



2024 ANNUAL MEETING

PO Box 126, Old South Road, Litchfield, CT 06759
Phone (860) 567-8383 - Fax (860) 618-6138
office@litchfield.club website: litchfield.club

OFFICERS

President	Liz DeVos
Vice President	Louisa Roraback
Secretary	Marth Fish
Treasurer	Jean-Yves Magnan

Dutch Barhydt
Euan King
Alan Sherman

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Greg Domres
Amy Millette
Helen Shu

Bentley King
Stephen Segaller
Nat Worden

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda
October 27, 2024

3:00 pm - Call to Order

Quorum Call

Review and Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes (Motion to dispense with the reading and approve by proclamation)

Report of the Nominating Committee on the Election of Governors

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
Liz Funk	2026
Jeff Maddox	2027
Megan O'Dell	2027
Christine Rindos	2027

Election of Governors

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Communications Report

Questions & Answers

Adjournment



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Litchfield Country Club
October 29, 2023**

Board Attendees: Liz DeVos, Matt Shafer, Martha Fish, Jessica Travelstead, Amy Millette, Greg Domres, Paul Stancs, Euan King, Helen Shu, Bentley King, Nat Worden, Alan Sherman.

Absent: Louisa Roraback

Members in attendance: 34 (46 with board)

Quorum Call - Achieved. The meeting was called to order at 3:08pm. Liz welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out. She reminded everyone that only Regular members have voting rights. House members cannot vote.

Review and Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Motion to dispense with the reading and approve by proclamation. Nancy Post proposed the motion, Rick Latos seconded, all voted in favor.

President's Report - All attendees had a copy of the Board reports, attached. Liz presented her report and added the following comments:

- 2023 was a year of transition, and the first year since 2019 that has not been overshadowed by either the pandemic or construction. Despite the challenges, the Club began the year in solid standing with a growing membership.
- Two significant milestones this year: the addition of the General Manager, Ted Kohler, and the expansion to the footprint of our campus.
- Ted began in May, a tricky time to begin, but hit the ground running. Liz acknowledged Ted's calm and professional manner and remarked that he is a very welcome addition for membership and the Board.

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OFFICERS		BOARD OF GOVERNORS		
President	Elizabeth DeVos	Greg Domres	Bentley King	Euan King
Vice President	Louisa Roraback	Amy Millette	Alan Sherman	Helen Shu
Secretary	Martha Fish	Paul Stancs	Jessica Travelstead	Nat Worden
Treasurer	Matt Shafer			

- Liz reported that through the incredible generosity of Tony Yurgaitis and the late George Malkemus, an approximate 8 acre parcel of land was donated to White Memorial Conservation Center for the purpose of creating a Golf Practice Facility at LCC. Liz acknowledged their incredible generosity, and thanked them on behalf of the Board and the entire community. Liz also thanked White Memorial for their support and collaboration. Liz remarked that this will have a lasting impact not only on LCC, but will enable WMCC to protect the river and land on which we reside.
- In the months to come, we will move forward with the design phase, which is necessary to obtain approval from the Inland Wetlands Commission and P&Z. A timeline will be presented to the Board and we will keep the membership informed each step of the way.
- Liz thanked the Greens Expansion Committee: Bill Honan, Paul Stancs, Euan King, Louisa Roraback and Ted Kohler. Liz expressed gratitude for their hard work, with a particular and special thank you to Bill Honan for his expertise with the initial phase of this project.
- Liz reported that in the upcoming year, the Board will be developing a five-year Strategic Plan to address the capital needs.
- Liz mentioned the weather challenges of the past year, with 30+ inches of rain this season (12" above the norm), and gave a special shout out to our Greens Superintendent Chris Caprari and his crew who went above and beyond.
- Liz thanked departing members of the Board; Matt Shafer, who has dedicated countless hours as Treasurer, Paul Stancs for devoting his time and effort to the golf course and to Jessica Travelstead who we are all indebted to for her super-powers in Membership.
- Liz acknowledged the work of this year's Board and thanked the remarkably dedicated staff and our community.

Report of the Nominating Committee on the Election of Governors:

- Sophie King, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked her committee for their efforts and introduced them as: Deirdre Grosscup, Steve Funk, Jessica Travelstead and Andrew Marchand.
- The Nominating Committee's nominees are as follows:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
Dutch Barhydt	2026
Stephen Segaller	2026

The motion to elect the incoming Governors as listed above was proposed:

Steven Segaller: Rick Latos made a motion to approve, Paul Stancs seconded, all in favor.

Dutch Barhydt: Steven Segaller made a motion to approve, Emily Eisen seconded, all in favor.

Election of Governors:

- The Nominating Committee also recommended that the Board elect the following members as Officers:
 - Liz DeVos - President
 - Louisa Roraback - Vice President
 - Jean-Yves Magnan - Treasurer
 - Martha Fish - Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Matt Shafer

Matt presented his report, attached, and added the following comments:

- Matt mentioned that 2023 has been another good year. We will come close to 2.5 million in revenue vs 1.7 million in 2020. This reflects the expansion of Club and membership. Matt mentioned that we do have higher expenses due to facility upgrades associated with the Clubhouse renovation and the new Paddle/Pickleball complex, as well as with the hiring of a General Manager. Matt mentioned that we made a lot of investments in 2023: Pro Shop renovation 75K, exterior improvements of the clubhouse 50K, 15K on the play area on the north side of the pool, the recruitment of a GM and additional admin capabilities. Matt acknowledged our B&G Chair, Alan Sherman, who dealt with issues that were neglected for too long.
- Matt mentioned that the Paddle complex is a beautiful facility. 545K actual vs 490K budget. Overage to budget was driven mainly by 3 things: weather and drainage needed to be improved based on slope of land (30K), new paddle hut with foundation vs slab, and we replaced the screen of the old paddle court.
- Matt acknowledged that Torrington Savings Bank has been a fantastic partner to us.
- Matt mentioned that we will come out of this year with a meaningful cash balance and 100K revolving line of credit at Torrington Savings that has not been utilized.
- Matt mentioned a continuation of increasing costs for 2024 and that we will need to offset these additional costs. We cannot continue to count on the windfall of initiation fees as we have over the last 3 years.
- Matt mentioned a special thank you to Bill Honan for his leadership during the first year of his tenure as Treasurer, and to Liz DeVos who has carried on that leadership.

Committee Chairs' Reports:

Membership - Jessica Travelstead

Jessica presented her report and mentioned that she has been on the Board for 5+ years and through the Covid boom. Two highlights: we had a robust year with 26 total memberships transactions vs 31 LY, 8 new Regular members vs 18 LY, which is significant and represents a post Covid slow down, which is commensurate with the real estate market. We only had one family resign, which is significantly less than a typical year and speaks to the positive changes. Liz thanked Jessica for her incredible contribution as Membership Chair.

Communications - Amy Millete

Amy presented her report and explained the focus of this past year was refining the processes and tools to support Club communication. Amy mentioned she is working with Greg on the 2024 event schedule. Amy mentioned the 2022 annual survey: 155 members participated and we will continue to do that annually. Looking forward, Amy is working on text based messaging for urgent information and a web-based app for modernizing communication.

House - Greg Domres

Greg presented his report and acknowledged and thanked past House Chair, Betsy Schmid, for her incredible contribution. Greg mentioned that he is excited to champion new, exciting and engaging monthly events. Greg thanked Ted for his support and mentioned that he has been a game changer in helping to facilitate all of the plans in store for next year.

Greens - Paul Stancs

Paul presented his report and thanked the Greens crew, Chris Caprari and his staff. He acknowledged the leadership of both Bill Honan and Liz DeVos during his tenure on the Board.

