonement in Ancient Rome, involving offerings to the gods, prayer, and sacrifices? Groundhog Day is based on a German superstition, but they put their faith in another animal – the badger. The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling." I hope you use your leap day to play, dine or relax at the Club!

See you at the club!

A letter from the Golf Pro, George Frake II

Golf Pro: George Frake II

Email: gfrake@moorestownfc.com

Golf Pro Report

February 2024 Golf Shop News

Golf Hours and Tee Times

Winter hours for the golf shop and bag room are Tuesday to Sunday from 8:30 AM until 4 PM. Monday hours will vary depending upon the weather.

Mixed Golf, Jack and Jill and O'Connor Cup

After a successful introduction last year, we will see the continuation and expansion of the Jack and Jill events that were hosted on Wednesday evenings. This year, beginning in April, we will host two Jack and Jill events per month. In addition, there is a 9 hole mixed member guest, with an 18 hole option, scheduled for September 14th.

Men's Golf Schedule

The Men's Golf Season will kick off with the March Madness Event on the 23rd, followed by Master's Friday, April 12th. The Retirees Golf Group will begin officially on April 17th. A change in the schedule is highlighted by the 2 Day Men's Member Guest returning to June.

Greenwood, Stokes, Wallace and O'Connor Cups

Dates will be released shortly for the above Cups. Once the deadline is reached, brackets will be filled and matches will begin.

Jack and Jill Dates

April 10th and 24th, May 8th and 22nd, June 12th and 26th, July 10th and 24th, August 7th and 21st

TENTATIVE MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

March 23rd—March Madness Golf Event 9 AM SG

April 12th—Master's Friday Golf Event

April 17th—Retirees Summer Season Begins 8am

April 19th—Men's Golf Social 6pm

April 20th—Men's Opening Day

April 21st—GAP Interclub Team Matches

April 28th—GAP Interclub Team Matches

April 30th—Deadline for Greenwood Cup

May 4th—Kentucky Derby Day

May 5th—Summer League Begins

May 5th—GAP Interclub Team Matches

May 17th and 18th—2 Day Member Member

TBD Retirees—@ Riverton

May 24th—Patriot Day Golf Event 2pm

May 28th—Stokes Cup Deadline

May 27th—Mixed Golf at Noon

TBD Retirees Riverton at MFC 8:30 AM SG

June 5th—1892 Cup Merchantville Men's Host Site

June 15th—Club Championship Qualifying 27 Holes

June 21st and 22nd—2 Day Men's Member Guest



A letter from the Tennis Pro

Tennis Pro: Mike Perrone
Email: mptopspin@yahoo.com



TENNIS

Wintertime Tennis

After a two week stretch of some snow and cold temps the weather is warming nicely to allow full weeks of outdoor tennis clinics and lessons. February is often a much warmer month than January with a warmer sun and some days hitting near 60°.

February Groups:

Monday 3.5—4.0

Tuesday 3.0

Wednesday 3.5 - 4.0, 4.0—4.5(evening)

Thursday 3.0

Friday 2.5—3.0

Saturday 4.0

Hard Court Resurfacing

Our two hard courts on the clubhouse side will be resurfaced this spring. The target time is later April and early May. The hard court next to the clay courts will not be resurfaced as it is in good condition.

Clay Courts

The target date for clay court reconditioning is early to mid April. We will keep everyone in touch with exact dates.

Men's Golf—Retirees

Men's Golf — Retirees — Jerry Gares
Email: gmgibg@comcast.net



"Rain/snow, go away, come back another day"....it seems that Mother Nature has interfered with winter golf this year more than usual and playing time has been limited. Of course, there is always the golf simulator available at MFC, but it's just not the same! Hopefully, this month will provide us with more sunshine and better weather to get us back on the course.

The winter months are also good for "seasoned citizens" to shop for newer equipment that may help to improve their game. You know, the kind of amazing new high-tech equipment that will have your drives launching higher and farther, your irons flying straighter and your putts rolling truer! It's a lovely world to hope for but I remain wary.

One thing I remember from my years of playing: no matter what club was in my hands, a bad swing invariably produced a bad result. There is an immutable truth about the sport of golf: the equipment can't save you from yourself! But don't let me dissuade you from your search for improvement through newer clubs.....the "forgiving clubs" for those of us that may be "hackers", the "tour models" for good players, "game improvement" selections for the "weekend warriors" and "maximum game-improvement" clubs for the "hapless". Regardless of what clubs you play with, have fun, enjoy the company of others on the course and in the clubhouse. That is, WEATHER PERMITTING!!

