



Newsletter Vol.1 No.2 April 29, 2024

Hello All:

This newsletter is to update you on what has happened since we launched the *Chester Golf Course Member Alliance (CGCMA)* website on March 26, 2024.

A quick reminder.

The CGCMA consists of a diverse group of Chester Golf Club long-standing members, former Presidents, Treasurers, and Board members, as well as individuals from all walks of life. Our concern arises from recent shifts within the Club, particularly a growing lack of transparency and openness to member input on critical issues. We are a membership-oriented, non-profit club, and the diminishing emphasis on membership in governance, notably the erosion of our 70-year tradition of affordability, signifies a profound change in the Club's culture and direction. This shift occurred without adequate consultation and engagement with the membership, leading to concerns about the Club's path forward.

It's important to clarify that we do not assert to represent the entire membership or hold a formal mandate. Rather, we've united based on shared concerns and have aimed to inform fellow members about ongoing developments, with the aim of fostering collective understanding and, ultimately, steering the

Club back toward accountability to its membership. We eagerly anticipate the day when we can fulfill our commitment, as outlined in our inaugural newsletter, to disband—indicating a return to a Club and Board that are aligned with our shared values and priorities.

Monthly Golf Trivia:

What Golf Club is suggested to use during a Thunder & Lightning storm?

First and foremost, we wanted to address the resignation of the Club's Executive. This development was surprising, and we consider the situation as deeply unfortunate and disappointing. We had hoped that the board would take the initiative to reach out and address our ongoing concerns. We were optimistic that this might happen, especially since several members of the staff and board attended our recent open meeting where we introduced the CGCMA. Furthermore, we ensured their inclusion in our board newsletter mailing list.

In our inaugural newsletter, we expressed our initial satisfaction and encouragement regarding the negotiations between the Board and the SOGC. We were particularly pleased with their recommendation to support the resolution for the Special General Meeting, which aimed to limit the dues increase to 5%. Perhaps more importantly we had been heartened by their agreement to becoming more transparent and open to member engagement going forward. After all, while the dues issue was what prompted the request for the SGM, the main concern of most of us was the lack of transparency and openness to discussion and input by members on the issues facing us as a Club. While perhaps for some the resolution at the SGM was limited to the dues issue, we agreed with then President Anita Bezeau that its resounding support (88% of those voting, and engagement by over one half of the membership) represented, a demonstration of “an overwhelming interest in our club.”

We welcomed the outreach of the Board in their communications strategy. In particular, the Board signalled a wish to engage effectively with members on financial issues. For that reason, several of us felt

that it might serve to educate and inform members who might not themselves have the time to do so, if we did a deep dive into whatever financial information was available to us for the benefit of members participating in the consultation sessions. To date we have been reviewing the audited financial statements from 2015 to 2022 that we had purchased from the Registry of Joint Stock Companies as they had not previously been made available to us. We will be communicating the results of that analysis to members over the next few weeks. The most recent release of financial data was very welcome.

The other issue that is a priority for us is a consideration of the state of the bylaws. While this work is clearly something that must be led by the appropriate committee of the Board, we again felt that we could helpfully identify some of the issues that we thought were concerning to support the members. Several of us that have had some experience in this area have been meeting and again are working to send out information to our distribution list over the next little while.

The board's resignation notice stated that they had extended invitations to our leadership to join the club's committees. However, what wasn't mentioned is that joining a committee requires that one sign an oath of confidentiality. Many of us seriously contemplated volunteering our time but found it difficult to commit to such conditions, as our aim is to promote openness and transparency within the club. This is not to diminish the significance of confidentiality in certain situations and on specific matters. Nonetheless, we believe that the board's unique confidentiality requirements hinder transparency and impede constructive discussion. Crucially, they limit our ability as members to voice dissent and offer diverse perspectives.

Just as the Executive noted in their resignation email, we are also very concerned about the future of the Club. We look forward to a transitional Board and hope that it and the members will be prepared to engage on the issues facing us so that we can get back to being a membership-led club. We agree that we must all have a concentrated focus on sustainability if the Golf Club is going to continue its 70 years tradition of success. This includes financial but also environmental

and social sustainability – all must be part of the discussion for us to succeed.

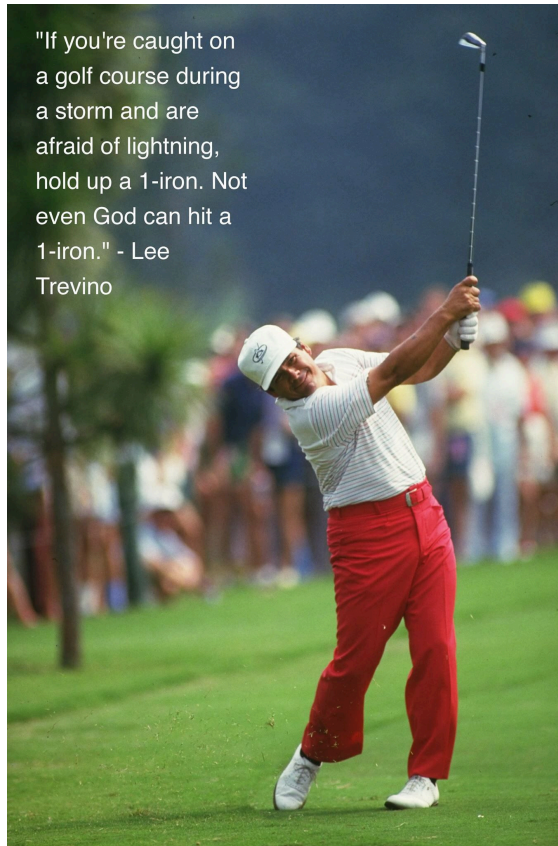
As the Executive said, the past is a place of reference and learning and not one of residence or living. We agree. We face several challenges, and it is only through the ability to discuss and debate and to be properly informed and engaged that we will be able to do the delicate balancing act that we must for the Club that we all hold so dear. For that to happen, we must find our way back to being able to address the issues we face based upon a shared consensus of the vision and direction of the Club.

We look forward to that time and assure you that all our efforts are, and have been, dedicated to that end alone and to a time (hopefully soon) when CGCMA can be shut down.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and input.

Monthly Trivia Question Answer

"If you're caught on a golf course during a storm and are afraid of lightning, hold up a 1-iron. Not even God can hit a 1-iron." - Lee Trevino



Lee Trevino - who should know a thing or two about lightning strikes after being struck by one while on the course.

Sincerely,

CGCMA

CGCMA,
Communications Team

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