



All I can say is WOW. The 2020 golf season is over, and what a season it was. After an early open on March 20<sup>th</sup> the entire state was shut down on March 21<sup>st</sup> due to Covid-19 concerns. We kept all staff working and used the time in April to get a head start on spring maintenance, but it was a strange time walking the course on beautiful spring days with no golfers. We had a strong belief that golf could be operated safely and worked extensively with local and state government to encourage an opening for golf. In my work with the New England Golf Course Owners organization, we hired a lobbying firm to help convince decision makers that golf could be opened in a safe manner. Thankfully, they finally agreed to let us re-open, on a very limited basis, on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The opening was a bit rocky with staff trying to interpret and implement the many guidelines, but I believe everyone did a great job. As the summer progressed, with few options for other outdoor activities, we started seeing an incredible increase in demand for golf.

Despite the late opening and restrictions when we did open, we were able to offer a safe experience and thankfully we did not have any seriously sick members or golfers. Although we did need to cancel some events, we were still able to host 28 major member events and almost all the Men's sweeps tournaments. We also experienced what was probably the best golf weather ever. We did not have our first all day rainout until October. Many golfers on the North Shore found it nearly impossible to get a tee time.

This was an extremely difficult year, trying to interpret and implement all the changing guidelines throughout the season and I want to thank all of you for helping us get through these challenges.

Our PGA Junior League program continues to gain popularity and this year reached 54 participants. We were able form three "Under 13" teams and added an "Under 17" team. Wenham Country Club's Jr. PGA program has grown to be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the state.

Our Friday morning golf has become the biggest junior golf program in the area. This Summer we were forced to limit participation, but we were still able to host an average 40 kids per week in a very safe manner.

Wenham Country Club has become The North Shore's leader in junior golf!

With our returning turf management team, we completed an incredible number of projects and improvements to the course this year. Some of the accomplishments were:

- Completed two full core aerations with sand fill on our greens
- Completed a full core aeration of all fairways and tees
- Performed several small solid tine aerations, and one deep solid aeration on all greens
- Rebuilt bunkers on all holes.
- Created grass mound on the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway and behind the 18<sup>th</sup> green.
- Pruned tree roots that were intruding into the greens on holes 4,9, and 18
- Installed new wires to return automated watering to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> tees
- Began thinning of natural areas around the course to retrieve old OB markers and improve the views of each hole, especially on the back 9
- Removed several trees from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> holes

In addition to the course enhancements, we purchased some new equipment and performed some needed updates.

- Purchased 10 new drive carts
- Purchased new Sprayer
- Purchased new Irrigation Pump
- Purchased new Irrigation control system including central computer
- Painted cart shed
- Installed new Patio and updated paving around the club house and cart shed
- Updated Electrical in the club house and on the course
- Updated air conditioning and heating in the Proshop and kitchen

Plans for next year include:

- Returning the old 1<sup>st</sup> tee to active use
- Rebuilding 6/10 Tee complex
- Remove trees that impact shot selection and tee placement on several holes
- Install new nursery green near maintenance shop
- Continue tree pruning efforts
- Secure food service (we had a solution for 2020, but Covid got in the way)

Enclosed are the 2021 golf membership application form and rate sheet. The rates include a \$100 increase for most membership classes, but if deposit is made by January 11<sup>th</sup> and full payment is completed by opening day you can deduct this and pay the 2020 rate. Please notify us as soon as possible if you are not returning for the 2021 season.

Wenham Country Club continues to be the best membership value on the North Shore. We offer over 40 golf functions that are member only and provide guaranteed early weekend tee times from Patriots Day through Columbus Day.

*PREMIER, FULL, and Young Adult* members must opt for either a tournament assessment or pro shop assessment. Restricted Members will automatically receive pro shop credit. The tournament assessment covers entry fees for select tournaments which are designated on the tournament schedule; non-restricted members that opt for pro shop credit can still play in any club event by paying the entry fee. Please make sure to indicate your assessment choice on the membership application. **If no indication is made, the assessment will automatically be placed into the tournament pool. No changes can be made after the tournament season begins (May 4th).**

The course will remain open as long as conditions permit. Once temporary tees and greens are in use, the first three holes will be closed until spring. We will be covering a few of our greens this year to protect them from winter conditions. When the course is playable, we ask that you start on the 4<sup>th</sup> tee and use only the temporary greens and tees. This restriction is necessary to prevent damage to the course during the winter.

Winter play is only available if a down payment toward a 2021 membership has been made

Enjoy your winter season. Be well and we look forward to golfing with you in the spring! Covid permitting, the clubhouse will reopen on Thursday, April 1st. We will celebrate opening day on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> with a mixed tournament followed by a welcome back reception.

Sincerely,

*Norm & Sue, Russ, & Pat Farr, Ryan McDonald, Alex Daly and the rest of the team at W.C.C.*