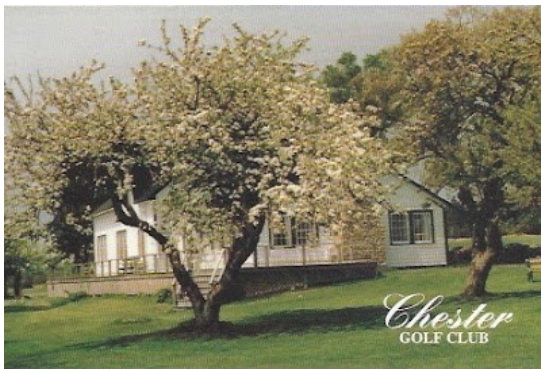




Chester Golf Course Members Alliance

Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 1, March 27, 2024

An Update



This first newsletter is to brief you on what has been going on behind the scenes since the very successful Special General Meeting of the Golf Club on February 1st.

Firstly, to recap. Following the October 2023 AGM, several club members got together due to their concern over several issues, including issues of transparency and engagement of members, significant dues increases and bylaw changes. They were concerned that these changes constituted a significant departure from the tradition of maintaining affordability for members and thus required greater consultation. They felt that the lack of sufficient disclosure, transparency and collaborative work with the membership was problematic in a member-based club. From this initial meeting the group called Save Our Golf Club (SOGC) was formed.



A Special General Meeting was requisitioned and on February 1st a motion, developed through negotiations between the Board and the SOGC, was successfully passed to reduce the previous 15% increase to 5% by a vote of 442 to 59.



Transparency

Since the SGM in February, the core group of the SOGC has been meeting (after a couple of weeks much needed breathing space) to consider next steps. It was decided that we were now in a better position given the successful unwinding of the 15% dues increase, but that more work needed to be done. Given that the second part of the agreement reached between the SOGC and the Board was that the latter would commit to greater transparency, disclosure and engagement with members, the group felt we needed to hold the Board to this commitment and further, to support them by encouraging meaningful and informed engagement among the members.

After all, it is difficult to consult with members if they do not participate and get involved.



SOGC Becomes CGCMA

To achieve this the group felt that it should be rebranded as **Chester Golf Course Members Alliance** and that we should establish a website and vehicle for effective communication with members. This has been done and can be seen at <https://cgcma.ca>. We encourage you to go on the site and if you are not already receiving our newsletters, to sign up for them. We promise not to overload you but do feel that it is important for us members to have a way of communicating on what is important to us – which we are unable to do through the official Golf Club Channels. Our newsletters will be posted on the website concurrently with their distribution. Please note that if you do not want to receive these newsletters, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of this newsletter.

An important part of the function of the **CGCMA** will be to help inform members. To do so, working groups (separate from the official Golf Club committees) will be struck to look at issues including the finances and bylaws. We have significant expertise in the **CGCMA** in terms of past Presidents and Treasurers as well as long term members and wish to bring this capability to bear on the challenges facing us. If you are interested in

participating, you will be able to sign up on the website and we hope that you will do so.



Volunteers

The Chester Golf Club is currently seeking volunteers to contribute to its committees, and we encourage those interested members to join. While the efforts of these committees is important it should be noted that these committees are bound by confidentiality, the outcomes of their meetings may not always be shared with the broader membership. This underscores the need for a separate initiative to ensure that members are well-informed. As we transition back to being a member-led club, we recognize the necessity of independently monitoring and studying pertinent issues to better support our members in staying informed and empowered. We understand that certain situations, such as specific human resources matters, may necessitate confidentiality. However, we maintain that information regarding finances and bylaws, for instance, should not be withheld from our members. Transparency in these areas is essential for fostering trust and accountability within the Club.

If you're interested in joining our independent working groups, we're actively seeking volunteers to join our efforts. Reach out to info@cgcma.ca and let us know. A contact list will also be posted on the [CGCMA](http://www.cgcma.ca) website.



Our objective is not for **CGCMA** to become a permanent organization. Instead, our aim is to guide the Club onto a more favorable path, one that honours traditions of community support and affordability. Ultimately, we seek to disband the group as soon as we feel those goals are being met.

An important step in this direction happened this week with the release of the communication from the Board outlining its commitments to engaging with members over the next few months. We welcome this outreach by the Board and hope that the members will respond by actively engaging in these initiatives. And it goes without saying that we hope that the actions of the Board



Going Forward

We also look forward to the return of in person and, or at the least, hybrid meetings. While zoom served its purpose during the Covid years, the lack of in person meetings has been unhelpful in terms of building member engagement and commitment. Plus, it is not in line with the original intent of the founders that the Club to be a means of uniting summer and full-time residents in an equality of social intercourse. Again, while zoom has its

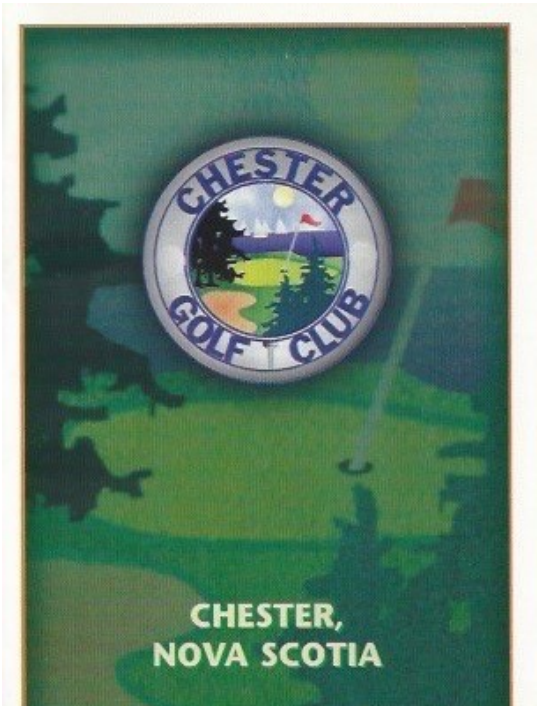
from now on will deliver on their promises of inclusiveness, transparency, and substantive engagement of members.

uses, it is not very effective at creating a strong sense of the 'us' that is what this Club is about.



Intent of the Clubs Founders

Our golf club is important to both our members and the local community. *We believe the significant margin of votes for the motion at the SGM (88% of those voting) indicates that the members value the traditions of the Club and want to preserve them. This doesn't mean that there won't be challenges that we must face and trade-offs that will have to be made. But it does mean that we will do so in an informed, collaborative, and engaged way that honours the intent of the Club's founders.*



Lastly before we go

With a commitment to openness and clarity, we've taken the step to include the Executive and Management of Chester Golf Club in our mailing list. This ensures that they remain informed of our current activities and endeavors.

Sincerely,

CGCMA

CGCMA,
Communications Team

P.S. Please share this with those you think may not be on our mailing list.

Chester Golf Course Members Alliance

www.cgcma.ca

info@cgcma.ca

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