A letter from the Greens Committee

Greens Committee Member: Garrett McVaugh

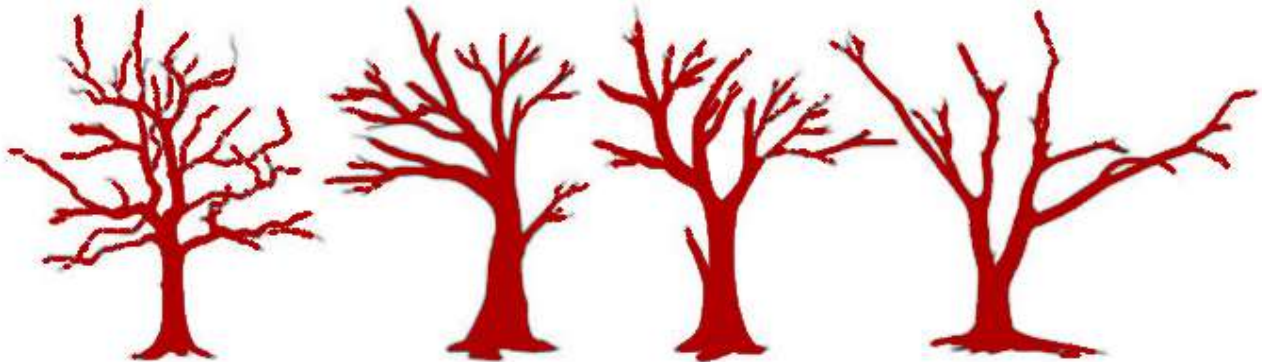
Email: gmcvaugh@gmail.com



Hello fellow members,

If you have braved the cold this winter, undoubtedly you will have noticed that some trees on the golf course have been removed, and others planted. By our count, earlier this year there were no fewer than 16 trees on the golf course that were either dead or near the end of their life expectancy. While we are in the process of removing these trees, the course now boasts new Willow Oak, Nuttall Oak, and White Oak trees alongside some of our fairways and greens.

The greens committee is acutely aware that trees provide an important environmental and aesthetic benefit to the golf course. We are also aware that trees have the potential to cause serious problems to irrigation systems, compete with greens and fairways for nutrients and water, as well as impact light and airflow which are important to turf management. The USGA provides some interesting literature on these subjects, as well as advice for how to approach planting and maintaining trees on the golf course.



With these two visions in mind, we are taking care as we consider where and when to plant trees to replace the ones that are dead and dying. It is no longer advisable to simply plant replacement trees in the spaces where old trees have been removed. This is true for a number of reasons, including maintenance concerns listed above, the maturity of the trees themselves, and the difference in the modern game of golf - including distance - since the time that many of our trees were planted. Therefore, the committee is taking a long term approach. We have already identified some areas in which tree planting may be prudent. We have identified other which may benefit from a different aesthetic approach. Once all of the necessary trees are removed, we will observe how their absence impacts - both positively and negatively - playability and course conditions. With this information, we can make informed decisions about if, when, and where to replant trees in service to the long-term sustainability of the course.

As the winter progresses, you can anticipate that more of the dead trees may be removed from the property as well as some of the healthier trees pruned up in order to promote air flow, better turf conditions, and more opportunities for effective recovery shots. The work is ongoing, and we are looking forward to reaping the rewards once the spring comes and our many trees bloom again.

Ladies Bowling



Ladies' Bowling Luncheon 12/19/23



Marketing

Marketing — Pat DeHart
patricia.dehart@hotmail.com



We would like to introduce you to Joe DiMarino, who will be helping us to leverage digital marketing for continued MFC growth.

Joe is a Moorestown resident and his company, Tiger Digital LLC, is renowned for boosting clients' online presence. His expertise is in helping small to medium clients stimulate company growth.

Joe would welcome pictures of events and people who are enjoying the Moorestown Field Club for publishing on our new Facebook and Instagram Accounts. You can text these pictures to 856-924-9880 or email them to jadimarino@me.com

Pat DeHart continues her dedicated service to the Field Club — from a driving force on the Membership Committee to a key player in Field Club Marketing. Thanks, Pat, for all you do!