Golf - Euan King

Euan presented his report and summarized that the weather has significantly impacted golf, play, and conditions and this is reflected in the budget. Rounds are down, and cart revenue is down 13K for the year. He mentioned that the highlights of the year were the Pro Shop renovation and the hiring of the new Golf Pro Joe Carlone. He is looking forward to having him back next year. Euan urged us all to support him in the Pro Shop. Euan reported that the goal for next season is to get more people playing golf and the planning of events has already begun. And finally it was a great year with the Junior Program. In closing, Euan acknowledged the dedication of the newly combined (men's and women's) Golf committee.

Pool/Junior Sports - Helen Shu

Helen presented her report and acknowledged a very good season at the Pool, and thanked Hailey White and Dave Steele, who both performed admirably. Hailey will not return next year as she is pursuing a career in nursing. We remain in negotiation with Dave Steele. Helen thanked all of the staff. Junior Sports hosted 118 kids, which is consistent with recent years. New families are joining at a consistent rate to previous years. This year LCC offered 10 weeks vs 8 weeks LY. Helen thanked her Pool Committee, with a special thanks to Ted for all of his support and to Linda for keeping things running. Helen also thanked Maggie Shafer, the Pros and Jr Pro staff. Helen reported that the role of Junior Sports coordinator will now move to Ted and his staff.

Tennis - Bentley King

Bentley presented his report and mentioned that it was another successful year and the second year under David Mwanza. David continues to feed the interest of 3 sports: tennis, pickle and paddle. He has done a nice job of bringing interest in all three areas. Bentley mentioned that David elevated the experience level of the junior staff and that upped the level of professionalism to membership through the clinics and Junior Programs. Court maintenance was another big win with every single staff member working towards the condition of the courts. Bentley thanked the Tennis Committee and Ted for making a big impact.

Paddle Tennis - Nat Worden

Nat presented his report and mentioned the long held dream of having two paddle courts has finally come true. Nat thanked Josh Adams for all of his hard work in bringing this to life. The paddle season will kick off with the Wild Turkey Tournament the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Nat mentioned that the code for the hut is 1892, and to please be careful about locking the hut. And finally, pickleball tiles will be on both courts next year. Opening and closing dates for pickleball are a work in progress. Nat recognized David Mwanza for his support and giving people an opportunity to learn the game with clinics.

Buildings & Grounds - Alan Sherman

Alan presented his report and mentioned that a tremendous amount was accomplished this year. Goals for next year: lower parking lot drainage and regrading, steps to the right of the driveway to the lower lot, solar lighting from upper lot to clubhouse. Alan also thanked the Board for their support and especially to Matt. Liz mentioned that the Clubhouse has never looked better and thanked Alan.

General Manager's Report - Ted Kohler

- Ted mentioned that he has been at LCC for 6 months. And as the first General Manager in the history of LCC, he thanked the membership for the warm welcome to him and his family.
- Ted mentioned that a lot of the work done was administrative and behind the scenes. He has tried to work across all the departments vs working in silos.
- Looking forward, the main priority is to work with the Board on capital improvement projects, such as the renovation of all bunkers, and to work with department heads to increase utilization of the club. Dining/House is a huge focus for the coming year.
- Ted thanked the membership and the Board for their partnership.

Liz recognized the GM search committee: Bill Honan, Louisa Roraback, Betsy Schmid, Sophie King and Andrew Marchand and thanked them for their hard work.

Liz recognized Martha Fish, Secretary, and thanked her for her contributions to the Pro Shop renovation and the LCC branding consolidation.

Questions & Answers:

Scott Ragaglia mentioned that as a proud member of the LCC, he would ask what can be done to be smarter financially? All facilities should have a 1/3/5-year business plan. He believes that cash flow is an issue. Scott mentioned that part of Initiation fees should be for capital improvement. Scott asked about expenses of the practice range. Matt agreed with some of Scott's points and observed that strategic planning is very important for the future. Ted brings a level of professional management and will make an enormous difference in this area. Scott mentioned that adding Ted was an outstanding decision.

Rick Latos commended Matt Shafer for doing a superb job over the years. He appreciates his transparency. Rick highlighted the losses in House, and mentioned over the last 3 years losses are just shy of ½ million dollars. He also mentioned that we need a new barn for the equipment, and that half of the equipment sits outside over the winter. Parking is another issue for special events specifically, and that we can't generate more business without somewhere to park. Alan responded about the lower parking lot, we will expand about 6-8' which will open up more space. Liz mentioned it is an ongoing challenge, we have few options but we are always looking towards improvement. Matt jumped in to say he agrees with the issues at House, but asked should the goal be break even/profitable or should we be supporting it as an investment? It comes down to member utilization, as there are not many wins to be had on the cost side.

Scott Ragaglia mentioned that there is a long history of losses on the House side. Jessica mentioned that you can't look at in silos, that Golf loses the most. It's not the House Chair's responsibility, it's the membership's responsibility. Scott believes in losing money in the House but what else can we do to drive revenue: weddings, are there other avenues? Liz appreciated the comment and mentioned the House is working towards a schedule that would include more outside events, as well as better financial tracking of such events. We will encourage members to do events: weddings, birthday parties, and more.

Tom Witherspoon asked if there is a country club in existence that makes money on the House? Torrington CC makes money on outside events. Matt mentioned that we've added a bartender, and without that cost, the loss is not totally out of proportion.

Rick Latos mentioned paper calendars. Amy appreciated the good feedback and commented that we have sent paper events calendars this year and plan to do so in the future. Euan mentioned opening the golf course once a month for external events as a way to generate additional revenue.

Lainie Witherspoon mentioned that it is time for us all to enjoy a glass of wine, now!

Adjournment - Scott Ragaglia made a motion to adjourn, Rick Latos seconded. The meeting closed at 4:37pm.

President's Annual Report

October 27, 2024

As we entered 2024, we were guided by a clear plan: to reflect on the Club's growth over the past several years, balance its long-standing traditions with a sustainable future, and prioritize developing a strategic plan to guide us forward.

Our primary goal is to ensure that LCC remains the cherished community it has been for decades, while thoughtfully managing recent growth, including facility expansion and new members. This past year, our focus was on long-term planning through a comprehensive Strategic Plan, addressing capital needs, improving operational efficiency with our new GM, and, most importantly, nurturing the traditions and vibrant community that make our Club thrive.

As the need for stronger budget management and financial oversight within the House became increasingly clear, it was evident that adjustments to staffing and roles were essential. This transition was further complicated when our long-standing and beloved Executive Chef, Rob Augdahl and his wife, Jamie, who had been integral members of our community for over two decades, made the difficult decision to retire earlier than planned for medical reasons. We deeply respect their choice and are immensely grateful for their years of dedicated service.

To ensure continuity and maintain the quality of our dining experience, our General Manager swiftly brought in a new Executive Chef. However, it became apparent that neither the new Chef nor the GM fully met the expectations of our Membership and Board. This realization prompted the Board to reevaluate both positions to ensure alignment with our community standards and needs.

In response, our House Chair, Greg Domres, acted promptly to engage Interim Chef Sam Tilley. Greg's quick action ensured that food and beverage services resumed without delay, and the positive energy within the Club has begun to return. We are deeply grateful for the loyalty and commitment of our Membership, and I am confident that, together, we will overcome these challenges and continue to move forward.

As we approach the end of the year, the Board will take time to reflect on the challenges we've encountered. While the new GM position has provided valuable support, we expect the incoming Board will reevaluate that role to ensure it aligns with the Club's long-term needs and overall impact on our community.

The Year in Review – 2024

In reflecting on the past year, we have not only navigated operational challenges but also addressed several unexpected capital expenditures. The aging backflow preventer in the golf course irrigation system required extensive repairs, and significant maintenance was necessary for our pool equipment. Additionally, after multiple lightning strikes over the past year, we proactively installed a lightning protection system to safeguard our facilities against future storms.

