

THE 19TH HOLE

THE MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE OF HAMPTON HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



JUNE 2020

The GM's Corner

By Stanley Pine, General Manager



Frankly, I was not sure that I would find myself saying this in 2020, but thankfully I can... *a warm welcome back to the 55th season of golf at Hampton Hills!* Obviously, it is a vastly different Spring than any of us expected and we have adjusted our club protocols to address the issues at hand. First and foremost, the health and safety of the membership and staff is our primary concern. To that end, right now the clubhouse is closed to all members, including lounges, offices, bar, and restaurant. The driving range is open, but only for a 20-minute warm up prior to your scheduled tee time and everyone on the range should keep the appropriate social distance. All staff are masked and gloved and are strictly adhering to CDC social distancing guidelines. Our limited restaurant staff is separated from course staff with all the above precautions and, at this moment, take-out

with no face-to-face contact is available to the membership. By the time you read this the club should be serving meals on the patio and deck. The bathrooms behind the bar will be open too. The kitchen will continue preparing take-out and, as always, Chef Anthony's preparation is delicious and beautiful.

All tee times and tennis court reservations should be scheduled with Head Starter Erich Knabbe via email (erich@hamptonhills.com). Regarding tennis, no club balls or rackets are available. Regarding golf, only members of the same household or family can share a cart. If you come with a non-family/household guest, you will go out in separate carts. The bag room is now open so you can leave your clubs here if you would like. Whether leaving your clubs or taking them home, the bag men will clean your clubs if you request. The carts are completely sanitized before and after each use and if you are handling your own clubs, a bag man will bring your cart to your car. Once situated in the cart and ready to go, drive up to the starters booth and keep appropriate social distance for your protection and the protection of that day's Starter. Our intention is to keep as much distance as possible between players and if you find yourself within a fairway wood or driver from the group in front of you, please wait until they have vacated the green completely and moved on to the next tee box before you take a swing. You will notice that there are no rakes in the bunkers, less shared hand-contact items. Our grounds crew cruises the course frequently throughout the day and rake the traps. Once on the green you will find another new club protocol. The cups are open for dropped putts, but you will notice a hook device at the base of the flag. Use your putter head and pull up on the hook, your ball will come out of the hole with no hand/cup contact. No need for anyone to touch the flag, it will not come out of the cup! By the way, this is all USGA approved on their website and you can update and maintain your legitimate handicap on the USGA website. Finally, the bathrooms on the course are open and sanitized frequently throughout each day. Okay, so your round is over! Hopefully, a great day of golf at Hampton Hills feeling safe and sound. Now, if you are taking your clubs home, you drive your cart back to your car and unload it yourself so there are no shared hands. One of the bag men will come to your car and pick up the cart. The next time you come out, you again load the sanitized cart up yourself and are assured there is no other contact with anyone. Barry and I believe we have created the best protocols for golf of any club in America.

It goes without saying that any member feeling ill should not book a tee time or come to Hampton Hills. All members should maintain social distancing when appropriate or wear a mask. That said, any other suggestions for safety from our membership and staff are welcome and will be seriously considered. Hopefully, all this will pass before the season ends and Governor Cuomo, when he feels it is appropriate, will give us permission to resume our lives and golf as normal. Until then let us all work together to keep each other safe, not only on the golf course, but in our daily lives. Hampton Hills strong, caring, and most importantly, Hampton Hills smart and safe! Thank you!

Hampton Hills member Douglas MacKaye Harrington, former Editor-in-Chief of The Improper Hamptonian Magazine, The North Shoreian Magazine, Slainte Magazine, and Senior Contributing Editor at Hamptons.com, produces our 19th Hole Magazine every season. Please feel free to reach out to him with any story ideas, tips, or if you would like to be featured in the "Meet the Members" column. Contact: ink.dmh@gmail.com or 631-375-1387.



(Cover Photo: Lessons in sand trap play and chipping at our 2019 Youth Junior Clinic last August.)

Clubhouse Chatter

Welcome to the first issue of the 2020 season, with a cover featuring our club's future PGA and LPGA Pros! The first and most obvious change you will immediately note regarding this June 2020 issue of The 19th Hole is that you received it digitally via email. There will be an additional limited number of hard copies available at the club, while they last.

