

# COMMUNICATING WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS

As we enter into the late fall and winter, allow us to share how we will communicate events like greens coverings, frost delays and clubhouse closures.

#### **GREENS COVERINGS- ALERTS ON FORETEES, APP NOTIFICATION & WEBSITE**

On a day when the greens will be covered, the Maintenance Staff will alert the Professional Shop as to the exact time the process will begin. We will then communicate this to the members signed up on the tee sheet and send an app notification to all members. The home page of the website will be updated with this information as well.

#### FROST DELAYS- ALERTS VIA FORETEES EMAIL & WEBSITE

If there is a frost delay, the alert and timing of the delay will be emailed to the members who are signed up to play on ForeTees, and the information will also be posted to the member home page of the website.

If you are not signed up on ForeTees but want to know about a frost delay, you may check the website, or call the Professional Shop at (919) 361-1400.

#### **CLUBHOUSE CLOSURES-EMAIL, APP NOTIFICATION & WEBSITE**

Clubhouse closings will usually coincide with course closures due to snow and/or unsafe driving conditions. If roads are passable and safe but the course is closed due to snow or cold conditions where greens remain covered all day, the Clubhouse will be open for lunch and visits.

If a closure should be necessary, members will receive a notification via email, an app notification, and this information will also be on the website.





#### **COVERING GREENS**

When we begin to cover greens, the process will begin typically at 1:00pm and take approximately 3 hours total to cover all 22 greens on the course. Because the covers generate no heat and can only trap latent heat, we must cover prior to the very cold weather.

There are many factors that go into covering for winter protection. Temperature is the most obvious. However, the current moisture level in the soil, moisture level in the plant, wind conditions, duration the cold temperatures may last, current soil temperature, ground slope orientation (north facing slopes are colder than south facing slopes in the winter), and youth/vigor of the turf on the greens are all taken into consideration. Generally if it's going to be under 25 degrees there is a chance we may cover.

#### **PAINTING FAIRWAYS**

We will again be applying a cosmetic paint to the dormant fairways this year. A documented benefit of the colorant is turfgrass typically emerges from winter dormancy in the spring 7-14 days earlier where the dark colors created a warmer soil and less light reflectance during the winter. Traditionally this occurs around December 10 each year but the exact date is determined by weather and state of dormancy.





PLEASE CLICK HERE TO READ THE POST-RENOVATION SEPTEMBER 2023 SITE VISIT REPORT ON OLD CHATHAM FROM THE USGA GREEN SECTION.



# New Member Spotlight

AUTHOR LEE PACE SHARES THE STORIES
OF FELLOW MEMBERS-HOW WE CONNECT TO OLD CHATHAM,
AND EACH OTHER.



#### **DALE ROSS**

Golf has always been a centerpiece of Dale Ross' family. Dale has played golf all of his adult life, and his wife Joanne was a single-digit player in her younger days. Daughter Hunter played on the Wake Forest women's golf team from 2009-2012 and advanced to match play in the 2006 U.S. Women's Amateur. Son Brooks is an avid golfer with a low single-digit handicap.

And the family, based over the years in Richmond with a winter home in Naples, Fla., has enjoyed its membership at clubs like the Country Club of Virginia and Kinloch in Richmond, Naples National and Grey Oaks in Naples and Old Tabby at Spring Island, S.C.

"When we went on family vacations, there was always someone who wanted to play golf," he says. "Two special times spring to mind. When the kids were young, we played what is now Cinnamon Hill in Montego Bay, Jamaica, with the same local caddie. We played probably three or four times with no one else on the course. It was such good fun. We have also been to Cabo a few times when the kids were older and played Palmilla, Cabo del Sol and Diamanté Dunes. Those were great times and memories.

"It's truly wonderful to play golf with your children. You get three or four hours of uninterrupted time. It doesn't get much better than that."

Ross is a 1980 graduate of the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC and is managing partner of Independent Container Line, an international shipping company. He stepped back from day-to-day operations in 2020, which has allowed him and Joanne to buy a home in Chapel Hill and maintain their ties with their alma mater. Dale's college roommate suggested he explore Old Chatham when he was looking for a club in Chapel Hill.

