

Board of Governors

Leslee Brady, President
Brian Sheehy, Vice President
Sharon Puckett, Secretary
John Filardo, Greens & Grounds Committee
Ron Eure, Partnership Fund Committee
Rick George, Partnership Fund Committee; Golf Committee
George Yezbak, Golf Committee
Chuck Woods, House Committee
Craig Schubert, Partnership Fund Committee
Susan Carpenter, Webmaster; Newsletter
Dave Stevenson, Member at Large

Staff to Serve You

Richard Sheffler, General Manager (ext. 201)
Phil White, Superintendent
Matt Hoffmann, Head Golf Professional (ext. 217)
Amy Rippey, Director of Sales & Golf Tournaments (ext. 205)
Cathy Zaorski, Membership Director (ext. 204)
Joseph Misero, II, Executive Chef (ext. 293)
Paula Neff, Retail & Merchandise Manager (ext. 219)
Meghan Hess, Food & Beverage Manager (ext. 210)
Accounting (ext. 200)

Hours of Operation

PRO SHOP—Spring Hours
Tuesday—Friday 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

PRO SHOP—Summer Hours
Tuesday—Friday 7:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 6:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

TRADITIONS
Tuesday—Friday 8:30 a.m.—10:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
Kitchen closes at 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday
Kitchen closes at 8:00 p.m. Sunday

We are on the WEB at
www.croftonclub.com

Crofton Country Club

1691 Crofton Parkway | Crofton, Maryland 21114
410-721-3111 | 301-261-0119 | 410-721-5899 (fax)

2008 Guest Fee Rates (Effective April 1, 2008)

Weekday (Tuesday-Thursday)	
Before 12:00	\$55.00
12:00-3:00	\$45.00
After 3:00	\$35.00
Wednesday Guest Special Day	
Before 3:00	\$40.00
After 3:00	\$25.00
Weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays)	
Before 12:00	\$75.00
12:00-3:00	\$55.00
After 3:00	\$40.00
Couples Special Weekend Rate	
After 5:00	\$25.00
9 Hole Rates (After 12:00 p.m. only)	
Weekday	\$25.00
Weekend	\$35.00

2008 Tee Time Policy

Weekday Tee Times—Up to one week in advance or stop by the shop.

Weekend Tee Times—Requests may be submitted up to the Wednesday prior by the Close of Business. The “Draw” will be processed on Thursday morning. You may call after 12 p.m. on Thursday to check on exact tee times for the weekend.

Crofton Country Club Newsletter

A Message From Your General Manager

April 2008

CROFTON begins the 2008 golf season with a tremendous opportunity for growth and prosperity. With that, comes greater responsibility and expense. Over the past several months, your Board of Governors, and the Club's management team have been analyzing club operations and have developed the budget for the new fiscal year ending December 31st, 2008. Together we have all worked diligently and have made every effort to reduce expenses while still preserving the quality of the Club's services and facilities. Despite our best efforts, some expenses must be increased to reflect a reasonable and attainable budget for the operation of our Club. At the top of the list are energy and fertilizer costs. As many of you have no doubt seen in your own homes and businesses, energy rates have increased at a much higher rate than other expenses. In addition, labor costs continue to increase, though we have kept them as low as we possibly can while still delivering the services you have come to know and expect from your Club.

While we will continue to work towards solutions for energy and transparent savings it is necessary that our 2008 dues rates be adjusted as indicated on your April statement. Please remember that we have not sustained a dues increase at Crofton since 2006, and we truly believe that you have the best value for your membership even with this increase. We are committed to working with your Board of Governors towards overall experience enhancements and events at your Club that will earn your enthusiasm for continuing to be a proud member of Crofton Country Club.

When I assumed the role of General Manager my personal goal is to make Crofton Country Club the best country club in the area. In order to achieve my goal, there are three important objectives that I have placed on the forefront. First, I had to establish a clear-cut leadership role with a dedicated and unified staff. Everyday, the staff strives to make your experience at Crofton enjoyable and extraordinary. Second, it was time to take your food and beverage experience to the next level. What a difference a day makes with Chef Joe and his staff doing an excellent job in raising the bar on our food quality and offering new and exciting menu options you can experience right now. And lastly, we must continue our improvements on our golf course to provide for a better golf experience. Phil White, our Golf Course Superintendent, has overseen the Winter Capital Fund Projects. The projects that were established were done so to allow for an excellent first impression when you and your guests enter the Club grounds. Those projects included widening and re-bricking the courtyard area by the flagpole. We have also replaced the broken curbs in the parking lot and will be re-sealing and relining the parking lot this spring when the ground is warm enough to do so.

