



# The Tallwood Tradition

**September 2021**

<http://www.tallwoodmensclub.com>

## **2021 Board of Directors**

*President – Bob Wahlberg*

*Vice President – Paul Signorello*

*Treasurer – Kim Aderman*

*Secretary/ Communications  
– Greg Berger*

*Handicap – Joe Dura*

*Membership – Jim Bourn*

*Co-Social – Ron Krupa*

*Co-Social – Paul Castanho*

*Tournament – John Neligon*

*Past President – Joe LeBlanc*

## **The President's Corner**

Hard to believe, but our golf season is winding down. Labor Day is behind us but we still look forward to some great events: the Phil Daly President's Cup, Match Play II, the Tournament of Champions and the Fall Classic.

The Fall general membership meeting will be held at 7:00 on Monday, September 20 at Tallwood. This is an important event where we will hear reports from our Directors and elect a new Board of Directors for the 2022 season. Member input is important in shaping our Club. Please plan to attend and let your voice be heard.

Congratulations to Super Seniors winners John Neligon (gross) and Tony Judenis (net). Scotch Ball II was, as always, a huge success. A few raindrops could not dampen the mixed team competition. Weather unfortunately forced the cancellation of the Two-Ball / BBQ open on August 14.

On a serious note, we have unfortunately encountered a few incidents of confrontational behavior between members during our events. I am sure that those involved regret those encounters and have put those incidents behind them. No doubt we live in a hyper-reactive world, but our game and our Club offer sanctuary from life's challenges and our personal integrity and sportsmanship values during Club activities should be preserved above everything else.

After considerable deliberation, the planning committee for the Fall Awards Banquet / 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance has decided to postpone the event again for 2021. This was not an easy decision, but in the end, the health of our members and their guests weighed heavily. Given the uncertainty of social gatherings, the committee was not comfortable that our members, spouses and guests could enjoy the event as they have become accustomed. The committee will be considering an alternative event for 2022.

***Bob Wahlberg***  
***President***

## Membership

Five people took advantage of the free Men's Club Membership offer after the 2-Ball Open. Welcome (back in some cases) to: **Brian Le, Trever Lucas, Larry Sherman, Christopher Farnum, and Keith Marcroft.**

*If I can make it there  
I'll make it anywhere  
It's up to you, New York, New York  
New York, New York* ” - **Kander and Ebb**

That very familiar song is dedicated to my good friend **Rick McDonald** who passed away after a 5-year battle with cancer. Not because he was really much of a big city guy but because he was a huge Yankees fan. If there was a guy out there that didn't like Rick, in 20 or 30 years I have yet to meet him.

*“Who let this IRA mother.....er in my bar? [laughs] Only kidding. How's your mother?”* - **Frank Costello – Jack Nicholson**

*“Oh... I'm afraid she's on her way out.”* - **Nameless patron at Costello's bar**

*“We all are. Act accordingly”* - **Frank Costello**

I provide that grim quote from the movie *The Departed* as a reminder that time is fleeting and we only have so much of it allocated to us to be with friends and family.

I was reminded of that on Facebook, of all places, as someone I knew in the auto racing community mentioned that he and a long-time friend had planned to meet and have a weekend away from it all. Sadly, after the trip had been put off for this minor reason or that several times, his good friend passed away suddenly. An opportunity lost.

The message or that posting was crystal clear. **Do it!**

With that in mind I pushed to get Rick out to play golf at this year's Member Guest and with **Roy Bell's** help and **Dawn McDermott's** generosity we got him out on the Tallwood course for what turned out to be his final round of golf. It wasn't pretty but Rick soldiered through it.

I tried to get Rick to play in the 2-Ball Open, but he was hurting too much. Rick being Rick he was always smiling and never letting on just how much he was hurting. Just days before the 2-Ball Open I got a final text from Rick stating that he was back in the hospital.

My point here is two-fold. First of course, is that as many of us in the club are well beyond retirement age and given that it is important not to put off social interactions with friends and family because it just might be the last time, we have the chance to do so.

The second point is that Rick and I were polar opposites when it came to politics. Even though our moral and social values were very similar. Rick and I could jab each other and not take it personally and never let politics ruin our friendship.

With that in mind I hasten to submit the notion that we should all treat our actions with others, be they friends, family, or strangers, with grace, dignity and civility because what is said and done at that moment might just be the last intercourse you ever have with that person.

*Jim Bourn  
179 Hamilton Drive  
Attn: TMC Membership  
Vernon, CT 06066*

*Membership Director*

## **Tournament**

Fellow TMC members,

The season is (too) quickly coming to its conclusion.  
Damn calendar flipping very fast.

I'd like to share something you may find interesting. I kept track of this data from March 27th thru July 17th. This was done to help determine if my decision to go White/Gold NET ONLY was the correct decision. I've been a TMC member for 43 years. The majority of the TMC is aging. Thirty years ago, we all played BLUE TEES. Not the case any longer.