"I was introduced to Marty Lindsey, who was kind enough to host me for a round," Ross says. "I immediately loved the course and the friendliness of the members and staff. Also, my preference is to walk and utilize the caddie program, and Old Chatham certainly embraces the walking culture. The effort everyone makes to welcome new members to the club is special."

Mike Griffin grew up around the game of golf in Charlotte. His grandfather converted his 17-acre farm into a nine-hole par-three course in the 1960s, which existed as Westwood Golf Course and now is Westwood Driving Range.

"I can remember caddying and helping around the 600 square foot pro shop as a little kid," he says. "We moved to Pine Island Country Club when I was in first grade, which is when I started playing golf."

Griffin switched to playing more tennis as a teenager but came back to golf when attending the University of North Carolina (1987 Kenan-Flagler Business School graduate) and

#### MIKE GRIFFIN



sneaking out onto Finley Golf Course from his fraternity house in the evenings. Golf has been a big part of his life throughout adulthood, not just for recreation but for business as well.

Griffin owns Griffin Brothers Companies, a diversified group of small businesses. One of his interests is in private club operations as owner of Pine Island Country Club in Charlotte. The company bought the club in 2004 and reopened it in 2007 after a \$10 million renovation. His home course is The Peninsula Club in Cornelius, and he's a member at Diamond Creek Golf Club in Banner Elk as well.

"I knew Allen Wilson from the Kenan-Flagler Business School, and he invited me out to Old Chatham some years ago," Griffin says. "I also played with good friends Ritch Allison and Leo Horey over the last couple of years. From my first visit, I was impressed with a great golf course, top-notch facilities and friendly staff and members."

Griffin's wife Andi is a 1989 Carolina graduate, and the couple's two children are students in Chapel Hill, Alex in the Class of 2025 and Carrie in the Class of 2027. Mike also serves on the Board of Advisors at Kenan-Flagler. The family visits Chapel Hill frequently, which prompted Mike's interest in joining the club.

"I keep a very busy schedule, so I really appreciate the accessibility due to lower volume play," Griffin says. "Plus, I really enjoy being able to walk with caddies. There aren't many clubs that maintain a viable caddie program any more, so that sets Old Chatham apart as well. It takes me back to being a kid and remembering how caddying is how so many kids get into golf to begin with."



#### JIM KOMAN

Jim Koman grew up in St. Louis, the son of Bill Koman, who played linebacker for the Cardinals a dozen years through the mid-1960s and twice made the Pro Bowl. So it's not surprising that Jim's boyhood years were spent playing contact team sports, football among them.

"My father wasn't a big golfer until he turned 60," Jim says. "I was in my late-20s at the time. I had messed around with golf but started getting more interested and really started playing around age 40.

I've been a pretty active guy, having run multiple marathons. Whatever I've gotten interested in, it's been 'go, go, go.' That's what happened with golf. I enjoy the peace of mind and serenity you have being on a course, either by yourself or with your friends. It's a great bonding experience and affords a sense of competition as you get better. My three children have taken golf up, and it's a great time to bond and be outdoors with them."

Koman is a member at Bellerive and Old Warson in St. Louis, Sage Valley in Greenville, S.C., and John's Island and Redstick in Vero Beach. In the spring of 2023, he added Old Chatham to his club roster given the amount of time he spends around Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina.

Bill played football for the Tar Heels in the mid-1950s, graduated in 1956 and after football launched a successful career in commercial real estate. Jim joined the family business and later established ElmTree Funds, an investment management group. The family's philanthropic endeavors have included Jim in 2020 establishing the Bill Koman Game Plan for Success, a program that focuses on the personal and professional growth of Tar Heel football players. Last year, Jim also started NCHOF, a 501(c)(3), which stands for the North Carolina Hall of Fame that someday will be a new hall of fame facility honoring all UNC athletes throughout the ages. NCHOF also helps coordinate UNC's collective and NIL endeavors through most sports.

"People want to be associated with best in class, and in my mind there's no question Old Chatham is the best in the entire state of North Carolina," Jim says. "I love the views and the walking element, it's a very comfortable walk.

