

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
WESTCHESTER HILLS GOLF CLUB

1913–2013



fore the joy of it

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Members and Friends,

Since 2013 began, it has been my great pleasure to welcome each and every one of you to a year of Centennial celebration at Westchester Hills. It is now my honor as Club President to introduce you to *A Centennial History of Westchester Hills Golf Club: 1913–2013*.

This year marks a much-anticipated milestone for Westchester Hills. One hundred years ago, Robert Farley and Peter Clark built the golf course and club that we know today as Westchester Hills. When the Club was incorporated with just twenty-seven members, neither Mr. Farley nor Mr. Clark nor those twenty-seven members could have envisioned the one hundredth anniversary of their actions. They had no way of predicting the tremendous history and culture that Westchester Hills would develop, and what a great institution it would become.

In the one hundred years of our club's existence, the world of golf has seen its ups and downs. As a leisure-time activity, golf has been impacted by periods of economic prosperity and economic contraction. Many clubs have come and gone since Westchester Hills welcomed those twenty-seven members. Like me, I am sure that many of you have asked yourself the question, "What is it that enabled Westchester Hills to get through the difficult economic times while other clubs have withered on the vine?" From an economic perspective, the last half-dozen years have been some of the worst in the last century. However, while many of our competitors have been forced to close their doors, Westchester Hills has seen a resurgence, with dramatic changes in how the Club is managed and a massive renovation of the facilities.

In my opinion, the answer to this question lies in the cultures and traditions at Westchester Hills. The Hills has a challenging golf course, a renovated clubhouse, and a great family pool. However, the Club is much more than these physical amenities. We are a family club with a tremendous atmosphere of camaraderie. Unlike many clubs, the atmosphere here is completely devoid of pretentiousness. Members enjoy being themselves, and there is a strong feeling of friendship and pride. We have been blessed through the years with an attentive and dedicated staff who are part of our club family. We are an integral part of the White Plains

community, and we strive to be sensitive to the needs of our neighbors. It is easy to see why our members love Westchester Hills so much, and why they put so much effort into maintaining the quality of the Club.

One of the many volunteer efforts that members have undertaken in recent times is the creation of this book. Many hours were spent piecing together the history of our club and putting it into writing. I would like to thank Steve Buckley and his team for the great job they have done. I invite all members and their families to read this book carefully, as it details our club's great history and underscores all the pride we have in being members of the Hills.

Thank you for all the support you give to the Club. Please be sure to participate in as many of the Centennial activities as possible. We will all remember this historic milestone for years to come.

Michael J. Daly
President, Board of Governors



Club President Mike Daly

PREFACE

In anticipation of Westchester Hills' Centennial celebration in 2013, the Club's Board of Governors formed a Centennial Committee in the spring of 2009, chaired by Jim Rice and co-chaired by Steve Buckley.

A number of suggestions for how this occasion might be celebrated were proposed. A multimedia account of the Club's history distinguished itself as one of the best ideas. Subcommittees were formed to meet every aspect of this challenge: a video subcommittee, a writing subcommittee, and a social and entertainment subcommittee. The combined efforts of these subcommittees produced this book and the accompanying DVD.

In this book and DVD you will find photos and stories from all aspects of club life at Westchester Hills: social events, men's and ladies' golf, the pool, bowling, and paddle tennis. At the outset, the Centennial Committee reached out to club members, asking them to loan their memorabilia and share their recollections to strengthen our account. The committee recognizes and thanks those members who contributed.

This book is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1, "The Early Years," describes the formation of the Club in 1913 and how it evolved over the first forty years.
- Chapter 2, "The Middle Years," describes significant people, events, and trends in each decade from the 1950s to the present time.
- Chapter 3, "A New Beginning," reveals the inside story behind the amazing renovation of the Club facilities in 2012.
- Chapter 4, "Golf," describes the Club's iconic golf pros, its beautiful and challenging golf course, and its talented golf champions.
- Chapter 5, "People," profiles some of the governors, members, and staff who have made Westchester Hills such a special place over the years.