The Board and GM made substantial progress on a comprehensive Strategic Plan designed to guide the Club's future. Key initiatives included:

- **Operational Efficiency Assessment:** Identification of areas for improvement within our operations to enhance efficiency and member experience.
- **Bylaws Review and Update:** Thorough review and codification of the Club's Bylaws to ensure they reflect our current operations and values.
- **Board Governance Manual:** Development of a Board Governance Manual to provide clear guidelines and structure for board operations, promoting consistency and transparency. This is a living document that will be reviewed and updated regularly.
- **Capital Expense Schedule:** Completion of a detailed Capital Expense schedule, which our Treasurer will address further in his report.

As we move forward, the Board remains committed to serving our community and staying adaptable in an ever-changing environment.

Amidst the challenges of 2024, there were several notable achievements:

- **Membership Initiatives:** Developed a new onboarding packet, arranged a new member mentor system, and revitalized the "Meet & Greets" to strengthen community connections and support new members. We welcomed twelve new members this year.
- **Environmental Certification:** Recertification from Audubon International as a Cooperative Sanctuary for Golf, maintaining our commitment to environmental stewardship and our partnership with White Memorial Conservation Center.
- **Regulatory Milestones:** Successfully completed the Town regulatory process for our future driving range, paving the way for this exciting addition.
- **Facility Enhancements:** Transformed the new paddle/pickleball hut into a welcoming and vibrant space for members. Additionally, a dedicated employee break room was established to better support our staff's needs.
- **Social Events:** Introduced new events, including Diversions, Trivia Night, and a 21+ Halloween Party, offering a variety of engaging social opportunities.
- **Youth Engagement:** Expanded young adult initiatives in pickleball, tennis, and golf to foster greater involvement and enjoyment among our younger members, particularly as they age out of the Junior Sports program.

Overall, we remain in a strong position as we look ahead to 2025. Although member usage has dipped across all classes of membership, recent weeks have shown the resilience and loyalty of our community, and our membership continues to be strong.

The Year Ahead – 2025

We expect the Board will continue to focus on fostering a stable and sustainable House environment, identify ways to increase revenue, and evaluate the role of the General Manager taking into consideration the evolving needs of the Club.

To support these efforts, a Task Force has been established to explore ways to better engage our members and encourage more frequent utilization of the Clubhouse, as well as increased participation across all Club activities. The Task Force will gather both quantitative and qualitative data, including anonymous member usage statistics, survey feedback, and insights from one-on-one conversations with key stakeholders, and report back to the Board in early January.

This comprehensive approach will help us identify opportunities to enhance member experience and strengthen community ties. Beyond the Task Force, stakeholders from every Club demographic and membership category will be engaged through additional interviews and surveys to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.

Martha Fish, stepping down as Board Secretary, will chair the Task Force and will be joined by May Bogdanovics, Liz DeVos, Kate Fahey, Courtney Hagen, Louise Lewis, Peter Nichols, Greg Oneglia, and Tim White, each bringing valuable expertise and perspective to the initiative.

I have full confidence in our incoming board, and I know Dutch Barhydt will lead with great judgment and an appreciation for our traditions and culture. Dutch is well-equipped to guide the Club through its next chapter.

Departing Board Members

It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive Board during my tenure as President. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our departing Board members:

- **Helen Shu**, our Pool Chair, for her efforts in restructuring and strengthening the pool and Junior programs, including creating hit new annual events like the Epic Pool Party!
- **Bentley King**, for his role in hiring our Racquets Director, David Mwanza, who has revitalized our tennis programs. Bentley has been an invaluable partner to David, working closely with him and the Tennis Committee to enhance and expand our racquet offerings.
- **Nat Worden**, our Paddle Chair, whose creativity and enthusiasm have significantly broadened participation in paddle. Nat also added the finishing touches to the paddle/pickleball hut, creating an inviting space that embodies the character and culture of our Club.
- **Martha Fish**, for her intellect, diplomacy, and meticulous attention to detail in overseeing our meeting minutes.

Special Thanks

Litchfield Country Club is a truly special place. I am deeply grateful to have served as both Pool Chair and President over the past six years, and I cherish the many wonderful relationships I have developed within our community.

Special thanks to my fellow Officers - Louisa Roraback, Jean-Yves Magnan, and Martha Fish - and the Governors - Dutch Barhydt, Greg Domres, Bentley King, Euan King, Amy Millette, Stephen Segaller, Alan Sherman, Helen Shu, and Nat Worden. It has been a pleasure working with all of you, and I am grateful for your partnership and support throughout this past year.

I also want to express my deep gratitude for the loyalty and professionalism of our long-standing staff - Linda Chocholka, James Corbett, Kathryn Monteiro, Kristin Hansen, and Adriana Hoxie - whose dedication to LCC has been invaluable. Even in the face of adversity, they continue to show up and shine, making LCC a brighter and stronger community. And a special acknowledgment to Chris Caprari, David Mwanza, Joe Carlone and Ashley Petzel for their leadership, and to all our remarkably dedicated staff for their continued commitment to Litchfield Country Club.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you - our community of members - for your support and devotion to our Club. Together, we will continue to navigate challenges and celebrate our achievements, ensuring LCC remains a cherished community for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz DeVos, President

LCC Metrics
2020 - 2024

	2024 to-date	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2014 Actual
Membership Count						
(as of Dec 31)						
Regular	163	166	150	159	143	-
Single Regular	19	21	22	24	22	-
Senior Regular	15	17	8	6	6	-
House	51	55	46	46	46	-
Senior House	6	6	8	7	6	-
Total Headcount - Regular	197	204	180	189	171	-
Total Headcount - House	57	61	54	53	52	-
Total Membership Units	254	265	234	242	223	-
Membership Movement						
Additions	12	18	25	22	19	18
House Resignations	1	4	7	1	7	10
Regular Resignations	4	7	2	5	6	9
Deceased	6	5	4	3	3	2
Leave of Absence	3	2	-	-	-	-
Status Change	7	15	16	19	8	4
Initiation Fees						
Regular Member	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,000
Single Regular Member	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000
Junior Regular Member	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
House Member	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
Gross Revenue from Initiations	\$ 174,500	\$ 184,250	\$ 266,000	\$ 217,900	\$ 148,500	\$ 77,000
Membership Revenue						
Initiation Fees total	\$ 174,500	\$ 184,250	\$ 266,000	\$ 217,900	\$ 148,500	\$ 77,000
Dues total	\$ 817,399	\$ 756,909	\$ 704,001	\$ 616,481	\$ 560,904	\$ 479,657
Maintenance total	\$ 289,984	\$ 349,052	\$ 347,344	\$ 306,994	\$ 279,646	\$ 180,203
Capital total	\$ 181,137	\$ 229,456	\$ 161,341	\$ 105,990	\$ 100,194	\$ 166,508
Total Membership Revenue	\$ 1,463,020	\$ 1,519,667	\$ 1,478,686	\$ 1,247,365	\$ 1,089,244	\$ 903,368