"The golf course and facilities are so well taken care of. It's obvious the club takes pride in maintaining a facility that is immaculate and pristine at all times. I've played at hundreds of clubs, and sometimes even the best clubs do not take care of the details and let things slide. Every time I'm out at Old Chatham, it's perfect and it keeps getting better and better."



#### MARC HAFER

Marc Hafer grew up in Williamsport, Pa., as an avid baseball player and was cautioned as a youth that "golf and baseball don't necessarily go together." He attended Duke in the late 1970s, played on the baseball team and flirted with golf via easy access to the Duke University Golf Club and some fraternity brothers who were avid golfers.

Upon graduating in 1979 and going to work in sales for

National Steel Corporation, he learned that golf was an essential part of business. "Golf was how you entertained clients, how you developed relationships," Hafer says. "There was a lot of travel and a lot of golf. I was very lucky in that I got to play some very nice courses. I was living in Pittsburgh in the 1980s and had the good fortune to play Oakmont several times. I can still remember how fast those greens were. And that's when they still had all the trees.

"That's where I got a 'jones' for the game, and it's stayed with me ever since."

More than four decades later, Hafer has retired from his career that began in the steel industry and evolved into 25 years as president and CEO of Simpler Holdings, a global management consulting firm. He and his wife Peg maintain their primary residence in Scottsdale but have a home in downtown Durham as well given their connections and frequent visits to Duke.

Old Chatham member Max Perkins hosted Hafer through a Duke K Academy outing at the club in June, and Hafer was quickly drawn to the golf course, its conditioning and overall ambiance. It was an easy decision to join the club and have Old Chatham as the family's golf home in North Carolina.

"I immediately fell in love with Old Chatham," he says. "I love the conditioning and the layout is great. It's got a terrific variety of holes and you never get bored. The vibe is exactly what I'm looking for—golf only. I like to walk and having a good caddie program is right up my alley."

The Hafers have daughters in Iowa City and New York City, so Raleigh-Durham International Airport provides excellent accessibility to everywhere they need to go. "It's a 15-minute drive to the airport, a 15-minute drive to Old Chatham," he says. "Downtown Durham has exploded the last 10 years and is nothing like when I was in school. I'm looking forward to spending more time here and playing a lot of golf at Old Chatham."



# CONGRATULATIONS TO IAN CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN, CAROLINAS CHAPTER OF THE CLUB MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

In October, Ian was appointed as incoming Chair of the of the Carolinas Chapter of the Club Management Association of America (CMAA) for 2024. The Carolinas Chapter represents 200 clubs



in North and South Carolina and has more than 500 members. The CMAA is the major professional organization for managers of country, golf, athletic and yacht clubs with more than 7,000 members internationally. Ian joins John Marino and Brian Powell in leadership roles for their professional organizations continuing to magnify Old Chatham's national industry presence.

## FALL UNCORKED- NATURALLY BORDEAUX

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 5:30PM



Join us for a special tasting of organic and biodiverse Bordeaux wines with winemakers from Château Jean Faure, Château Dauphine and Château Forcas Hosten, who together have formed *Naturally Bordeaux* a consortium of centuries old wine houses using organic techniques to produces stunning wines. Members may RSVP with Ian Campbell.





# WELCOME DAVID SHAPIRO, OUTSIDE SERVICE MANAGER

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DAVID WILL BE SUCCEEDING SCOTT STEMMER AS OUTSIDE SERVICE MANAGER. WHILE SCOTT WILL STILL BE A BIG PRESENCE OUTSIDE, HE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH KALOS GOLF AND CADDYING MORE IN 2024 AND DAVID WILL PROVIDE OUR DAY TO DAY STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP. MANY OF YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING DAVID, AND YOU WILL QUICKLY SEE WHY HE WAS THE PERFECT CHOICE TO FOLLOW IN SCOTT'S FOOTSTEPS.

Growing up on a farm in New York, I always had a love for the outdoors. I was constantly outside playing baseball and soccer; however, my journey with golf began at 8 when I stumbled upon my dad's dusty old wooden clubs. Although it started as a casual interest, my parents got me a golf instructor, and after years of lessons and playing with my dad, it became a cherished part of my childhood.