The front cover of the book is a photo of the classic sixth hole at Westchester Hills. The back cover is a reprint of a beautiful painting by club member Tom Beaudrot.

Please take a moment to look at the inside covers of the book. The front inside cover presents a timeline of many of the key events in the Club's history. The back inside cover shows a 1946 photo of the Grand Room in the clubhouse before the fireplace and barrel ceiling were covered up in a 1960s renovation. At the time of this photo, the clubhouse was twenty years old, virtually unchanged from its original design by architect Frank Moore. Note that today's dining rooms and kitchen did not exist yet.

It is hoped that you will keep this book as a treasured memento and a reminder of your place within the context of the Club's history. As a member of Westchester Hills, you are part of a living legacy. The friendships and championships of today become tomorrow's memories. If tended to and carefully preserved, memory becomes history.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The core and extended Centennial Committee included the following individuals:

Tom Beaudrot	Lou Landry
Nick Boncardo	Joe Mastoloni
Connie Brown	Jim O'Brien
Carrie Buckley	Tom Ralph
Steve Buckley	Jim Rice
Jennie Cronin	Oscar Salazar
Rob DeMore	Pepe Salazar
Jim Egan	Jim Schwanderla
Megan Gann	Steve Sherwood
Jason Gobleck	Rocco Sollecito
Ruth Healey	John Zanzarella
Bob Landry	

Special acknowledgment must be given to Steve Buckley, the editor of this book and DVD, and the writer of many sections. Without his unfailing commitment, professionalism, and guidance, this book would not have been possible. We are deeply grateful.

We are similarly indebted to core committee members Tom Ralph, Bob and Lou Landry, and Connie Brown. Tom Ralph snapped many of the contemporary photos in this book, wrote chapter 3, and conducted key interviews. The Landrys, one of the longest-running families in the Club, were instrumental to the project from beginning to end by telling stories, providing photos, being interviewed, interviewing others, and answering countless questions. Connie Brown, another long-running member of the Club, is a history buff whose excitement for this subject fueled the effort.

Bud and Lois Treacy provided many of the photos and recollections in this book. The Treacy family has been involved in so much of the Club's history that the Club appeared to revolve around them. Sadly, Bud passed away during the writing of this book. We miss him.

Finally, the Centennial Committee would like to thank Jim Egan, Westchester Hills' most prolific writer and historian. Jim was the author and publisher of Westchester Hills' newsletter, *The Hillaballoo*, for many years, and a chronicler of the Club's early and middle years. Much of this book is based on his earlier writings. His advice and support during this project were critical to the success of the effort.

James E. Rice
Vice President, Board of Governors
Chairman, Centennial Committee



Club Vice President and Centennial Chairman Jim Rice



Centennial Committee Member Tom Ralph with Centennial Co-Chairman and Editor Steve Buckley



Centennial Committee Member Connie Brown



Centennial Committee Member John Zanzarella



Centennial Committee Members Bob and Lou Landry



Centennial Committee Member Jim Egan

The Early Years

Our club was incorporated on November 1, 1913, under the name Gedney Farm Country Club. The Club began as a recreation facility associated with a nearby resort hotel called the Gedney Farm Hotel. This chapter describes how it all began and how the Club evolved into an independent country club over the first forty years.

Before the Beginning

In 1740, John Gedney moved from Massachusetts to White Plains, purchasing 160 acres of land which became known as Gedney Farm. The farm was located in the area of White Plains now bounded by Mamaroneck Avenue, Hathaway Lane, Heatherbloom Road, and Ridgeway. Today this area is still referred to as the Gedney Farms neighborhood. Gedney built a farmhouse on Mamaroneck Avenue on the site presently occupied by Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

The Revolutionary War began in 1775, thirty-five years after Gedney arrived. In 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence, John Gedney died and his son Bartholomew inherited the farm. During the Revolution, Bartholomew and most of the Gedney family were Loyalists, meaning that they were loyal to the King of England.