LCC Metrics
2020 - 2024

	2024 to-date	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2014 Actual
Annual Membership Fees						
Regular						
Dues	\$ 3,960	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,470	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,250	\$ 2,700
Maintenance	\$ 1,864	\$ 1,662	\$ 1,650	\$ 2,112	\$ 2,112	\$ 1,875
Capital	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,092	\$ 790	**	**	**
Restaurant Minimum	\$ 880	\$ 880	\$ 880	\$ 880	\$ 880	\$ 800
Total Membership Fees	\$ 7,870	\$ 7,234	\$ 6,790	\$ 6,242	\$ 6,242	\$ 5,375
				1.90%		3.90%
Restaurant Covers						
Lunch/Brunch	3,704	3,862	5,323	5,372	3,252	-
Dinner	4,221	5,140	5,752	5,740	4,679	-
Snack Bar	2,650	2,532	3,156	2,990	2,783	-
Total Covers	10,575	14,563	14,231	14,102	10,714	-
Revenue - a la carte (no events)						
Lunch/Brunch	\$ 103,014	\$ 136,473	\$ 155,579	\$ 167,713	\$ 64,499	-
Dinner	\$ 215,844	\$ 288,453	\$ 285,231	\$ 227,609	\$ 186,725	-
Snack Bar	\$ 37,995	\$ 45,949	\$ 47,852	\$ 38,437	\$ 22,227	-
Total Revenue	\$ 356,853	\$ 470,875	\$ 488,662	\$ 433,759	\$ 273,451	-
Golf						
Total Rounds	2703	2,592	3,642	3593	3508	-
Carts Fees Revenue	\$ 30,622	\$ 21,738	\$ 34,008	\$ 31,734	\$ 33,608	-
Junior Sports Program						
Total Golf Participants	92	-	62	87	62	-
Total Tennis Participants	91	-	113	86	27	-
Total Swim Team Participants	75	-	71	74	59	-
Total # Children	102	122	113	105	84	-
Total # of Families	59	74	65	60	47	-
Total Golf Revenue	\$ 20,328	\$ 24,054	\$ 25,820	\$ 25,935	\$ 12,910	-
Total Tennis Revenue	\$ 40,915	\$ 47,703	\$ 49,076	\$ 59,564	\$ 40,740	-
Gross Revenue	\$ 61,243	\$ 71,757	\$ 74,896	\$ 85,499	\$ 53,650	-

*if left blank, data is not available.

2024 Treasurer's Annual Report

October 27, 2024

Financial Results 2022-2024 YTD

The following table shows the Club's financial performance from operations from 2022 through the end of 2024, as well as year-to-date (YTD) results compared to budget and last year. The 2024 forecast is the latest full year estimate based on September YTD results.

	Year Ended 12/31 (000's)			Through 9/30/24 (000's)			
	2022A	2023A	2024F**	2024A	Budget	Variance	2023A
Revenues	2,384	2,521	2,428	2,194	2,296	(102)	2,181
Expenses	(2,032)	(2,295)	(2,290)	(1,935)	(2,044)	109	(1,835)
Operating Income	352	226	137	259	252	7	346
Financing Costs	(40)	(75)	(126)	(95)	(95)	0	(48)
Net Operating Income *	312	151	11	164	157	7	298
Revenue ex Initiation Fees	2,118	2,337	2,245	2,019	2,196	(177)	2,031
Net Op Income ex Initiation Fees	46	(33)	(171)	(11)	57	(68)	149

* Does not include Investments

** Assumes limited reopening of the house in October. Forecast is an estimate, subject to change.

These numbers do not include prior or 2024 investments. The 2024 investments will be covered below separately.

Overview

The Club entered 2024 with an operational cash balance of approximately \$80K and approximately \$50K remaining in the assessment account. To help offset the impact of rising expenses (e.g. the hiring of a full-time General Manager, payment of principal on the mortgage loan), the Club increased in aggregate Dues, Capital and Maintenance by 10% at the end of 2023, effective 1/1/2024.

After several years of significant capital expenditures (e.g. the House renovation, construction of the Paddle facility), 2024 was a year of minimal investments to allow the Board to evaluate the Club's future capital needs holistically.

Despite the recent departures of our General Manager and the Executive Chef, and the waiving of restaurant minimums for the month of October, the Club has resumed limited House operations and maintained all planned events. As such, the Club is forecasted to end the year with a similar operational cash balance as it had at the beginning of the year and with approximately \$10K remaining in the assessment account.

It is worth noting that, through September, the House has experienced a significant drop in utilization compared to last year, with both lunch and dinner attendance lower, resulting in a 20% drop in House revenues. While this decrease may partly be due to the restructuring of the House (e.g., departure of Jamie and Rob, hiring of a new Chef, and new front-of-house staff), as well as significantly fewer outside events compared to 2023, the Board is conducting a deeper analysis to ensure the House continues to be a vibrant space for members to gather.

2024 Results September YTD

Revenue

Total Club YTD revenues were approximately \$2.2MM, which is about \$100K below budget, primarily due to lower House revenues, despite higher-than-budgeted initiation fees. The restructuring of the House was not factored into the budget, which assumed higher revenues from outside events. However, early in 2024, the focus shifted to hiring new key staff, training, and optimizing House costs. Core membership revenues (Dues, Capital and Maintenance) were slightly above plan and are expected to end the year on plan. Initiation fees total \$175K YTD.

Total Club revenues were marginally ahead of last year for the same period, as the drop in House revenues was offset by higher core membership revenues, higher initiation fees and improved Golf revenues (cart and green fees).

Expenses

Total Club YTD expenses were approximately \$1.9MM, under budget by \$110K reflecting staffing optimization and cost control in the House, partially offset by costs incurred from the House restructuring, higher staffing in Greens and work required in the staff quarters (second floor).

Due to focused expense management, total Club expenses increased by only 5% compared to last year, despite absorbing higher wages and salaries (e.g. General Manager, Greens, Tennis and Golf) and the impact of the House restructuring.

Operating Income

As a result of these revenue and expense movements, total Club YTD Operating Income (before investments and debt service) was on budget but down approximately \$90K from the same period last year.

2024 Investments

As mentioned in the overview, 2024 saw only essential or in-progress investments, totaling approximately \$62K. These investments were primarily funded from the assessment account and included:

- Obtaining Town zoning permits to build a golf practice facility on the newly acquired land (donated to White Memorial by Arethusa Farm and leased by the Club);
- Extensive plumbing repairs to the water main pipe supporting the Greens irrigation system;
- Purchase of a new snowblower for Greens and a new refrigerator for the snack bar; and
- Pool facility repairs and maintenance (e.g. lightning protection, heating and filtration systems) as well as replacement of pool furniture and new ADA compliant stairs.

Financing Costs

Financing costs reflect mainly the principal and interest payments on the \$1.6 million mortgage loan with Torrington Savings Bank, as well as lease payments for kitchen equipment. The loan was fully drawn at the end of last year, and the Club incurred in 2024 approximately \$117K of financing costs, split approximately \$53K in principal repayment and \$64K in interest. As a reminder, payments on the loan are fixed based on a 4% rate until a re-set in October 2032.

Capital Needs Going Forward

As part of the Strategic Plan process, the Board evaluated the Club's capital needs in 2024. Despite recent investments in the Clubhouse renovation and Paddle facility construction, many areas of the Club remain in need of important repairs and / or have been underfunded for several years due to various constraints. As such, the Board has established a list of capital improvements totaling approximately \$2MM, which will be prioritized and funded over time, in addition to ongoing maintenance and usual repairs.

The largest portion, or approximately \$900K, relates to Greens, including critical repairs and upgrades needed to our maintenance facility, replacement and maintenance of equipment (e.g. mowers, sprayer, truck) and improvements to the golf course (e.g. bunkers, drainage, irrigation system, bridge repairs).

The second largest portion, or approximately \$450K, relates to improvements to our campus, including drainage and resurfacing of the lower parking lot and exterior safety lighting; upgrades in the House (e.g. locker room bathrooms and A/C, deck furniture replacement, second floor electrical); a generator and upgrades in the kitchen equipment.

The capital needs also include approximately \$200K to support our sports facilities (e.g. rebuilding tennis courts 1 & 2, new fencing for the pool, new golf cart fleet) as well as approximately \$450K that has been earmarked for the future driving range.

Financial Condition & Outlook

The Club is expected to end the year in sound financial condition, with a strong base of recurring membership revenue, and a \$100K line of credit from Torrington Savings that we have not utilized.

As we look forward beyond 2024, the Club will need to find a way to fund and prioritize these important capital needs and generate sufficient excess funds year after year to support its annual capital and maintenance requirements. With the recent Clubhouse and the Paddle facility renovations partially funded with debt, and a decade of modest dues increases, the Club is now working to catch up.