Phil and his staff have also been working hard on the 2008 Turf Program. They have installed the new controller boxes for the irrigation system, replaced all the existing irrigation heads, and have added an additional 35 irrigation heads in areas where we were not getting coverage. This will help to improve turf quality throughout the golf course. The new tee box on #17 has been shaped and covered with fresh sod. We expect to be playing on it by mid-May. The final part of the 2008 Cap Fund project is the permanent restrooms between holes 3 and 5. We are still in the permit process waiting on county approval. We are proud to say that the golf course has continued to improve under the careful watch of our Superintendent.

Currently, we are working with Century Golf on two very important improvements to our food and beverage area. The one area you will be able to see is additional seating to allow for more members to enjoy the environment. The second area you will not be able to see—but will be able to experience—is a reorganization and addition of kitchen equipment. Chef Joe ensures that these changes will allow us to serve our members more quickly and efficiently. Hopefully, by the end of April, we will have a definite plan in place, and be able to share more details.

As we forge ahead in 2008, we must maintain our privileged waitlist status, Cathy will be accepting your member nominees to fill the retiring memberships. As our good members find they need to retire from the Club, it will be our responsibility to fill these openings in our roster quickly by continuing to invite to membership those closest to us.

In closing, on behalf of the entire staff at Crofton Country Club we would like to extend our thanks for allowing us the opportunity to serve you. It has been our pleasure in helping create memories for you, your family and guests when visiting the Club, and we look forward to helping create many more special memories. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any questions you may have, my door is always open.

Richard Sheffler, General Manager

Golf News

Greetings Crofton Golf Members,

IT is my pleasure to introduce the inaugural **Partners Championship**. This event is open to all full golf members. I strongly encourage everyone to participate and give yourself the opportunity to earn a spot on the team. I promise you that representing your club in this unique golf event is an experience that you will never forget. For full details and qualifying format, check out our website at www.croftonclub.com.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact me at the Pro Shop at 301-261-0119.

A reminder that **Men's Twilight Sign-Up** is Tuesday, April 15th at 12:00 in the Pro Shop. You must sign-up in person—no phone calls or emails will be excepted!

Matt Hoffmann, Head Golf Professional

Ladies of the Evening

THE Crofton Ladies of the Evening (LotE) started their season on March 26th with 16 ladies in attendance. It was a lovely spring evening to kick-off the season. The Ladies will continue to meet every week, teeing off at 5:30, through October 1st. If you would like to join this group, please contact Sue Davis via email at runwithsue@comcast.net. It is a great time for all Ladies at every skill level!

Please mark your calendars. The LotE and Crofton Country Club will be hosting a **Rally for the Cure** golf tournament on Wednesday July 16th, in support of the Susan G. Komen breast cancer awareness program. This will be a 9-hole competition including a closest to the pin contest. The cost will be \$50 per person. Prizes will be awarded to the top Men's, Women's and Co-ed teams. We hope to fill the front-9 and the back-9 for this event so spread the word. More information regarding hole sponsorships, sign-ups, etc. will be forthcoming next month.

"Rally for the Cure golf tournament
on Wednesday, July 16"



THE PARTNERS CHAMPIONSHIP NATIONAL PRIVATE CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

November 10th thru 13th, 2008

LOCATION:

PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
Home of the Honda Classic - Ernie Els 08' Champion
Palmer Course and Nicklaus Champions Course

FORMAT:

20 Teams - 5 Members and Team Captain competing for
Palmer Partners Cup

Modified "Stableford" Quota
(Scramble and Individual Formats)

The format of play has been set in a way to allow for as many members as possible to be exposed to the event and opportunity to represent your club. There are no stringent requirements to build a team therefore making it easier for all members to qualify. Each club will have the flexibility to create their own qualifying format.

**CROFTON TEAM CAPTAIN IS MATT HOFFMANN,
HEAD PGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL**

THE FIVE WHO QUALIFY WILL EARN AN ALL EXPENSES PAID SPOT ON THE TEAM

The value of the trip per person is **over \$4,500.00**

TRIP INCLUDES:

Airfare
Accommodations
Green Fees & Carts for 2 day + practice round
Transportation to and from the Airport
Tee gifts valued at over \$700.00
An experience that you will never forget.

Ambassador Committee

OUR "March Madness" Cocktails at Crofton was hosted by Jeff Hammond. We had outstanding authentic San Antonio Fare (Jeff actually supplied the recipes!) and great Margaritas. The evening's activities included a basketball free throw contest, a chipping contest and a guess the number of golf tees contest. Winners received \$10.00 gift certificates to Traditions.