Following a major injury in high school that prevented playing in college, I took up the game again slowly. I would play and practice every single day until I was in a place where I was happy with my game again. Relocating to Raleigh further fueled my enthusiasm, allowing me to play almost year-round. After completing my finance degree, I was looking for a change of pace, and that came when John offered me a role on the outside staff team and the opportunity to caddie at Old Chatham. The club, its staff, and the members quickly became a second family. Now, I'm thrilled to step into a new role and succeed Scott as the Outside Service Manager. I hope to match even half his energy every day and continue to make Old Chatham the absolute best it can be for all its members and guests.



# Old Chatham Golf Club

Durham, NC

Visit Date: September 5, 2023

Present:

Brian Powell, Director of Golf Course Management Wesley Deans, Golf Course Superintendent Colleen Estes, USGA Green Section Jordan Booth, USGA Green Section



### **Executive Summary**

Thank you for the opportunity to visit Old Chatham Golf Club. Old Chatham and the USGA have a strong history and we look forward to returning in 2026 for the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship. I have been very impressed by the results of the 2022 golf course renovation and have enjoyed following the progress. The conversion to 'Zorro' zoysiagrass fairways through sprigging is a novel concept in golf and one that was executed very well. Others will follow your lead in these methods but management will continue to evolve and be a learning opportunity. Vertical mowing, sand topdressing, fertility, and weed management will all evolve with the maturation of the zoysiagrass surfaces.



Figure 1: Phenomenal First Impression. The zoysiagrass conversion has been a home run.

Our first visit with Tracy Parsons, Championship Director for the Girls' Junior, will likely be in the spring of 2024. We will discuss preparations, course setup, and logistics at this time. I look forward to being involved in this championship. Overall, Old Chatham continues to be a leader in the region and an example for others to follow.

- Poa Annua Control: Poa annua or annual bluegrass is a cool-season, grassy weed that is very
  difficult to control. Control is becoming increasingly more difficult as many Poa populations in
  the southeast are resistant to herbicides that were once effective in our region. Managing Poa
  takes a multi-faceted approach and success will be variable based on weather.
- Practice Facilities: The practice facilities at Old Chatham are effective and well designed but
  there is room for improvement. Practice facility upgrades and the addition of short courses is
  one of the hottest trends in golf. Time management as well as the ability to practice effectively
  are major contributors to this trend. Many golf courses that I visit with are evaluating practice
  facility upgrades and/or adding short courses to their property.
- Putting Green Performance: The putting greens were recently regrassed to 'Mach 1' ultradwarf bermudagrass. Agronomic success includes managing growth, organic matter, turfgrass density, and a healthy root system. These factors and others contribute to putting green performance metrics including green speed, firmness, trueness, and smoothness. Inputs and cultural programs (mowing, rolling, topdressing, aeration etc.) balance agronomics and putting green performance.



# Table of Contents:

Poa annua Control	
Observations	
Resources	
Recommendations	
Practice Facilities	5
Observations	
Recommendations	
Putting Green Performance  Observations	
Recommendations	
Summary	8
USGA Green Section	g
Turfgrass and Environmental Research	Ç
Tools and Solutions.	Ç
Green Section Record	



#### Poa annua Control

#### **Observations**

Poa annua is among the most difficult cool-season, grassy weeds to control. Poa annua germinates when soil temperatures drop below 67°F for 5 consecutive days with adequate soil moisture. This begins in your region in the fall of the year and this germination timing impacts both pre- and post-emergent herbicides application timing.

Unfortunately, *Poa* is resistant or tolerant to many pre- and post-emergent herbicides that were once effective in the Southeast. Herbicide resistance is the inherited ability of an individual plant to survive an herbicide application that would kill a normal population of the same species. Resistance is primarily caused by using sublethal herbicide rates and/or repeated use of one herbicide mode of action group. There are 12 herbicide mode of action groups that prevent or control poa annua, labeled for use in turfgrass. There is confirmed resistance to at least 8 of those groups and a multitude of examples of non-target site resistance which can render any herbicide ineffective. Herbicide resistant *Poa* populations can be conveyed from surrounding properties or brought in with sod/sprigs.

The best programs include healthy, dense turfgrass (zoysia or bermudagrass) with well timed herbicide applications. Understanding resistance challenges on your property is important to successful *Poa annua* management.