Identifying ways to increase revenue and fund future capital projects will be essential to preserving Club's assets and ensuring it remains a safe, vibrant and enjoyable space for members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Yves Magnan
Treasurer

2024 Membership Annual Report

October 27, 2024

With thanks to so many members who engaged with and introduced prospective members to our Club, and to those who encouraged, sponsored and wrote letters of support, I am pleased to report we had an extremely active and successful membership year.

Through October, we have welcomed twelve new members, including nine Regular Members, two Single Regular Members and one House Member. Of these twelve new memberships, four have direct, family connections at the LCC, through their families or their own previous membership: Macaulay and Peter Sullivan, Molly and Eddie Jacob, Lillian and Steven Sigrist and Martha McDowell. As we welcome those with previous ties to our Club, we are delighted to welcome those who are new to our Club: Caroline and Jason Klein, Colleen and Graves Tompkins, Martha Green and Alan Cohen, Alex Reid, Melissa and Justin Feig, and Susan Webb and Jean-Francois Dreyfus. I extend my thanks to the entire membership for warmly welcoming our new members and making them feel comfortable.

We have had five resignations YTD in 2024, including four Regular Members and one House Member: Beth and Adam Man, Jackie and Phil Miller, Nancy and Sky Post, Judy Radasch-Stickler and Dan Stickler and Susan and Tony Pasquariello. This compares to eleven resignations total at YE in 2023: The resignations were received for a variety of reasons including geographic relocations, reduced Club usage, children aging out or moving away and declining health. In 2024 new Regular Memberships exceeded Regular Membership resignations (9 vs. 4.)

We also had a number of internal status changes that typically occur each year including Leaves of Absence, changes from Regular to House and or changes from Regular to Senior Membership.

Heading into the 2024 Annual Meeting, our membership numbers stand at 197 Regular Members and 57 House Members. For the four years preceding 2024, our numbers have ranged from a low of 171 to a high of 204 Regular Memberships and a low of 52 to a high 61 House Memberships.

As always at the Annual Meeting, we remember our longstanding and well-respected members of the Club who passed away in the last year: Lucie Kleinhans, Charles Gill, Lili Ruane, Downey Stancs, Sky Magary and Bill Sweetman. Their presence and contributions to our community will be missed by us all.

During the past year the Membership Committee undertook several new initiatives to make the membership process more robust and thorough. We redesigned the Membership Application to capture the number of years that each sponsor has personally known the applicant so that we can be confident that we know, more fully, potential members. We also added the following open-ended question to the application to draw out a thoughtful response from each applicant to further ensure a good fit and a good member experience: "Now that you have gotten to know the Club and some of its history and community, please share why the Litchfield Country Club would be a good fit for you and your family." When a new member is admitted, a member of the

Membership Committee becomes a "mentor" to that new member, inviting them to the Club for a drink, a meal, a game of tennis, paddle or pickle or golf and then being a resource to that new member. In addition to the new member mentor process, we have created a bound "New Member Guide" that is personally given to the new member during an introductory meeting with the General Manager that includes a thorough tour of the facilities and introductions to the staff. Our goal is to help that new member become more seamlessly integrated and invested in the Club and have a friendly and fulfilling initial experience. We also continued "Meet and Greet" opportunities, hosting two (with a third upcoming) Sunday morning social gatherings for prospective new members to meet the Board of Governors and the Membership Committee. These five proactive steps are to ensure that we develop and maintain a healthy pipeline of prospective members and help them understand the special character of our Club.

I would like to thank the Membership Committee: May Bogdanovics, Liz DeVos, Bill Honan, Sophie King, Amy Millette, Peter Nichols, Tina Reardon and Jessica Travelstead for their time and enthusiasm for our mission and the terrific staff whose presence at our Meet and Greet events is always so welcoming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dutch Barhydt
Membership Chair

2024 Communications Annual Report

October 27, 2024

This past year, the Club made good progress in enhancing communications by refining processes, maintaining consistent messaging, and leveraging data to improve member engagement. While we are pleased with the progress, there are still opportunities to further enhance Club communications and modernize our channels.

2023-2024 Communications Highlights:

- Conducted an end-of-year Member Survey in January 2024 with 155 respondents, providing valuable feedback to guide the Board and future Club improvements.
- Sent over 100 communications through Constant Contact since last year's Annual Meeting.
 - *Constant Contact Open Rate:* 83% (56% mobile, 44% desktop), reflecting strong engagement across devices.
- Utilized Greenvelope for digital invitations and event reminders, with open rates ranging from 50-80%, demonstrating steady interaction and member engagement.
- Launched SMS notification enrollment via the Constant Contact platform, with 139 members signed up, enabling quicker communication for urgent updates.
- Published Seasonal Clubhouse Event Schedules around the Club, keeping members informed with accessible and visually appealing event information.
- Worked to improve the Crier by streamlining information collection, enhancing readability, and consistently maintaining the publication schedule.
- Focused on interest-specific content and invitations through Constant Contact (e.g., Tennis, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Paddle, Pickle, Pool), ensuring members receive relevant, tailored information.

Looking Ahead: Our key focus remains on maintaining clear, consistent communications with Members, especially in light of recent changes. We are always exploring ways to increase targeted outreach, modernize communication channels, and consider upgrading the Club's website when appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Millette
Communications Chair

2024 House Committee Annual Report
October 27, 2024

The past year has not been an easy one for the House. The illness of Rob, our longtime executive chef, and his consequent departure after a very long tenure, along with his wife Jamie, started the year with an unexpected setback. We are happy that Rob's health has improved, but their sudden departure caused some upheaval, leaving the House to start anew.

Although it was a tall order to manage while we were still finding our footing with new staff, efforts were made throughout the year to act on last year's survey results. Members requested improvements in the quality of food as well as the variety of dining offerings. Additionally, different segments of our membership with varying needs were identified. In response, new dishes were introduced on Friday evenings, the foot-long hotdog returned to the lunch menu, and a cup of soup and half sandwich option was added. These changes have been well-received by members.

Adjustments also continued at the front of the House following Jamie's departure. Elevating Lauren's role to Captain improved service over the summer, and the entire front-of-house staff received training. This work continues, as we acknowledge the broader staffing challenges in Litchfield County. These regional difficulties also made it challenging to expand service to earlier hours or offer regular poolside service, but the commitment to member satisfaction remains strong.

Nevertheless, the House Committee executed a robust plan despite the new hurdles. The year began with Mardi Gras in February and Trivia Night in March, both of which were well-attended despite the lack of prior programming. We held the traditional Easter brunch, introduced a new event called Spring Fling in April, and hosted the Mother's Day brunch in May. Summer brought monthly summer parties, with grills for Memorial Day and Labor Day continuing to be favorites. Events have generally been very well attended, demonstrating the strength of the LCC community and the desire for members to connect and enjoy each other's company. These events will continue into the fall.

Work is far from done. The House Committee has gathered regularly, not just to plan events but to process the anecdotal feedback received from the membership. We are grateful to those who share their experiences and suggestions, and as a result, we continue to adjust our menu and service based on this input.

Looking ahead, the House Committee will continue working closely with the staff to ensure a more consistent and high-quality dining experience in both the front and back of the House. One of our key goals is to inspire members to use the House more frequently, as general dining participation has not reached previous levels, even though events have been well-attended. We aim to reverse this trend, as we continue to focus on LCC's strongest asset: its community.

As we move forward, we are committed to fostering this spirit even more, ensuring the House remains a place for members to gather, enjoy good food, and share great company.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Domres
House Chair

Buildings and Grounds Annual Report
October 27, 2024

The following upgrades were made to the buildings and grounds this past year.