Ladies Golf

Ladies' Golf — Katie Alexander, Pat DeHart & Anne Cantwell
63kalexander@gmail.com; patricia.dehart@hotmail.com; cantwella@comcast.net

Attention lady golfers! Spring is just around the corner. For any returning 9 holers or anyone interested in playing golf on Thursday mornings, registration is now open for 9 holers. All lady golfers are welcome, you can play every Thursday or when your schedule permits. Experienced golfers or new friends, all are welcome! Please return the **registration form on the following page** with dues check by March 16th. Plans are underway for Opening Day on April 11th. Save the Date!

Ladies Golf — Registration Form

2024 MFC 18-Hole Women Golfers

Opening Day Golf, Lunch and Meeting: **Tuesday, April 9th**

9 Hole Scramble, at 9:00 a.m. Lunch and Meeting following scramble

Please check appropriate items:

___ I will ___ will not play golf beginning at 9:00 A.M.

___ I will ___ will not attend the lunch and meeting

___ I will ___ will not need a riding cart

___ Enclosed is \$50 FOR 2024 DUES

Please print and complete this form. Mail it with your check - payable to MFC Women's Golf by March 11, 2024 to:
Peggy Kehs, 892 Heritage Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Cell# 609-364-3655

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please print clearly: (info will be printed in membership booklet)

2024

9-HOLERS Golf Opening Day: Thursday, April 11th

9:00 am Shotgun Scramble followed by Lunch and Meeting

We ask that lunch be paid in advance. A refund is available until March 30th.

Golf yes ___ no ___

Cart: yes ___ no ___

Lunch yes ___ no ___

___ Enclosed is \$ **55** for 2024 Dues only

___ Enclosed is \$ **65** for 2024 Dues (\$55) plus golf only, no lunch

___ Enclosed is \$**100** for 2024 Dues (\$55), opening day golf and lunch

***Please make check payable to MFC 9-Holers. Send with this form by March 11th
(We need a response by this date so we can prepare the directory. Please be PROMPT!!)***

If you are reading this online, please print and complete this form. Mail it with your check payable to MFC 9-Holers to:

Anne Cantwell, 403 Providence Rd., Moorestown, NJ 08057

(Please print clearly: (info will be printed in 9-Hole membership booklet)

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

A Letter from the Business Office

Business Manager — Susan Hession

Email: office@moorestownfc.com



Last month, we left off after learning that a new course had been designed and built in the early 1900s, opening for play in 1911. This was followed by the building of a new clubhouse at a cost of just under \$2,000—about \$64,000 in today's dollars—now that was a bargain! And on that note, we will return to the story...

So popular had soccer become that MFC fielded two teams in the 1920s and three in the 1930s. As a measure of their success, Moorestown players frequently were named to league all-star teams. More importantly, during this period, the club won the Manheim cup—symbolic of the league's first division championship—four times, in 1915, 1926, 1927, and 1935.

Women's field hockey thrived for more than half a century at the club, although there are few records. The 1910 drawings for the new golf course show a hockey field. It was moved from place to place as the game's fortunes rose, fell, and rose again. On October 19, 1947, the All-British Women's Field Hockey Team played here. The sport continued until 1964 when declining interest, beyond the college level, brought an end to play.

Records tell us little about the club's football, baseball, and lacrosse teams. All were short-lived. Of course, an historical basis exists for lacrosse, a very old American Indian game being played in pre-club days at the Chester Avenue grounds. Some Moorestown Historians have recorded interesting episodes of Leni Lenape Indians venturing into Chester Avenue homes to warm themselves by the fire.

New Home, New Spirit

Post World War I prosperity, and a full membership prompted a major building project. The 1911 clubhouse, and an even older caddy shack were no longer suitable for a thriving Field Club. At the trustees request, on March 8, 1922, a Philadelphia architect submitted finished drawings and fifteen pages of detailed specifications for a new 60,000 cubic foot clubhouse in modified Victorian style, brown and white in color. By the 28th of the month, seven Moorestown contractors had submitted bids ranging from \$13,910 to \$19,750. (somewhere between \$250,000 and \$360,000 in today's dollars).