So as Stanley described in his column, there are certainly new golf and social protocols at Hamptons Hills as this season starts. The question is what can we expect as the season continues regarding club events and competitions? Obviously, at this time the clubhouse is closed, and the fate of club social events is yet to be determined and will be based on Suffolk County achieving the opening phase goals of Governor Cuomo. Regarding club tournament events like Member-Member, Club Championships, and Hampton Hills Cup competitions there is some optimism that these events can be held with the social distancing protocols already in place. That said, the club is open and literally doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of our members, so get out there and keep your game competitive.

You will have noticed that the back patio has been undergoing a major facelift, check out page 9 for the details. Like all previous first-of-the-season issues, this June 2020 issue includes the late August events of last year. It includes last year's Men's Club Championship, Hampton Hills Cup Championship, and our annual Junior Youth Clinic. Our Tips from the Pros page highlights the 18th Hole and the cartoon is on the back cover this issue. Enjoy the read!

Meet the Staff:



Ranger/Starter Darren Gagnon: Our very first Meet the Staff column featured our Head Starter Erich Knabbe and Starter Tim Reilly back in our maiden July 2015 issue and we have featured other Starters over the years, but we missed one: Ranger/Starter Darren Gagnon. Darren is a native Long Islander and a self-described "Long Island Gypsy" who since birth has lived in Patchogue, Medford, Farmingville, Southampton, Hampton Bays, Oakdale, Shirley, and Rockville Centre. He joined the Hampton Hills staff five years ago, "Great members, great staff, great course!"

A twenty-four-year first responder, Darren was a Sergeant in the Southampton Village Police Department and worked with the Suffolk County District Attorney's office as an undercover narcotics detective. He proudly hails coming from a military family. Darren has four children and five grandchildren.

A road warrior, he loves visiting family throughout the year, spending his off-season between Aventura, Clearwater, and Jensen Beach, Florida. Regarding golf, "I enjoy being around the golf course all year round, here at Hampton Hills and in Florida. I currently have a 9.0 index, my putting is what gets me in trouble, especially here at Hampton Hills."

Junior Instructor Zack Dorsey: Our new Junior Instructor is a 30-year-old native Long Islander who grew up in Holtsville and was a stellar athlete at Sachem High School and Suffolk Community College. He also spent much of his youth with his father's family in the Kings Park/Smithtown area, that leased 13-acres and created the Indian Head Golf Park which was a part of Zack's life since he was 6 years old. "Whether I was helping my grandfather re-grip shafts and build golf clubs or helping my Dad maintain a well-run driving range and eventually giving golf lessons, I was in the middle of it all."



Despite growing up surrounded by golf, playing golf tournaments all over Long Island in the MET PGA Junior Tour with multiple top 3 finishes, Zack's first passion was baseball. He played highly competitive wood bat all over the state during and after high school and college. That said, golf is now his focus. Only 5'9", he has a 7-handicap with a swing speed he can crank up to PGA match play level and driving the ball is the strongest part of his game. Regarding his role as our Junior Instructor, "I completely fell in love with the satisfaction of sharing my golf knowledge. Watching my students make that flawless swing as they square up that perfect shot, it is a feeling that will never get old in my eyes."

Vincent Moore Wins 5th Club Championship!



On August 17, 2019 Vincent Moore made Hampton Hills history by not only winning a record 5th Men's Club Championship, but also accomplished it by being the only men's member to win four back-to-back championships in a row (2016-2019). One of New York's Bravest, Vinnie is a retired NYFD Captain and 9-11 First Responder who won his first championship in 2013.

The 2019 finals started with an August 10-11 weekend tournament of eight of Hampton Hills best strikers from the blues, parched out of an original field of 16. When all was said and done it was 2015 Club Champion Todd Ziplow who would face the formidable Moore in the two-round final the following weekend.



The first round was extremely competitive between the reigning and former champion with Ziplow finishing the round just shy. However, Moore turned on the heat in the second round with some incredible long ball striking and several great putts that surprised even him, putting the round out of Ziplow's reach. In the true fashion of a gentleman before the round ended Todd conceded to Vinnie with a handshake and a hug. Then it was back to the clubhouse for a couple of beers. Bravo gents, well done!

