

In January, when composing the President's message, the focus was on the unique experience of being a member of the Chester Golf Club. Little did we know, that the year 2020 would soon after become unique in a very different way, for all of us personally and for our Golf Club, with the arrival of COVID-19.

There were certainly challenges along the way, as many aspects of our operations changed, due to restrictions as a result of the virus. The Board of Directors and Club Management team discussed and approved a change to the payment of dues schedule for the 2020 season only, to attempt to meet the needs of the members and the Club. At the same time, adjustments were made to reduce expenses as much as possible. We did apply for and receive some financial support through the Wage Subsidy program. Plans for opening the course included enhanced cleaning routines, protective equipment where needed and on course modifications. Our staff did an outstanding job of completing the work that needed to be done to get the course open and then to maintain the standards, to make our golf course a safe place for all.

The restaurant opening was also delayed this spring, which we know was frustrating for members, as we all enjoy all the benefits of the Club House. We had to ensure all protocols were in place and that our staff had the appropriate training, before we could open the restaurant. Again, the safety of our employees and our members is something we take very seriously and continue to do so as the season has progressed.

At the same time, we also switched to ChronoGolf for our tee management system, which added another layer to the transition for both employees and members. Thanks to our Pro Shop staff for their efforts to quickly get up to speed on the new system and for the support they provide our members. Please let us know if you are looking for support or have questions about this system.

It has been a very busy season on the course, as the number of rounds played this year is much higher; despite the fact we have fewer tee times available with the 10 minute intervals. Again, this is likely due to the special circumstances we face this year, with members tending to travel less and play more on their home course. Golf is an easy activity to maintain social distancing, as opposed to other activities which may not be considered as safe as golf.

Our Board this year has also experienced the pluses and minuses of meeting virtually, through the Zoom platform. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Joe Green, our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Zoom Coordinator for meetings this year. We would obviously have preferred to hold our AGM in person, however after much discussion at the Board level and with our Trustees, we came to the conclusion that a Zoom meeting was the best option for this year. We hope that allowing members to submit questions ahead of time provides an appropriate outlet for you to get feedback from the Board on issues that concern you. It also does give Board members a chance to prepare answers, which will likely result in more detailed answers. Questions can also be asked online during the actual meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff at Chester Golf Club, who have worked diligently in challenging circumstances this year, to provide the best possible service to you, our members; as well as the many visitors we host on the course and in the restaurant. My sincere thanks also go to the Board members, who have put in many extra hours this year, consulting, preparing reports, attending

meetings and offering their help when assistance was needed. It has not been easy, but we tried to do what we felt was in the best interests of our members and our golf course. I wish all of our members all the best for the rest of the season. For those members who were not able to come to Chester this year due to travel restrictions or other situations, we missed you and look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely,

Anne Lindsay

President

Chester Golf Club