#### Resources

Current understanding of the Poa annua life cycle - Carroll - 2021 - Crop Science

Developing and implementing a sustainable, integrated weed management program for herbicideresistant Poa annua in turfgrass

Modeling seasonal emergence of Poa annua in urban greenspace | Scientific Reports (nature.com)

Effect of temperature and heat units on zoysiagrass response to herbicides during post-dormancy transition | Weed Science | Cambridge Core

Winter-applied Glyphosate Effects on Spring Green-up of Zoysiagrasses and 'Yukon' Bermudagrass in a Transition Zone

Annual bluegrass control in bermudagrass using dimethenamid and pendimethalin - Carroll - 2021 - Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management

#### Recommendations

- 1. Continue to use Specticle® in your bermudagrass roughs. This is a solid program but should not be used near putting greens.
- 2. Around putting greens, I would recommend a single application of granular <u>FREEHAND</u> <u>1.75G HERBICIDE</u> at 200 pounds/Acre or two applications of <u>Tower</u> at 32 fl oz/Acre.
  - a. Apply Freehand® when soil temperatures are above 55°F and follow with irrigation.
  - b. If using Tower®, The first application must be made prior to germination and the second application, 5-8 weeks later.
  - c. Pendimethalin can be added to Tower® in the initial application for prolonged residual (pendimethalin and dimethenamid are the active ingredients in Freehand® granular herbicide).



- 3. Submit suspected resistant populations to the University of Tennessee <u>UT Weed</u>
  <u>Diagnostics Center</u>. The better you understand the levels and type of resistance, the better you can prepare.
- 4. Incorporate glyphosate into your program during winter dormancy on zoysiagrass and bermudagrass surfaces (not on putting greens).
- 5. A primary focus will be on health and safety of your newly established 'Zorro' fairways. You may not want to use a pre-emergent herbicide this fall on these areas but they are well established and I would at least experiment with a traditional program in select areas.

#### **Practice Facilities**

#### **Observations**

Practice facility renovations and short courses are two of the hottest trends in golf. Clubs throughout the region and country are investing in these as alternative options for members to enjoy their club. Location is critical to success as the member and guest experience should flow from the practice facility into the golf course and or short course and vis-a-versa.

In my experience, practice facility upgrades and short course builds result in much more time in these areas. Clubs/championship sites in the area including The Country Club of Virginia, Charlotte Country Club, and Daniel Island Club have made substantial investments in these areas and have seen huge increases in utilization. Members have thoroughly enjoyed these upgrades and spend much of their time in practice and game improvement.

Par 3, short courses have been staples at many of the best clubs in the world for years. Recently, many resorts and clubs have invested in short courses (primarily par 3s) including the Cradle, the Sand Box, the Preserve, the Hay, Kiawah Island Club (2024 build). Everyone has seen widescale adoption and utilization of these areas. They are not only great assets to keep members on property and using the course, but they have also been huge revenue generators for many clubs that provide food and drink options at the short course or practice facilities. This may not be as much of a priority at Old Chatham but certainly an important asset for members and their guests. 18 holes and a loop or two around a short course is much more palatable for most people than 36 holes. These areas often become hubs of activity in the afternoon/evening.

#### Recommendations

- Continue to evaluate options to improve the practice facilities for members and guests. Golf
  has become a game of practice and increased utilization requires more options and space
  to accommodate.
- Evaluate opportunities to increase golf offerings at Old Chatham. Location is critical to use. The impact and usage of a short course or par 3 course will be greatly impacted by location and ease of access.

### **Putting Green Performance**

#### **Observations**

The new 'Mach 1' putting greens are maturing well and in fantastic shape. It takes 18-24 months for new greens to hit their stride and meet top performance. Putting greens usually peak



between years 3-10. With that said, the putting greens had great density, root health, and appearance.



Figure 2: Vertical soil profile of putting green at Old Chatham golf club, September 5, 2023. Evidence of existing organic matter from previous putting greens as well as aeration and sand topdressing. Excellent rooting.