The Gedney family utilized advanced farming techniques. The productivity of the farm was so high that the Russian Commissioner of Agriculture visited the farm to observe it.

In 1847, a new schoolhouse was erected for residents of the Gedney Farm area. The schoolhouse was built on Ridgeway, across from what is now the 18th green at Westchester Hills. In 1948, the house became a Girl Scout meeting place, and in 1985 it was converted into a private home, which



A schoolhouse, built on Ridgeway in 1847, stood across the street from what is now our 18th hole. (White Plains Archives)

remains today. Club members whose golf ball has bounced past the 18th green are likely to be familiar with this property.

In 1897, a rich horseman named Howard Willets purchased Gedney Farm from the Gedney estate. Willets built a mansion on Heatherbloom Road, on the hill above what is now the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. He raised prizewinning cattle and horses on the farm. Two of his most famous horses were named Heatherbloom and Hathaway, for whom local streets



The entrance to the Gedney Farm Hotel (Westchester County Historical Society)

were named. Heatherbloom was a steeplechaser who was said to have cleared eight feet several times.

Willets' mansion burned down in 1909. To replace his mansion, he erected a smaller brick house, which still stands at 25 Hathaway Lane.

Willets kept his horses in a large barn next to his mansion. In 1917 the barn was converted into barracks for Troop K of the New York State Police, but it too burned down in 1924.

In 1912, Gedney Farm was sold to Robert Farley, a wealthy lawyer and land developer. Farley's mother was a well-known author who wrote under the pseudonym Ernest Gilmore. He was a cousin of the twenty-seventh US Vice President James Sherman, who served under President William Howard Taft. Farley's many real estate developments included the Greenacres neighborhood in Scarsdale, the Candlewood Lake Club in Brookfield, Connecticut, and the Shenecossett Golf Club in New London, Connecticut. He was the organizer and first President of the Gramatan National Bank in Bronxville in 1909. He held numerous board positions, including President of the New York Rotary Club and President of the White Plains YMCA.



One of Gedney Farm Hotel's attractions was a ride on the Liberty Stagecoach. (Westchester County Historical Society)



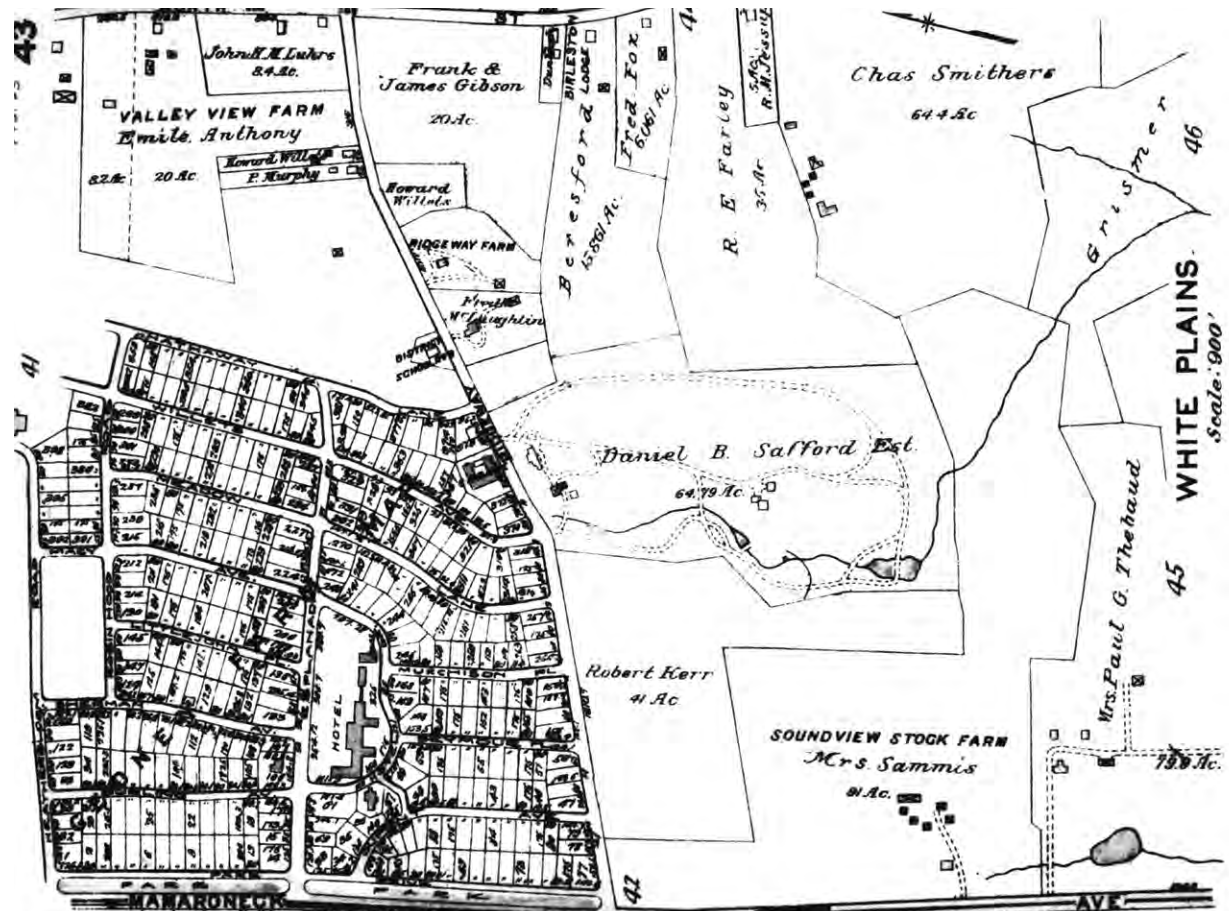
The lobby of the Gedney Farm Hotel (Westchester County Historical Society)