Records do not identify the successful bidder, but they do indicate that construction began promptly. The building committee, in ordering the work to commence, made three interesting recommendations. One was completed, one partially completed, and one remains enigmatic:

- ◆ That the driveway beginning at the Chestnut Street entrance be extended along the north fence westward to Chester Avenue.
- ◆ That the old clubhouse be moved approximately 650 feet and adjoin the new clubhouse.
- ◆ That "clock golf" be located either to the east or west of the relocated club house.

The project was underwritten by a mortgage secured from the Burlington County Trust Company. It was to play an important role in the financial crisis which developed seventeen years later.

The new home, completed in 1923, became the focal point for the burgeoning social life of the members, and the community. The club had a long history of social activities centered around the family: picnics, children's games, color days, May Day festivities complete with the May Pole dance, Fourth of July band concerts and fireworks, tugs of war, potluck suppers, lunch box raffles, late afternoon socials—featuring tea and more robust refreshments. All out-of-doors.

Keep reading...

A Letter from the Business Office—continued

Business Manager — Susan Hession

Email: office@moorestownfc.com



The fine new home provided opportunities to expand and extend social life indoors. No longer did cold weather signal hibernation for the members. Luncheons, dinners, even breakfasts abounded. Dances for the young of age and young at heart were the order of the day. Many a Moorestown youngster took dancing lessons (including instructions in the bow, the curtsy, and good manners) at the Field Club. Card parties, wedding parties, birthday parties, anniversary parties, and no reason parties dotted the monthly calendar. At last, the trustees could meet regularly at the club, rather than in the presidents' homes.

The new building also inspired a keen sense of participation and cooperation on the part of the members. The willingness to give, to serve, and to take part was evident at all age levels. It manifested itself in the strong committee structure which kept the club humming. It was not unusual to see twenty to thirty people, usually couples, serve on long and short term committees. As a result, wholehearted cooperation and enthusiasm came easily. Humming with interesting activities for all ages, the Field Club attracted interesting new members and enjoyed an unparalleled heyday in the 1920s.

It wasn't long before this esprit de corps was put to a severe test.

Storm Clouds Gather

The 1930s began a difficult, almost disastrous period for the club. These were the days of the Great Depression. The cities teemed with bread lines, forlorn men selling apples on street corners. *"Brother Can You Spare a Dime"* was more than a song. Moorestown did not escape the heartaches of the nation. Family budgets were drastically cut. The first things to go were luxuries like club memberships.

Monthly trustees' meetings were grim affairs. The treasurer's report had ominous overtones. The secretary presented growing numbers of resignation letters. Some afforded a touching glimpse of life in Moorestown during dark days. One read:

"My wife and I have postponed writing this letter, almost too long. My income has been declining steadily and I can no longer afford more than basic necessities and our church. The friends we made at the club mean much to us, but I must reluctantly ask you to accept our resignation."

The conditions this member described were trying indeed, especially for the trustees. Some of the crises they faced, and their attempts to solve them are best portrayed by excerpts from board minutes of that period:

1931—"Interest in the club is waning"..."A committee was appointed to encourage contract bridge at the club and attract new members"..."A grace period for delinquent members was proposed."

1932—"294 bills, representing \$12,483.75, had been sent out, and as a result, \$6,004.50 was received"..."No Christmas presents for the staff"..."Club \$3,000 in debt at year end."


1933—"The club opened on Sundays, for the first time, to encourage new members."..."Another \$3,000 borrowed. Debt total, \$6,000"..."The possibilities of limiting the club's functions during the year 1934 to clubhouse activities, tennis, and soccer."..."Closing the club discussed."

This is a difficult time for the Field Club, and the tough times aren't over yet. More to come in March's newsletter.

From the Restaurant

Dining at MFC

Taste of MFC

The *Ode to Italy* “**Taste of MFC**” was a hit with over 60 members and guests participating. The next “Taste of MFC” will celebrate Valentine’s  Day on **Saturday, February 17th**. The menu will be released shortly. Please email Moorestownfcresevatons@gmail.com or contact the restaurant to make your reservations. The Business Office no longer takes dining reservations and the online reservations system is sketchy. Each month a “**Taste of MFC**” event will take place on a Saturday night, featuring finer dining with a theme.



On **Saturday, March 16th**, we will get the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations started early. Chef will feature some old world Irish dishes that go well with Guinness!

Trivia Night Wednesday Nights at 7pm

Breakfast is back at MFC

Beginning February 11th, breakfast is back on Sunday mornings beginning at 10am. A full breakfast menu along with some lunch time favorites will be served until closing.