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays 3/27/21 thru 7/17/21 (650) participants played BLUE TEES. During that same time period (915) participants played WHITE/GOLD TEES. I wasn't able to dissect how many (or what %) of those 915 played GOLD TEES, but that number has increased as well from past years. Golf is supposed to be FUN regardless of all the new swear words we have learned after an errant shot.

Fun is not hitting a 3-wood (or 7-wood) into many par four holes regardless of your age.

Over the coming Winter months, I'm going to research the data I saved to determine what percentage of the (208) TMC members won pro-shop credit. That was another reason for my NET ONLY change. My goal was to have more participants win credit in men's club events (not pro shop sponsored events).

This past holiday MONDAY. an unsanctioned GOLD TEE Club Championship was held. Though a small number of participants were present it should be noted many were the Big Guns of TMC. Jeff "High Flyer" Graham started his round birdie, birdie, birdie, eagle, and had visions of "59" sugar plums dancing in his head. Needless to say, his (very) GROSS score 72 had him crying in his beer. Proving you still have to hit the shots and make the putts regardless of what tees you play. Mike "Fancy Blue Pants" Byrne stayed steady while recording a 4-under round of 68. The eventual winner Terry "CSGA Golden Boy" Ruzzo proved to be a great closer as he started the back nine birdie, eagle, birdie, adding two more birds on #15 and #16 to finish at 66.

Rob “Mister GOTY” Bartha contented early into the back nine, but an unruly putter led to his downfall

*John Neligon*  
*Tournament Chairman*

## Social

The Two Ball “BBQ” Open started with excitement as all were looking forward to this event and all that it promised: fun competition and delicious food. True to our unsettled weather this summer, the skies soon opened up, dropping a rapid, but substantial amount of rain on our playing ground. Fairways had new ponds, greens were underwater, and the course became unplayable. The golf portion of the event had to be cancelled. However, Little Mark’s was already on hand to ensure the social / food portion of the event would continue for over 100 participants. Thanks to our Captains, Scott Marshall and Mike (Rocket Ship) Peterson in organizing the event, and to ensure that the Social portion could continue to accommodate the hungry soggy golfers. Work much appreciated Gentlemen!

Scotch Ball II was also held in August, and the weather was optimal. As is tradition, Surf (lobster tails) and Turf (strip steak) was served. We also served shrimp cocktail, clam chowder, and corn – traditional New England fare. The 18-hole winners: **Chris & Marilyn Ciszewski** (gross) / **Rich Mesi & (our very own) Donna Charette** (net). The 9-hole winners: **Joe & Maida Dura** (gross) / **Ben Jones & Kelsey Kirkpatrick** (net). Congrats to all the winners and all that attended, as they seemed to really enjoy themselves. This event was captained by Gary Greenwald and Paul Castanho (with heavy assistance from Greg Berger) – Good work.

Please mark your calendars for our final Social Event:

**October 16 – The Fall Classic** – This always fun event will be a shotgun start and is a 4-some Shamble format. Gift cards and prizes are up for grabs to the winning teams

**Important Note – We have decided to cancel our End of the Year Awards Banquet / 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Tallwood Men’s Club** that was previously scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This was a very difficult decision to make, however our foremost concern is the safety and well-being of our membership and their families. As this Covid-19 Delta variant continues its increased infection, we did not feel it was prudent to have an event where we would be gathering closely, and with dancing, indoors. We did take a survey and it was evident that most of the membership felt the same way.

See you at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole....

*Ron Krupa and Paul Castanho*  
*Social Co Chairs*

## Pro Shop

Tallwood Pro Shop  
(860) 646-3437  
[www.tallwoodcountryclub.com](http://www.tallwoodcountryclub.com)

Dear Men's Club Members,

Fall golf is here at last and there's still plenty of great tournaments to play. Please sign up early as possible so the Pro Shop can organize these events ahead of time.

The new patio has great views of the golf course with plenty of cold beer and delicious sandwiches. Donna and her staff are always friendly and ready to serve some new menu specials.

The new credit book has gone email. Please let Allison or Eric know if you have not gotten a statement yet. If there's any questions about statement, please check with Eric.

All SPECIAL orders must be ORDERED by **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**. Shoes, clubs, clothing etc.. Pro Shop CREDIT must be used by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. All Pro Shop Credit can be used for golf lessons with Nicole, Allison or Eric. **No Pro Shop Credit** will be carried over to 2022.

Tallwood C.C. has a full repair shop to help with regripping and shaft repair with same day or the next service. Check those old grips today.

Make a Tee Time today and Tee it up with friends and Family!

*Sincerely,*  
*Eric DeStefano*  
*Director of Golf*  
*(860) 508-936*