As a historical after note, many Hampton Hills members may not realize that over the past decade 8 out of 10 of the last Men's Club Championships are shared between only two members. Robert Gladstone, the first time three in a row winner before Moore won in 2010, 2011, and 2012. As aforementioned, Vinnie Moore took home the trophy in 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. David Garrett, the only four-time winner before Moore with a win in 2014 and previous wins in 2003, 2006, and 2009, losing to Moore in the 2018 final, and Todd Ziplow with his win in 2015 may have prevented Gladstone and Moore from taking the whole decade. Champions all!





Hampton Hills Junior Golf Clinic 2019

This year's Hampton Hills annual three-day Junior Golf Clinic took place August 20-22 and was as well attended as ever with almost 20 kids on the course. Hampton Hills is unique among clubs as it not only offers this free youth clinic to the children and grandchildren of our members, but we also offer free junior golf lessons throughout the season. Under the guidance of Hampton Hills PGA Teaching Pros Jack McGown and Bill Casey, PGA Teaching Pro Richard Loughlin, and PGA Apprentice Evan Smith the kids not only learn and improve the elements of their golf like driving, chipping, sand play, and putting; the clinic helps instill a lifelong love of our game in these young people. Not to mention, as these photos show, they all have just a heck of a lot of fun! A special thank you to the instructors, particularly our guys Jack and Bill who are there every year. Let us all hope we can get the kids back on the course again this August.





Justin Pane Takes 2019 Hamptons Hills Cup!



In 2018 Head Starter Erich Knabbe took the bold step of changing the format of the Hampton Hills Cup to an extremely competitive Fed-Ex Cup point based format and it was a huge success. Last year, from May 16 to August 15, there were seven days of point play with 21 players participating over the three-month format. Not all players hung in for the entire season of point play and some joined in after play had already started. That said, obviously the more you play the more points you can accumulate for the final seedings.

The August 28-29 two-round cumulative point final included, alphabetically, Chris Bean, Des Bishop, Rick Ferriola, Ron Michne, Robert Middleman, Justin Pane, and Joe Salvi. Justin Pane finished the two-day final with a monster point total of 1200 and took the 2019 HH Cup with a season total of 2694 points. Ron Michne took second place with a 2462 season point finish and Joe Salvi finished third with just a 6.5-point season total finish over Rick Ferriola. Like I said, extremely competitive! Besides Justin being able to hold the Cup, all three final finishers received prizes from the Pro Shop that included HH signature golf bags, a couple of new clubs, and a range finder. A very special thank you to the Pro Shop, forget "Dick's" and buy local at the shop that supports our membership and club!

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
17	Events	16-May	23-May	6-Jun	11-Jul	18-Jul	8-Aug	15-Aug	8/28-8/29 Finals	Total Points	
2	Position	Players:									
3	1st	Justin Pane	90	94	500	Drop	210	0	600	1200	2694
4	2nd	Ron Michne	245	77	Drop	300	600	150	330	760	2462
5	3rd	Joe Salvi	122.5	94	72.5	100	Drop	600	210	420	1619
6	4th	Rick Ferriola	100	210	Drop	162.5	330	120	150	540	1612.5
7	5th	Sy Garfinkel	500	82	105	500	Drop				1192
8	6th	Joe Lehrman	0	600	105	Drop	88	330			1123
9	7th	Chris Bean	Drop	0	245	70	135		120	420	990
10	8th	Ron Alec	Drop	72	245	82.5	94	210			703.5
11	9th	R. Middleman	0	110		70	100			360	640
12	10th	Des Bishop	0	59				105		340	504
13	11th	Eli Milch			Drop	162.5	135	94			391.5
14	12th	Vinnie Moore	0	330	0						330
15	13th	Todd Ziplow		150	135						285
16	14th	Ron Berman	0	61		100	110				271
17	15th	Ed Barnes	245	0	0						245
18	16th	Keri Laube	0	66		70		100			236
19	17th	David Hersh	0	120	82.5						202.5
20	18th	B. Von Schmid		66	90						156
21	19th	Craig August	122.5	0	0						122.5
22	20th	Marc Strauss				100					100
23	21st	Phil Grossman	0	94							94



Clubhouse Patio is Getting a Facelift!