Chili Cook-Off

The 2nd Annual MFC Chili Cook Off will take place on Saturday, February 24th, at 1pm. A slightly different format for this year. Contestants are asked to supply the Chili and we will supply the tasting spoons. Members are asked to stop by, make their way through the line and vote for your favorite Chili. Contact George to sign up. Limited to the first 10 entries.

Leap Year Celebration

Join us on Thursday, February 29th, for a great night of fun and entertainment with drink and food specials. This night only happens once every four years!

February Restaurant and Bar Hours

Closed Mondays



Tuesday	11:00—3:00
Wednesday	11:00— 9:00
Thursday	11:00—9:00
Friday	11:00—9:00
Saturday	11:00—5:00
Sunday	11:00—5:00
Beginning 2/11—Sunday	10:00—5:00

From the Restaurant



Memories from the *California Dreamin'* Wine Dinner December 2, 2023



The Moorestown Field Club Welcomes New Members



Chris Wichser—Social

Robert & Shahenaz Yates—Social

Ken & Sherri Hoffman—Golf

Scott & Wendy Cassidy—Tennis

Will & Allison Reiley—Golf

Randy & Karen Brooks—Golf

Keith & Kristina Brittain—Golf & Pickleball

Michael & Maria Dougherty—Golf

Richard & Alicia Cooper—Golf & Pickleball

Jim & Martina Travis—Golf & Pickleball

Kevin & Denise Coan—Golf & Tennis

Dennis & Abigail Dilks—Social

February 2024



"In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret." – Patience Strong

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday


Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7  TRIVIA	8	9	10
11 Sunday Breakfast Begins! 	12	13  ANNUAL MEETING	14  TRIVIA	15	16	17 Taste of MFC  Will You Be My Valentine?
18	19	20  Board Meeting 2/20/24 6:30 PM	21  TRIVIA	22	23	24 
25	26	27	28  TRIVIA			 Chili Cook-Off

Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs

Board Officers	Liaison for:	Phone #	Term Expires	Email:
President, Brian Deam	Dining	(856) 231-1408	2024	president@moorestownfc.com
Treasurer, Pat Fowler	Budget, Greens	(609) 515-1799	2024	pfowler701@comcast.net
Secretary, Ben Blank	Long Range & Capital Planning	(856) 207-8737	2023	secretarymoorestownfc@gmail.com
Trustees at Large	Liaison for:	Phone #	Term Expires	Email:
Thom Morris	Men's Golf	(609) 472-5149	2024	tmorris82@comcast.net
Jon Greer		(609) 304-6793	2025	jgreer@gslcounsel.com
Stephanie Morrison	Tennis	(609) 217-5104	2024	smorrison@101walker.com
Lisa Paparone		(609) 330-8116	2025	lisapap1@comcast.net
Paul Gilhool	Membership/ Marketing	(609) 707-7605	2025	pjgilhool@gmail.com
David Ricci		(856) 780-5789	2023	dricci@comcast.net
Committee Chairperson		Phone #		Email:
Membership & Marketing	Paul Gilhool	(609) 707-7605		pjgilhool@gmail.com
Dining Committee	Tim D'Angelo	(609) 707-6020		timothydangelo@yahoo.com
House Committee	Steve Piro	(631) 703-7450		sjpiro@comcast.net
Men's GAP Men's Golf Committee	Tim Casale Mike McCool	(609) 217-7711 (856) 296-2260		timc52478@yahoo.com mmccool14@comcast.net
Ladies' Golf Committee	Katie Alexander Pat DeHart Anne Cantwell	(609) 744-4921 (856) 222-1225 (609) 217-0196		63kalexander@gmail.com patricia.dehart@hotmail.com cantwella@comcast.net
Tennis Committee	Craig Mehnert	(609) 417-3256		craigomehnert@gmail.com
Greens Committee	Steve Gallagher	(215) 783-0054		steveg@ses95.com
Long Range & Capital Planning Committee	Audrey Brisson	(856) 912-9979		audbrisson@msn.com
Policy Committee	Brian Deam	(85)-231-1408		president@moorstownfc.com
Traditions Committee	Steve Gallagher	(215) 783-0054		steveg@ses95.com
Social Committee	Chris Bain	(412) 580-6746		bain.christopher@gmail.com
Pickleball Committee	Keith Omlor	(215) 850-6669		rkomlor@comcast.net