John Harlow with his winning
free throw shot

We encourage all new members to join us each month. It is a great way for you to meet your fellow club members. Our April 24th Cocktails @ Crofton will be a "New Member Orientation" that will be hosted by the Management Staff. We ask that new members arrive at 5:00 p.m. for the Orientation and the rest of our membership join us from 6-8 p.m. for cocktails and hors d'Oeuvres. Each department will have a display table with information about what they offer. Our golf organizations will be represented as well as the pool, swim team, banquets, etc.

If you have any new prospects, please make sure to contact Cathy Zaorski in our Membership Dept.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Cocktails at Crofton.

Grace Wetterman, Chairperson



Peter Lassen trying his best
to guess the number of tees.

Membership Corner

MEMBERSHIP at Crofton is alive and well. In fact in the last few weeks the phone calls and emails have been coming in steadily. Seems Crofton has an excellent reputation – but we all knew that. Several new members have been added to our ranks and I'm happy to say most were couples with the wives excited about joining the 18, 9 or Ladies of the Evening groups. If you see an unfamiliar face at the Club, be certain to introduce yourself.

It's nice to see so many familiar faces back. Not too happy about all the tanned ones, but it is nice to see you at the Club after the long winter break. It is good to see so many of you dining during our buffet suppers – I'm getting rave reviews and am passing them on to Chef Joe and his staff. There are two buffets planned for April so be certain to let Amy know if you can attend. These are a great way to introduce your friends to your Club and the members who belong here.

Speaking of belonging! I'm looking to meet your friends, associates, colleagues, etc. I am building up our "replacement list" – the Crofton version of a wait list. Starting April 1st, new members will begin their relationship with us as Replacement Golfers and receive limited privileges. Each will be given an Activation Date when they will become a Full Golf Member and pay full dues. While on the replacement list, 100% of their dues will go directly to our Capital Membership Fund! Those funds are used for the improvements around the Club. Recently the Cap Fund money went to all the work being done on the golf course and Club grounds over the winter months. It is now time to build up that fund for future improvements. If you have someone you would like to invite to membership, please give me a call.

We have a very successful Club and the way to ensure its future success is to keep the membership pipeline flowing. I am always happy to talk to any one you know who might be interested in enrolling. Also I have financial options in order to make it easy for your friends to come aboard. Please stop me or give me a call if you have someone you'd like to invite to join.

Cathy Zaorski, Membership Director

Upcoming Events

Season Opener Reception

Friday, April 4
6-8 p.m.

Complimentary light Hors d'Oeuvres
Cash Bar

Pro Shop Trunk Sale

Thursday, April 10
6-8 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner

Friday, April 11
6-9 p.m.

Opening Day Tournament

Sunday, April 13

Cocktails at Crofton

Thursday, April 24
5-8 p.m.

New Member Orientation

Oriental Buffett

Friday, April 25
6-9 p.m.

PRO SHOP TRUNK SHOW



When: Thursday, April 10th

Time: 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Where: Crofton Country Club Ballroom

Shop: EP Pro, Nick Price, Cutter Buck,
Ashworth, Life is Good,

Adidas Apparel and Shoes,

Ecco Shoes, Under Armour,

Maui Jim, Club Glove, Titleist, Cobra and

Taylor Made Golf

Buyers Club Prices Apply for

ALL Buyers Club Members

Anyone May Attend

Coffee, Tea and Light Hors d'Oeuvres

Greens and Grounds Committee

2008 looks like a very exciting and interesting year for the Crofton Country Club. With our latest beautification project nearly completed, a look around reveals sights few of us ever expected to behold. Superintendent Phil White is, of course, the principal reason for us being where we are today (think back two years) – but Phil is looking ahead to where we will be tomorrow as well. This year's Greens and Grounds Committee is hoping to accompany Phil on the quest to the next level. We will be meeting regularly with him and riding around the course with him as well. If anyone has anything they would like considered by the G&GC, just let one of our members know and we will see about your concern.

Social Committee

AS Spring has begun to sprung, we are getting ready for the 2008 pool season. Our General Manager and your Social Committee have been meeting for a couple of months now to ensure a successful pool season. The Committee meets every month at 7:30 p.m. during the Cocktails @ Crofton Mixers. Serving on the Committee are Wendy Baldwin, Marie Barton, Roxanne McClanahan, Susan Schwob, Marie Burgett, Sue Mose, Cindi Johnston, Andrea Phillip, Karen Sullivan and Ginger Martin. You are welcome to attend our meetings. You can also contact us via email at ccsocialcmte@aol.com. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Some of the improvements you will see on May 24 at 11 a.m. when the pool opens are usable tennis courts and instruction, tether ball, a more friendly menu, expedited grill service and area cleaning, volleyball activities, plantings at the entrance and in the pool area, new curbs, freshly painted entrance way and just an all around Country Club worthy experience. Richard Sheffler, our General Manager, has made it a priority to upgrade your Social Membership value.