Farley converted the farmland into the residential area that is known today as Gedney Farms. The residential development was referred to as a “cottage colony,” with thirty plots in the first plan. He built a new resort hotel called the Gedney Farm Hotel on the property now bounded by Gedney Esplanade and Hotel Drive. The 300-room hotel, designed by Kenneth Murchison, was constructed by transforming several of the farm’s largest stables. French turrets along the front of the hotel were formed from barn silos. The hotel was designed with the latest in recreational facilities and amenities, including tennis courts, a swimming pool (said to be a converted concrete pigpen), bowling alleys, a squash court, billiards, riding and driving horses, and donkeys and ponies for children. There was a polo field and winter facilities for sleighing, tobogganing, skating, and outdoor tennis. There was a kennel for the pets of hotel guests. The hotel included a barbershop and a hall and stage for plays and entertainment. A barn was converted into a garage for up to 300 cars. Hotel guests were transported around town in motorized buses and horse-driven stagecoaches. A beach club at Oakland Beach in Rye was associated with the hotel. Celebrities including Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Eddie Cantor patronized the hotel. The surrounding cottage community was allowed to use the hotel facilities.

The Beginning

Robert Farley and the hotel owners wanted to add a golf course

to their luxurious facilities. On the south side of Ridgeway lay the Daniel B. Safford estate, seventy-seven acres with rolling hills, a lake, and a large but rundown mansion built in 1872. The mansion had been operated commercially by Mrs. Safford as a tearoom. Farley owned the Purdy Farm, thirty-four acres adjoining the Safford property, with frontage on North Street. Farley felt that the combined properties would provide an ideal setting for an 18-hole golf course, so he arranged for the hotel to purchase both properties for about \$181,000, including \$2,000 an acre for the Safford estate and \$1,000 an acre for the Purdy Farm.



White Plains map from the 1914 Bromley Atlas showing the location of the Gedney Farm Hotel and the Daniel B. Safford estate where our club was built (historicmapworks.com)

Construction of the golf course began in the spring of 1913, under the direction of Peter Clark, a Scottish golf professional who had worked for several years at the nearby Century Club. Clark was responsible for the course layout and construction. Farley, through friendship, was able to call on the legendary golf course architect Donald Ross for advice. Ross, also a Scotsman, was credited with 385 solo course designs and almost 600 in which he had a hand. By the fall of 1913, the first nine holes of the golf course were practically complete and the Safford mansion was almost ready for occupancy as a clubhouse.