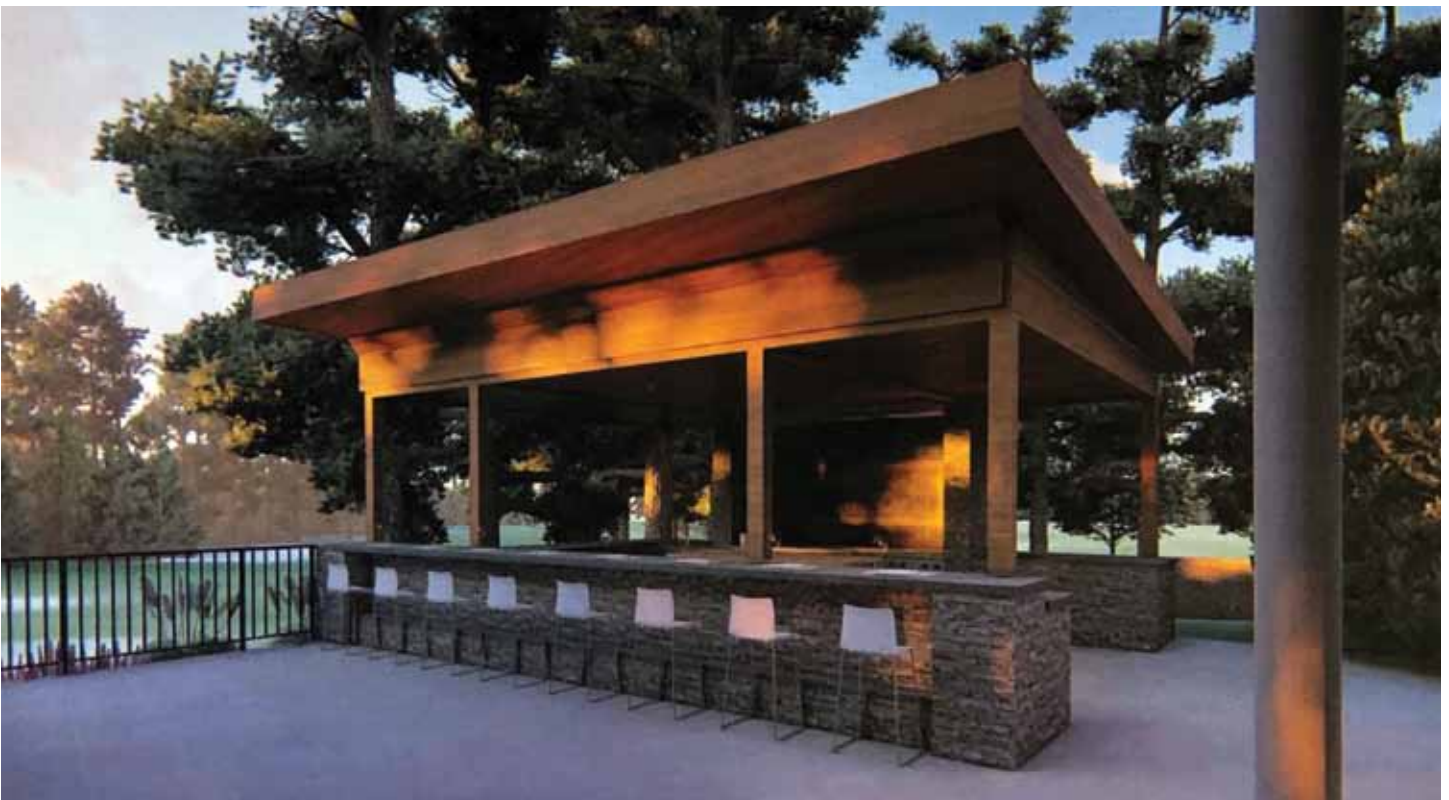


It should be obvious to all members that there is a major renovation taking place on the patio. Admittedly a bit of an inconvenience at the moment, but the result will be a stunning enhancement to our already beautiful clubhouse.

Hampton Hills new BBQ Pavilion design was created by Araiys Design Landscape Architects of Southampton. The new patio will host a beautiful outdoor kitchen to complement our alfresco dining overlooking our 18th green. Timothy Rumph and his team at Araiys have created some of

the most stunning social and environmentally responsible landscape, patio, and pool designs for many of the most prestigious homes in the Hamptons for over thirty years. The Araiys Hampton Hills patio design rendering below speaks for itself!

