

President's Report
Chester Golf Club
Spring Meeting 2022

As I've been reflecting upon the months since we last met as a club, it is clear to all of us that a lot has changed in our Management structures. I would be remiss to not acknowledge that as the year changed to 2022 we said thank you to Philip Chandler for his many years of service and leadership. Phil graciously helped in the transition and was a significant resource for our GM to start his first year well. I again say thank you Phil for your dedication to the Club, and we wish you well as you continue to enjoy the game with family and friends. As mentioned we welcomed our new GM Alex Egan in early December. After getting familiar with our key staff and getting oriented to our Club, he hit the ground running leading a search for a new Superintendent. With the help of Dave Harvey our Tees and Greens Chair they found Matt Blackburn who is coming to us from Cape Breton and is already bringing some new ideas to the team he leads and the course we enjoy. The end of summer and fall were particularly intense for me as I was more hands on as a volunteer than I had hoped to be at the start of 2021. But I'm grateful for the GM search team of Anita and Andrew, as well as the Board for their support. The 3rd party team of the Venor Group who helped guide the search for the GM was an asset to us. I also want to thank Dan Fraser who has shown leadership and was key to help our GM find his footing.

When we went through the restructuring process and learned from Carrigan Partners who led that process, some key areas to address that would augment and improve the restructuring became apparent. One area for future consult was a review of our Governance model and the tools in which guide our Board. Our Board established an Ad Hoc committee to look into this and will be looking to engage an outside consultant to help our Board figure out who we are and how we can direct well and support management better. The other key area that was highlighted from the process last summer was to develop a clear strategic vision. This has been picked up by Long Range Planning and we hope to start that process this Spring and get started on thinking of how we can be prepared for our next 5 years at least and likely beyond.

We have been working on a few communication items and we hope to see them at work this year. One thing on our radar is some way to share Board documents in a confidential way so that we can be more transparent as a Board. Thus we hope to introduce with the help of management a members portal of sorts that will keep you informed. Also, with a rise in use of different gathering platforms we intend to use Zoom as a way to meet from time to time. Our attention has turned to our Board room where we normally would have our meetings in the Spring and Summer. We'll make investments to strive to be in person and online this summer. Without the right technology in place we know that the space and forum for such a hybrid meeting would be frustrating for all participants.

One key theme that has come into many of our Board conversations and in my conversations with the GM is improved “member experience”. We gleaned that from the very well responded survey taken last fall. It has become one of those overarching values that lead decision making. We hope that through the various consulting processes and the digging deeper into your comments in the survey we can identify more of these values that will help guide us as a Board. As a quick aside, I’m very encouraged by the engagement of our Board and that they bring their experience and passion for the Club to the table.

As I near the end of my term as President, I have initiated the nomination process for a search for the next VP. This nomination committee is being led by Past-President Bob Fraser and as per our guidelines, he’ll form a committee of at least 5 members who aren’t current directors and who aren’t likely candidates for either vacancies on the Board or positions being considered. Bob has engaged a few individuals that reflect some of the demographics of our Club membership to help find these candidates. Collectively they will come up with a state of candidates for the August AGM and will consider those names volunteered in the survey but also other candidates put forward in their deliberations.

In conclusion, while the season is still fresh I’m looking very positively at what 2022 could bring. It is great to not only be golfing but to see the friendly CGC staff with each visit. As great as the shape of the course is, I’m still challenged by it with every stroke. Mark Twain was wrong, as the long walk around our spectacular course is never a walk spoiled. Hope you have a good start to the season and if you are like me, I hope to shake the rust off my game long before we meet again in August.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joe Green
CGC President