On November 1, 1913, Farley and a few friends and associates incorporated the Club under the name Gedney Farm Country Club, Inc. The purpose of the corporation was “to promote the game of golf, tennis, and other athletic sports and to maintain a golf and country club,” a phrase that remains in our club’s bylaws today. A board of eleven governors was appointed: Robert Farley, L. Ward Prince, Kenneth Murchison, Charles Burr, Howard Willets, C. Halsey Mitchell, George Allen, Thomas Conklin, George Luebbers, Frederick Jackson, and Dr. D. Austin Sniffen. Six of the governors were from White Plains and three from New York City. The following officers were elected:

Robert Farley, President	Thomas Conklin, Vice President
Charles Burr, Secretary	C. Halsey Mitchell, Treasurer



Above: The Daniel B. Safford mansion was transformed into the first clubhouse. (White Plains Archives)

Right: First Head Golf Pro Peter Clark is on the left.



The Club took a ten-year lease on the 109-acre golf course from the Gedney Farm Company, which owned the hotel. There was no stipulated annual rental fee. The Club also was required to pay \$750 annually toward the amount the Gedney Farm Company spent for furniture and insurance premiums. The Club took over maintenance of the course and clubhouse. If, after payment of the \$750 fee, there was any annual operating surplus, it was to be applied to the payment of property taxes. If, on top of that, there was still any surplus, it was to be applied as rental to an annual premium of 3 percent of the amount the Gedney Farm Company had laid out for the property, the improvements, the construction of the golf course, and so on.

The Gedney Farm Company was obligated to complete the nine remaining holes and to install a watering system for the greens.

To protect its interests, the Gedney Farm Company had the right to nominate a majority of the Board of Governors until the 3 percent rental was paid. In actual practice they nominated two, Farley and Howard Willets, and later, Edward Crandall.

The clubhouse and first nine holes were formally opened on Election Day in November 1913. The Gedney Farm Hotel provided its orchestra and light refreshments. An exhibition golf match was held between two of the better local golfers of the area, Jack Dowling and Alex Smith.