Executing the actual renovation of the patio and construction of the new outdoor kitchen is an equally renowned East End craftsman, builder Blair Dibble. He and his crew have built some of the most beautiful homes in the Hamptons for over thirty-five years. Bravo to Stanley and Barry for having the vision to undertake this creative renovation and addition, along with the wisdom to hire the best of the East End to see their vision to fruition. They are not being deterred by the current issues, which hopefully, will be a distant memory very soon.



Hampton Hills Member, Comedian Des Bishop, Finds Unexpected Comfort in West Hampton Dunes and in Fostering Pit Bulls

By Michelle Trauring (Originally published in the Southampton Press on June 2, 2020)



When Des Bishop strolls down to the ocean these days, he has company. Trotting in the sand alongside him, tongue lolling out of her mouth, is a 60-pound ball of energy named Porsha, a pit bull-mix that the Irish-American comedian is now fostering while sheltering in place at his home-away-from-home in West Hampton Dunes.

“She’s a very energetic, amazing dog, but she needs a lot of stimulation. She needs a lot of walks, she needs a lot of toys,” Mr. Bishop said less than 24 hours after bringing her home from the Southampton Animal Shelter in Hampton Bays, as she waits for her forever home. “So far, it’s just been super fun. She’s like a full-time job, in a good way — because all I have is time.” Like millions of others keeping themselves safe from COVID-19, Mr. Bishop said there are, admittedly, worse places to hide from an international pandemic than the East End, and the area has already taken on new meaning for him.

It is not just the place where he spent his childhood summers, or where he wrote a book about his late father, “My Dad Was Nearly James Bond.” It is a place that truly feels like home, especially after buying out his brother following their mother’s death just over a year ago. His most recent stand-up show, “Mia Mamma,” is a tribute to her. In it, he puts a comedic spin on loss, grief and the chaos that surrounds it. But these days, he finds himself grappling with those feelings from time to time, when he isn’t defending himself against aggressive ticks, taking a dip in the ocean, or pondering the current speed of life and, with it, comedy.

“What’s funny about this pandemic, and the need to be funny about it, comes and goes very fast,” he said. “I do think there are probably some more difficult jokes to write about the fact that it’s still ongoing, but that’s not as easy. The jokes almost kind of wrote themselves in the early days of the pandemic, but now it’s a little bit deeper.”

When news of the rapid COVID-19 spread hit Ireland, where Mr. Bishop was in the midst of his comedy tour, he found himself unsure of how seriously to take it — ultimately deciding to keep his flight back to the United States on April 27, and to cancel his show for three weeks. But when the White House issued the European travel ban, and then added England and Ireland to the list, Mr. Bishop quickly realized it was time to leave.

“It was a panic moment of, ‘Let me go now,’” he said. “I was able to change my Delta flight. It turned out to be the last direct Delta flight that left from Ireland. Things would have gotten increasingly more difficult. I just wanted to get to the house out in the Dunes and just be there, you know?” On March 18 — the day after St. Patrick’s Day — Mr. Bishop landed in New York and headed due east, where he self-quarantined for two weeks before welcoming the first foster pit bull into his life. “I fell in love with her. It was hard when she got adopted,” he said. “When you have to return the dog, it’s very emotional. And when those emotions ticked off, it does get a little mixed up with the grief and loss and stuff. So there was a time around when I was giving up the first foster dog to her forever home that I was very connected with grief and emotion and I thought, ‘Maybe I should write a memoir about my mom,’ but that didn’t last very long.”

The comedian has found himself largely uninspired during the pandemic, he said. Even expressing his frustration with the country’s presidential leadership got a bit old, he said, and he isn’t alone. “A few of the comics I’ve talked to have said that it’s just getting harder and harder to have anything to talk about because life is just not happening,” he said. “In terms of stand-up comedy, it’s bad because you end up doing a lot less with your life. Even though there’s obviously stand-up comedy in being quarantined and the pandemic, and there’s plenty of jokes, everybody’s experiencing it in a very similar way, so it’s not an area I’m gonna be dying to explore in my comedy when this is all over — not to mention, everybody’s gonna be talking about it.”