One of those values is better communication. If you do not receive emails from the Club, please send us your email address. You will then be kept abreast of all club happenings. With our new chef, Joe Misero, at the helm you would be hard pressed to find a better meal so close to home.

The members for 2008 are:

John Filardo, Chairman
George Yezbak
Craig Sabo
Ken Fontanesi
Maureen Jones

Watch for upcoming newsletters for information about what you can do to make the grounds around the "campus" even prettier than they are. Divot parties and Adopt-a-Hole will be discussed in the next newsletter. Bear with us.

John Filardo, Chairman

"Pool opens May 24th at 11:00 a.m."



Your membership not only entitles you to dining in Traditions but attending all of the social events the club offers such as Seafood Night Buffets, Italian Buffets, Holiday Brunches, Holiday Parties and of course the monthly mixers held the 4th Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. This is an adult only event.

Our Swim Team Coordinator, Marie Burgett will be announcing a Parent Meeting in the next month. Watch for her email. If you are new to the club and are interested in the Swim Team, please email Marie at redskin-snurse1204@yahoo.com. Go Crocodiles!!!!

Last, Photo Identification Cards. To enter the pool area, you must have a valid ID card. If you already have an ID card from last year, you will be receiving stickers that must be affixed to each card when you have paid your dues. If you need to schedule time for your photo to be taken, please contact the Country Club offices at 410-721-3111.

Sharon Puckett, Chairperson

Turf Talk

INTRODUCTION

Aeration is a necessary process to maintain healthy turf throughout the golf season; however, in the short term it has a negative impact on playability.

There are six major benefits to aeration.

Relieves compaction: from mowers to golfers

Allows for good air exchange: Bad gases out, oxygen in

Improve water movement: Increases ability to drain off

Allows for soil amendments: Calcium & potassium added

Provides smoother surface: Sanding rids greens of bumps

Creates a seed bed: Seed is allowed to mix with sand

IN THE BEGINNING

Good spacing and depth are essential to successful aeration. The max surface area disturbance without destruction is 5%, which is our goal. Depth is key to increase root depth and water movement. For years, the greens here were only aerated at 3 1/2'.



The green is aerated using 1/2" tines, 1.5" apart, and 4 1/2" deep. The cores are allowed to dry for 2 hours.

THE CLEAN UP

Cleaning up the greens is important to create a smooth playing surface. This is the most labor intensive part of the process.



If the greens are wet, like after a shower, the cores must be removed by hand.



Tom and Justo blow off any remaining cores using backpack blowers.



Russ is shown using the core harvester. This machine can decrease the clean up time, but in unskilled hands, it can destroy a green's surface.

THE AMENDMENTS

Now the holes are exposed and the surface is free of debris. This is the time to make major changes to the soil chemistry. According to our soil test, we were slightly deficient in Calcium and Potassium. So we are adding amendments such as poly-coated potash for potassium.



Mike is making the first of two applications to increase the levels of Calcium and Potassium.

TOP DRESSING

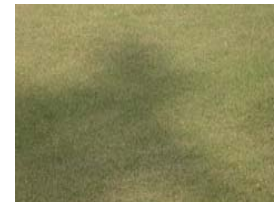
Top dressing is spreading an even coating of sand to fill the holes and smooth the surface. We have our sand tested to make sure it is compatible with our soil types and doesn't contain silt.



The sand is spread out using our top-dressing machine. The same process is done to both greens and tees.

BRUSHING

Brushing moves the sand around causing it to settle in the aeration holes and any imperfections in the green. Our brush is made of coco fibers and is very gentle on the green.



This is #1 Green just after brushing. You can see a lot of sand, but it is much smoother.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL

No it is not success, but it is not what you think either. After aeration, especially in fall aeration, we use an organic fertilizer. It is not made of sewage or manure; although, it definitely smells like it. It is made of blood meal and bone meal. It is high in proteins that feed the plant and the microbes that help the plant.

Basically, aeration is an important tool to create good playing conditions year-round. However, it is not easy to see the results right away. It is part of a complete program to promote plant health and make lasting improvements at every opportunity.

Phil White, Superintendent

"Aeration is a necessary process to maintain healthy turf throughout the golf season"