Golf / Greens:

- 56 Emerald Green Arborvitaes were planted on the East side of the 5th fairway, adjacent to the paddle courts
- We received an inspection of our main water lines from Aquarian on behalf of the town of Litchfield. Due to its age, the backflow preventer in the line that feeds the golf course irrigation system failed. It has since been repaired / replaced
- The Eversource line to the Maintenance building had a malfunctioning element and was replaced

Pool Facility:

- Replaced a one-way valve for the pool house irrigation system as per Aquarian
- Replaced two salt cells and controller boards that were fried by lightning
- Installed lightning protection for pool house and pool equipment
- Replaced inoperable hot water heater for pool
- Replaced damaged fence by the pool house due to storm damage
- Removed sick ash tree inside the pool fence
- Painted the pool storage building

The Clubhouse:

- A new employee breakroom was created in one of the existing storage spaces above the kitchen. It provides the staff with a clean space to leave their belongings, enjoy a break, and have meetings
- A new wall was installed in the employee bathroom to segment off the small storage area; the bathroom was also painted, has a new linoleum floor, a new vanity and the shower has been repaired
- The stairway leading up from the kitchen was painted and had carpet installed for safety
- Porch and outside deck were painted
- Front flat roof was leveled and sealed

In addition, numerous odd jobs and maintenance were taken care of by Jimmy, who continues to be an invaluable member of our team.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan B Sherman
Buildings & Grounds Chair

Greens Committee Annual Report
October 27, 2024



From the upper 9th fairway looking towards the 9th tee. March 24, 2024

The golf season is drawing to a close, and the story of this year has been, to paraphrase Sherlock Holmes, “the dog that didn’t bark” or in our case, the river that didn’t flood. Although the Bantam River overflowed its banks onto the lower part of the course several times in late March (see picture) it has not done so since the season began in earnest. There have been heavy rains, but the existing drainage has mostly coped. Nonetheless, most of the 8th fairway, and a good deal of the 2nd fairway, were unplayable and muddy for prolonged periods – lift, clean and place protocols were required as a result - and took time to recover.

The course conditions have generally been praised this year, and in turn Chris Caprari and his crew should receive credit for managing – and improving – playing conditions in several respects. Co-ordinating with White Memorial Foundation, it was agreed to allow shrubs and vegetation to re-grow along the riverbanks on the 2nd, 7th and 8th hole, and in areas which were frequently wet on the 3rd, 8th and 9th – in all cases introducing new out of bounds or penalty areas, which have been widely accepted. To the relief of many, the smaller pot bunker will be erased this Fall, and when the necessary materials are available, the larger one will also disappear.

During the season, dead or dying trees have been removed (with WMF’s approval) and ongoing maintenance of all parts of the course have continued. Chris is pleased with the Greens crew that he has had to support him this year, but continues to be hampered by the lack of sufficient, and reasonably up-to-date equipment. The Cap-Ex wish list reflects these needs. Chris believes the course to be in the best condition so far, in his 4 years as Superintendent. He has recently signed a two-year contract to continue in his role.

In early August, USGA consultant Elliot Dowling visited LCC and walked the course with Chris, Ted Kohler, and Eileen Young - a member of both Greens and Golf Committees. Dowling provided Chris Caprari with a number of suggestions for ongoing maintenance - as well as a written report on the state of the course and related facilities. Bullet points from his Executive Summary are as follows:

- **Putting Greens.** Most of our conversations were on putting green management. I found the putting greens to be in really good condition despite challenging weather this summer. The putting greens are primarily creeping bentgrass and what I would consider modified push-up greens.
- **Number 2 Fairway.** The only fairway we spent time discussing was Number 2, in an area that used to be primary rough and is now fairway. This change was made several years ago and frankly no one on the visit could remember exactly why. I did not get the impression that this area is that much in play, especially considering how wet it is with several pockets of standing water or completely bare areas.
- **Bunkers.** Bunkers are one of the greatest areas of opportunity at your golf course. Most of them have not been renovated in several decades, if that. They are all showing signs of contaminated sand, slow drainage and frankly several of them are out of place for today's game.
- **Maintenance Facility.** To say the maintenance facility is old and antiquated is putting it nicely. The primary structure is an original barn from when the course was a farm. The entire facility is old, undersized and without a dedicated mix and load station for plant protectant applications and a nice area to wash machinery.

Dowling's detailed advice for aeration and tining of the greens was appreciated by Chris (as was his praise, and other advice) and has already been implemented – Chris believes it has improved the greens' conditions. Dowling's concerns about the state of the bunkers, and the antiquated state of the maintenance barn, remain to be addressed. Numerous areas of paved cart paths also are still in need of repair, for reasons of both comfort and safety.

Working with the helpful support of B&G Chair Alan Sherman, the club purchased 50 small arbor vitae trees to create a screen and boundary, between the left side of the 5th fairway and the paddle courts/maintenance area.

Both members and visitors have enjoyed a good season of golf, with one remaining "ABCD" event to come on October 20th. We hope for a great turnout to close out the season.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Segaller
Greens Chair

2024 Golf Annual Report

October 27, 2024

This year golf has benefited from much improved weather especially since mid-July compared to the 6 occasions last year when the course was flooded and unplayable. This has resulted in more rounds played, more revenue and regular very positive feedback from both members and guests about the course.

The season has been crowned by wonderful Fall golf conditions and Chris Caprari and the Greens team are to be congratulated for keeping the course in such an excellent state.

Our biggest challenge continues to be to get more members playing, as well as participating in the scheduled events.

Season Highlights:

- Good participation in the Men's and Women's weekly Wednesday events
- The smooth running of Men's & Women's Member Guest tournaments
- The enthusiasm for the annual Fields Cup against Highfield
- The competitiveness of the Club Championships
- The recognition by the Connecticut Women's Golf Association for their invitational to be hosted at Litchfield
- The Don Goss Chicken & Duck mixed event
- The success of the Junior Program although there were marginally fewer participants than 2023
- Increased course usage, especially 9-hole rounds
- The late season Beginners Clinics – based on their success we will start earlier next year
- Course condition – this was regularly commented on by members and guests
- The team of Pro Shop assistants enhancing the member experience over the summer
- The collaboration between the Golf and Greens Committees

Lowlights:

- As in 2023 the lack of participation of golfers in many of the Men's, Women's and Mixed events. On average we had about 12 participants per event. Unfortunately, we did not manage to get to many of our new members participating and we will try and get them more engaged next year by earlier communication aided by the Committee members powers of persuasion
- Lack of Support of our professional, Joe Carlone, for lessons and merchandise in the Pro Shop
- Golf carts showing signs of wear and tear with ripped seats. Members' feedback was negative in this regard. We have received a quote to replace them with a new leased fleet while at the same time getting a reasonable trade-in offer on the current carts

Focus for 2025:

- Early publication of a schedule of golf events, more visibility with postings in locker rooms and other club common areas and early communication. The Committee will also be tasked with contacting members and persuading them to play
- Publication of a golf events planner early in the year

- Reinstatement of the open White Memorial Golf Tournament for local residents in aid of WM Conservation Center
- 75th Anniversary of Men's Member Guest with a dinner dance on the Saturday evening
- An earlier start in the season of the Beginners Clinics in early June
- Establishment of a formal handicap committee to ensure we comply with CSGA guidelines

I would like to thank our Golf Professional, Joe Carlone for running a successful program and coordinating all the men's and women's events. Once again he hired an engaging team of assistants over the summer who put the members' experience first.

I would also like to recognize the members of the Golf Committee for their contribution to the program, ideas and support during the year. (Louisa Roraback, Ann Green, Maggie Shafer, Eileen Young, Alexis DeRubertis, Josh Adams, Lucas Cridland, Paul Stancs and Gib Sansing).