With his “Mia Mamma” tour scheduled to resume in late September — “That may or may not happen,” Mr. Bishop said — the comedian is finding himself perfectly content where he is now. “I’m quite comfortable living here,” he said. “If somebody said to me right now, ‘Listen, comedy’s never coming back, so you’re gonna have to be a ranger at the Hampton Hills Golf Club for the rest of your life,’ I’d be like, ‘Alright, well this is a life!’ It’s totally fine. I have no sense of, ‘I’m gonna get bored, I need to get back into the city,’ none of that. This is where I live.”

Apparently, it’s where the deer ticks live, too, as the comedian interrupted himself with a perfectly timed expletive, pulling one off his calf. “I wonder how long he was in there, he or she. Hopefully it’s not a bullseye,” he murmured to himself. “She’s f----- dead, too. Jesus. I guess she was in there long enough.”

He paused. “Hmm. Maybe she’s not dead, maybe she’s just chillin,’” he said. “I found a tick on my privates last week, too. It’s just me and the ticks isolating down in West Hampton Dunes. It’s about the most action I’m gonna get: nonconsensual tick bites.”

TIPS FROM THE PROS: The 18th Hole!



From the Blues & Whites: PGA Teaching Pro Jack McGown

The par five 18th hole offers any level of golfer the chance to finish the day on a high note, whether you may be going for the green in two or just playing to arrive in regulation. As with many holes here at Hampton Hills, it is key to remember the wind direction on your third shot and where you leave your approach shot to the green. Unless you are an exceptionally long hitter, you should be looking to aim your tee shot left of center as everything kicks off big to the right on the drive. Look at the flag on 10th hole when you are on the tee box to confirm which direction the wind is blowing and use that as barometer for the entire hole. You are almost definitely going to be down in one or both valleys on this hole and you may not feel any wind but remember the direction because it may cost you dearly on your approach. If your tee shot ends up on the down slope not sitting too well, this may be a case where you use the ground to advance your second shot. Widen your stance to get your left shoulder low enough to swing with the hill. It may feel awkward, but this will give the club a chance to swing a little steeper and stay with the terrain. Do not try to lift the ball up off the slope, instead let it come out on a flatter or line drive and climb up and over the hill. If your third shot is from the top of the hill or in the swale below remember that wind direction, because if you are into the wind you also have the uphill carry to add to the equation. If you wind up on the back of the green, remember that anything going away from the clubhouse is much faster than it looks and the break of the putt should be magnified. If you are going toward the clubhouse it is a little slower than it looks. The breaks on this green tend to be dramatic, so be aware of your position when you are about to putt. Welcome home!



Reading the Reds: PGA Teaching Pro Bill Casey

The 18th hole at Hampton Hills is a par 5 dogleg right and very hilly. When playing from the red tees the yardage is 401 yards. The first hill is right in front of the red tee. The long hitters can hit it over the hill to the bottom. The shorter hitters might want only to aim to the top of the hill where it is flat. If you hit it over the hill it may not get to the bottom and it is a tough downhill lie trying to hit the next shot up the next hill. Now for the longer hitters on the second shot they may be able to hit over the next hill to the valley before the green. For the shorter hitters it is better to hit the second shot to the flat of the hill, where you would have a shot to the green between 100 and 150 yards away. The 18th green is up on a hill protected by three bunkers in the front. The green slopes mainly from left to right down with a mound in the middle. The green is very large with many tough places to put the pins. The third shot for players in the valley is a sand or pitching wedge over the bunkers, unless they played to the side of the pin may be on. The players hitting from the flat between 100 and 150 yards from the green should try to hit up the side openings or hit over the bunkers, but because it is uphill you need to hit 1 to 2 clubs longer as it is an uphill carry. When you are on the green decide whether you have an uphill, downhill or sidehill putt. If you have decided down or sidehill putt double the break and lag the putt to the hole. If it is uphill there is less break and hit the putt firm. The 18th hole is a great finishing hole. I hope this helps everyone with how to manage the hole. Have fun play safe

To A  [EQUIPMENT CONFESSIONS!]

BACK IN BUSINESS



Laura Kessler

Laurakesslerdesigns@gmail.com



Hampton Hills Golf & Country Club
County Road 31, Westhampton Beach, New York 11978
631-727-6862 / www.hamptonhills.com