Organic matter management remains critical, especially with existing organic matter from previous putting greens. This is complicated but deep sand cap layer from grow in of 'Mach 1' putting green surfaces. Overall, you should continue to collect data, make observations, and evaluate your cultural programs to optimize plant health but balance that with surface performance. As you take the turn into the second full year of these putting greens, continuing to promote firm, fast surfaces will remain a priority.

Managing Soil Organic Matter (usga.org)
The Benefits of Standardized Organic Matter Testing (usga.org)

#### Recommendations

- Organic matter and root health are important factors. Both involve a bit of qualitative and quantitative analysis but are true factors in plant performance. The USGA has an extensive research program to evaluate organic matter in putting greens and have produced the following recommendations to date.
- 2. Sample for organic matter % in the spring and fall. Use the following methods that have been developed through the research project.
  - a. Take 8-10 samples to a depth of 6 cm with a 3/4" soil probe.



- b. Divide each core into a 0-2 cm portion (leave grass/verdure on), a 2-4 cm depth, and a 4-6 cm depth.
- c. Place each depth (0-2 cm, 2-4 cm, 4-6 cm) into a separate labeled bag for shipping and processing. Place each of these samples into one Ziploc bag and label this large back with the location (green) and date.
- d. Ask Brookside labs to perform loss on ignition to a temperature of 440°C.
- e. Samples the same 3-6 greens every spring and fall to evaluate change in percent organic matter.
- f. Ideal organic matter percentage (OM%) is different for every golf course and situation. Evaluating your OM% against performance will help guide cultural programs. The goal is to minimize surface disruption while optimizing surface performance and plant health.



Figure 3: Image of Maureen Kahiu, PhD candidate at the University of Tennessee, harvesting samples for OM% using a soil probe and various depth.

- 3. I would recommend evaluating OM% in the spring of 2024 and reducing aeration surface disruption in 2024. We can evaluate change in OM with samples in fall of 2024. I would recommend DryJect® and small, solid or hollow tine aeration in the summer of 2024. We can continue to evaluate the impact of your aeration program but you need to increase OM in the top 2 cm, where the sand cap is so pronounced from grow in.
- 4. I hope Old Chatham chooses to use GS3 to evaluate surface performance. Balancing OM and plant health with speed, trueness, smoothness, and firmness will continue to provide great conditions at Old Chatham. Data collection has revolutionized our championship preparations and setup and the GS3 is the next step in this
  - Colleen Estes has already initiated these conversations with Old Chatham to be an early adopter of this technology. This is a great tool to evaluate the impact of your cultural (aeration, sand topdressing, vertical mowing, mowing, rolling, water management, fertility etc.) programs on surface performance to optimize the golf experience at Old Chatham. USGA Launches GS3 Technology to Streamline Green Maintenance





Figure 4: Vertical Mowing and sand topdressing programs while I was on site.

## Summary

It was my pleasure to visit Old Chatham Golf Club and I look forward to the journey together towards your next championship. The golf course was in excellent shape at the time of my visit and I look forward to watching it continue to mature. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions regarding this report or other topics. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Booth, Ph.D.

Director, Course Consulting Service

**USGA Green Section** 

Distribution:

Brian Powell, Director of Golf Course Management



#### **USGA Green Section**

#### Turfgrass and Environmental Research

The <u>USGA Green Section</u> appreciates your support of the Course Consulting Service. First started in 1953, the Course Consulting Service provides unbiased assessments of golf facilities to optimize resources and reduce consumption of critical resources. The proceeds from the Course Consulting Service directly support the USGA's annual \$2 million investment in <u>turfgrass and environmental research</u>, which provides an estimated <u>\$2 billion annual benefit to the U.S. golf industry</u>. Follow the QR Code for more information.



#### **Tools and Solutions**

The USGA Green Section is proud to offer <u>tools and solutions</u> for golf courses. Innovative products including Deacon, GS3, and GPS Services provide solutions to optimize the golf experience through data-driven communication and resource management.



#### **Green Section Record**

The <u>USGA Green Section Record</u>, is a free digital magazine offering the latest information on turfgrass management, environmental sustainability, innovation in golf course maintenance, and turfgrass research. If you would like to stay updated on regional topics, best management practices, and industry trends, please <u>subscribe for free to The Record</u>.