Respectfully submitted,
Euan King
Golf Chair

2024 Golf Tournament Results

My thanks to all the members who supported our various events and tournaments and especially to the winners!

Men's Club Championship

Winners: Gross- Paul Stancs, Net- John Scanlon

Senior Club Championship

Winner: Scott Ragaglia

Bob Reid

Winner: Spencer White

Patterson Cup

Winner: Scott Ragaglia

Sepples Cup

Winner: Luke Stancs

Men's Member Guest

Winners: Matt & Ed Shafer

Women's Club Championship

Winners: Gross- Jessica Travelstead, Net- Annick Wadsworth

Women's Member Guest

Low Gross: Louisa Roraback + Betsy Booth + Eva Blachere + Joan Kirwin

Low Net: Deirdre Grosscup + Meg Sowarby + Monica Sowarby + Dede Christopherson

Gazebo Tournament

Winners: Cathy Oneglia & Dan Oneglia

Don Goss Chicken Duck Memorial

Individual Gross Champion: AJ Ruwet

Gross Division Champions: AJ Ruwet + Owen Ruwet + Dave Rumpf + Curtis Jacques

Net Division Champions: Jon Tarrant + John Calkins + Richard Evangelisti + Stephen Eisenhaure

Golf Statistics
2024 Golf Report

	2022	2023	2024 YTD (10/5)
Total Rounds			
9 Holes:	2,377	1,942	2,234
18 Holes:	537	262	249
Walking Rounds			
9 Holes:	452	491	544
18 Holes:	48	77	61
Riding Rounds			
9 Holes:	1,925	1,451	1,690
18 Holes:	489	185	188
Cart Revenue	\$34,008	\$21,738	\$30,622
Guest fees		\$6,068	\$8,210

2024 Tennis Committee Annual Report

October 27, 2024

I am pleased to announce that the 2024 LCC tennis program had another successful year. This year marked the third year under David Mwanza, our Director of Racquet Sports, who continues to deliver a high-quality member experience for all three racquet sports: tennis, pickleball and paddle tennis. The holistic program under David's leadership provides options throughout the year to *all* levels of play making for an inclusive program with 'something for everyone.' Ted Kohler, the club's General Manager, also provided structure and operational oversight that enhanced this year's program.

On behalf of Ted, David, the tennis staff, and the Tennis Committee, we would like to thank the LCC community for their wonderful engagement this past season. We certainly valued the feedback that we received ahead of the season and think this feedback helped to elevate the program this summer. As such, we welcome all feedback as we continue to look for ways to optimize the program further to meet member preferences.

Tennis Staff

David oversaw another strong tennis staff this year and continued to support the program with seasoned, collegiate-level tennis players to help elevate the quality of instruction. James Vincent, our Senior Assistant Professional, spearheaded the junior program in his first season with the LCC. We were also delighted to bring back returning staff members in Ben Mwanza and Cyrus Booth whose experience and knowledge of the Club and our juniors provided welcomed continuity. Finally, we had the pleasure of welcoming two LCC members to the staff in Amoli Vad and Trevor McNamara. They were a delightful addition to the program and functioned as strong role-models for younger LCC members. Thank you to David, James, Ben, Cyrus, Amoli, and Trevor for their tremendous efforts this season.

Clinics & Social Events

Clinics- In response to positive member feedback from the 2023 season, David provided a similar 'menu' of clinics as the prior season. These clinics ranged from the fundamentals of tennis to more competitive, doubles-based games like "105." Members appreciated the consistency of these clinics with some attending the clinics on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. The popularity and regularity of these clinics is and will continue to be an important part of the program.

Social Events- David and the Committee took a "fewer, bigger, better" approach to social events this season with a focus on increasing engagement and participation. As a result, popular events from past seasons like Breakfast at Wimbledon and Davis Cup were met with even stronger attendance and enthusiasm and members can look forward to similar events next season.

Club Championships

In response to member feedback requesting additional match-play opportunities for varied levels of play, the Committee worked with David to expand the Club Championships to include both Green (A Flight) and White (B Flight) brackets for tennis and pickleball. As a result, this year's Championships saw the highest number of participants (fifty for tennis and forty for pickleball) in recent memory. Kudos to David and the Tennis Committee for a total team effort in boosting member participation and a thank you to all the members who signed up to play this year.

Junior Program

The club also enjoyed another successful junior program this season with superb oversight from Helen Hsu, the Pool Chair. David and his staff continued to deliver a strong Junior Program navigating the balance between instruction and play while keeping the sessions fun for junior members. Thank you to the staff for the energy that they brought to the junior program from week to week.

Court Maintenance

Overall, we are pleased to report that our courts played well this summer. From the opening of the courts in the Spring, David and his staff kept a watchful eye on the playability of the courts and took swift action when optimization was needed. The staff tirelessly maintained the daily ritual of rolling and watering. Moving forward, the Committee and the Board continue to look for ways to ensure that our four Har-Tru courts continue to play at a level befitting our racquets program.

Gratitude

A special thanks to a devoted Tennis Committee who contributed in big and small ways to ensuring that the season was a success. Kudos to May Bogdanovics, Lauren Sansing, Tierney Moran, Wendy Story, Lynn Chapman, Jaclyn Greenberg, and Jamie Sowlakis for giving us their energy and time. They continue to represent the best of our community as they selflessly contributed to the tremendous tennis and pickleball program that we enjoy here at the LCC.

Overall, we are proud of the 2024 tennis and pickleball season and are grateful to the membership for the continued input and engagement. As my term on the Board as Tennis Chair comes to an end, I would like to thank our fearless President, Liz DeVos, and my fellow governors for their dedication and thoughtfulness over the last few years. I have a newfound appreciation for the club community and feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the interests of our membership. I look forward to supporting the racquets program and am very excited to see it continue to blossom even further.

Respectfully submitted,

Bentley King
Tennis Chair

2024 Paddle Annual Report

October 27, 2024

This report will mark the end of my three-year term as Paddle Chairman, and I'm pleased to report that we've enjoyed another productive year for paddle, pickleball and racquet sports generally at LCC.

One priority this year this year was to continue furnishing the new paddle hut and the outdoor decks around the new courts. With limited available funds and other pressing priorities at the club, we turned to the paddle community for extra support.

Over a period of several weeks, we received donations from over 30 members that added up to well over \$5,000. These funds were used to purchase furnishings for the interior of the hut along with some framed prints for the walls and other items. Separately, members John and Nancy Newton made a special donation to purchase a set of Adirondack chairs for the outdoor decks.

Altogether, these purchases have had a tremendous impact on the space, transforming it to a facility that feels finished, comfortable, attractive and reflective of the core values of our club. I'm grateful to the Newtons and all the other members that contributed to the effort. As members, we all support the club through our financial obligations. Asking members to go above and beyond their obligations was not a step that I took lightly, and I deeply appreciate the support we received.

Member Donielle Hawley deserves special recognition for her outsized efforts in helping me execute a plan for furnishing the space. She came up with the overall plan and helped me execute it. Notably, Donielle found the attractive doormat that is customized with LCC's logo, which was promptly purchased again for the main clubhouse, and she installed the handsome drapes that now hang below the counter in the back of the hut, greatly improving the ambience of the room.

My wife Sarah Worden also deserves recognition for her help. Many others pitched in as well.

Thanks to Paul Stancs for donating the table and to Gib Sansing for donating the speakers and sound system. Both of these items have greatly enhanced the experience of spending time at our new court facility. Several members also donated vintage paddle equipment, which we have used to decorate the walls in the hut, and the Litchfield Historical Society opened their archives to us and allowed us to reproduce some images from Litchfield's past to adorn the walls.

Finally, I want to recognize my predecessor Josh Adams for his monumental efforts to make the dream of the new court facility at LCC a reality.

As a result of all this, along with the efforts of the outgoing Tennis Chairman Bentley King, the new leadership coming onboard at LCC will find a racquet sports landscape at the club that is poised for a very bright future. David Mwanza has transitioned into the club's Director of Racquet Sports, improving communications and developing a vibrant program of instruction, clinics and competition for both paddle and pickleball as well as tennis. This development takes much of the day-to-day responsibilities for administering our racquet sports programs off the shoulders of our volunteer board and into the hands of professionals, which benefits our membership.

For the first time ever this year, we'll be hosting a paddle season opening dinner and party on Saturday, November 9. A casual dinner, featuring a relaxed dress code so that members can wear their paddle garb, will begin at 6. That will be followed by libations and

casual paddle play down at the courts. All members of the LCC paddle community are encouraged to mark the date on their calendars and attend the festivities. Later in the year, we'll host our Wild Turkey Tournament on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Following tradition, this paddle competition will feature a Member-Guest team format with no gender restrictions, so all players should be focused on finding a guest partner with whom they can seek this year's crown.

One unresolved issue of note facing our program remains the question of how best to surface our two new platform courts for pickleball in the summer season. Thus far, we've used a set of removeable pickleball tiles on one court, while we've used the bare surface on the other, experimenting with various methods for lining that court for pickleball.

LCC could choose to acquire a second set of tiles for this purpose, but we have found the installation and removal of the tiles to be a cumbersome process. The tiles do provide a sound method for lining the courts for pickleball without permanently marking the underlying surface. But, the tile surface results in funny bounces, it's not very forgiving, it's dangerous when wet, the tiles are difficult to store in the offseason, they're not great for the underlying surface, and a second set of tiles would be expensive.

Alternative ways to line the court that we have experimented with on the second court have also proven to be flawed. Many players at the Club prefer the tile surface for pickleball over the underlying surface of the courts. Still, many others I have heard from prefer the underlying surface—we just haven't found a good way to line the court for pickleball on the underlying surface.

So, while pickleball has certainly taken root in the culture of our club as a popular sport that seems likely to endure, this conundrum for the future of pickleball at LCC remains. I have not landed on a path forward on this issue that I am comfortable with or confident in, so it will fall to the future leadership. I don't see any reason to rush into a decision on this.

I'll conclude with a special note of appreciation for the tireless efforts of President Liz Devos and the other directors that I've served with these last three years. We tackled a lot of big and tough issues at the club as a Board. We've had successes and we've had some disappointments, but as a group, the club's leadership has always been focused on doing what is in the best interests of our membership, and we've done our very best to accomplish that mission.

My involvement in the leadership of LCC has been a rewarding challenge, and I will always treasure the friendships that I have forged with our staff and my fellow board members. I encourage other members to consider getting involved in the board and/or our various committees. It's an experience that has deepened my understanding and appreciation for the community that we share here and everything that goes in to making LCC the special place we all know and love.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nat Worden
Paddle/Pickleball Chairman

Addendum

2023-2024 Tournament Winners

Wild Turkey: Andrej Bogdanovics & Adam King

Mixed Doubles Championship: Paul Stancs & Vanessa Flynt

Women's Championship: Jessica Travelstead & Vanessa Flynt

Men's Championship: Sam Maddox & Nat Worden

Pickleball: Mikael Grubb & Stuart Saunders

2024 Pool Annual Report

October 27, 2024

This year we welcomed new Pool Manager Ashley Petzel to the pool staff and appointed two returning lifeguards as Senior Guards. Together with Ted Kohler, Coach Dave, the other lifeguards and parent volunteers, they managed another great season of programming and events at the LCC Pool.

Swim Programs

The LCC Swim Team program ran for another 10 weeks this year from June 10th until August 16th. Five interclub swim meets were held on Thursday afternoons from July 11th - August 8th, the last of which was our home meet. The other teams in our league were from Woodridge Lake (Goshen), Salisbury/Lakeville, New Canaan and Cornwall (new!). Many thanks to Dave and Ashley for a spectacular season and congratulations to all of our junior swimmers on their aquatic achievements!

Extra thanks to Ashley for launching and managing two new junior swimming programs this year:

- PeeWee Learn-to-Swim clinics were held 4 days a week throughout the season, right after swim team practices. We hope these new and confident swimmers will be joining the competitive LCC Swim Team soon.
- Saturday Intraclub Swim Meets for all club kids on June 22nd and August 10th (July 13th meet canceled for weather). These meets were low-stakes, casual fun open to all club kids, regardless of participation in the LCC Swim Team.

Dave Steel offered Adult Swim Labs for members to sign up for, during the usual Tuesday and Thursday Adult Lap Swimming hours. A couple of members took him up on the offer to hone their lap technique and to develop a training schedule for a new lap swimmer.

We again welcomed Christine Harding back to lead the 3x per week Adult Water Aerobics classes. Early in the season, we unofficially started Swim Team practice 15 minutes later, which allowed the Aerobics classes to go 15 minutes longer. Everyone seemed happy with this new arrangement.

Adult lap swimming resumed its twice weekly schedule and the lifeguards provided private swimming lessons all summer long.

Pool Events

The pool hosted the Epic Pool Party on Saturday July 20th with approximately 125 attendees, largely following the same formula as last year, with an inflatable water slide, pool floats, bubbles, sprinkling llamas and palm trees, rubber ducks galore and excellent grub from the House. Our endless thanks to the House and Pool staff who helped make the event a success!

The pool also hosted the annual 4th of July Family Raft Races and finally had new non-deflating rafts this year. We are grateful to Ted for introducing a new tradition of "pie-ing" the least winning, slowest teams in the face.

Pool Facility

The pool facility faced another eventful season of maintenance and repairs and the Committee is grateful to Ted and the LCC staff for helping to manage the various calamities.

At the top of the season, the sling fabric on many of the pool chaise lounge chairs began to tear. Feasible repair options were not available at the time, but we were able to quickly purchase temporary replacement chairs while more permanent solutions were explored. An early season storm led to a tree falling near the pool equipment area. Fortunately, the equipment was spared, and damage to the fence has since been repaired. The ailing Ash tree near the pool house was finally removed and the committee will explore new shade options for that area.

The committee would also like to extend our thanks again to Ted, Ashley and the Board for the approval and purchase of the much-needed new accessibility stairs for the pool. The new stairs are safer for members and staff alike.

Lifeguard Staffing

Many of last year's lifeguards returned this season and we hired a few new guards as well, including some of our very own club kids and former club kids. Although we did continue to offer the Lifeguard Certification and Reimbursement policy (while no longer offering on-site training), there were no takers this year. As is the case for all summer recreational water facilities in the country, there is a shortage of lifeguards both in general and in particular with availability towards the end of August through Labor Day, as student guards begin to leave for college and start high school. It is important for planning purposes to have a balance of college and local high school students to bridge this shortage each season and to continue recruiting guards and training strong swimmers who may choose to become lifeguards.

In both 2023 and 2024, Coach Dave has stepped in as Pool Manager for the last week of our pool season and we are grateful to him for this accommodation.

The committee continues to explore new programming and event ideas, along with supporting the House in eventually having some regular poolside food and beverage services.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Pool Committee for their support and assistance this year: Sarah Adams, Charlie Champalimaud, Erin McKenna, Scott Ragaglia, Maggie Shafer and Jenny Terzian. I am grateful to these individuals for their commitment and extend my deepest gratitude.

On behalf of the Pool Committee, I would like to thank Ted, Ashley, Dave, Christine and all of the lifeguards for their hard work this summer, ensuring a safe and fun experience for all. I would also like to thank Jimmy and the grounds crew for all their help caring for the pool facility and grounds throughout the season.

It has been an honor to serve as the Club's Pool Chair for the last 3 years, and a pleasure to work with the members of this most dedicated Board of Governors. I encourage members to get involved — this is OUR Club and there is always more work to be done.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Shu, Pool Chair