The first tee in the early days of the Club



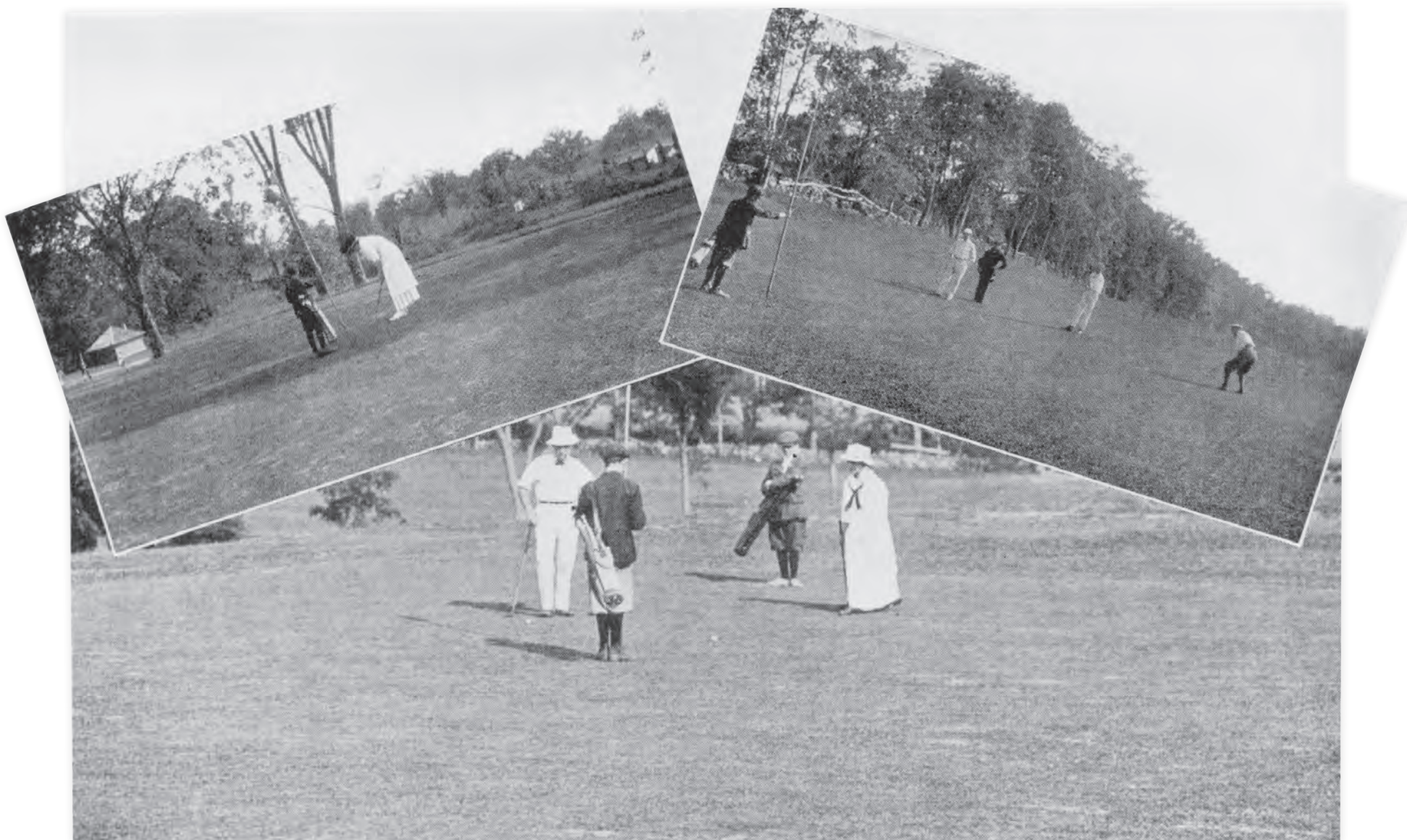
The second green in the early days of the Club



The seventh green in the early days of the Club

Peter Clark was hired as the first Head Golf Pro, at \$75 per month plus \$20 for housing. Initially it was planned to have the dining service handled by the manager of the Gedney Farm Hotel, but that was deemed inefficient, and a steward, who had been at Scarsdale Golf Club for several years, was hired. The steward and his wife lived in the clubhouse and received a salary of \$45 per month to clean the clubhouse and locker rooms. The food service, including cigars and cigarettes and the purchases, presentation, and serving of food and the hiring of assistants was their responsibility, from which any profit was theirs. The hotel retained the serving of drinks, but paid a 10 percent fee to the steward for his assistance.

The fiscal year commenced on November 1, 1913, with the Annual Meeting of members to be held on the third Wednesday in November. And so it remained until 1938, when the fiscal year was changed to the calendar year, with the Annual Meeting to be held the fourth Wednesday of January.



A collage of putting scenes in the early days of the Club



On the opening day of the Club, an exhibition golf match was held between two local golf pros, Jack Dowling and Alex Smith.



The 1913 clubhouse porch overlooking the first tee



The 1913 club bar

The first Constitution and Rules were remarkably similar to the By-Laws and Regulations at Westchester Hills today. Initially, governors were nominated and elected by the Board. Today, governors are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the members.

The first membership categories were structured as follows:

TYPE	QUALIFICATION	LIMIT	INITIATION	ANNUAL DUES
Regular	Men over 21	200	\$50	\$50
Associate	Women	100	\$20	\$25
Country Club	Family	150	\$20	\$40
	Men		\$15	\$25
	Women		\$10	\$10
Juniors	Sons & daughters under 21		\$5	\$15

Dues were payable semi-annually, April 1 and October 1. Wives who wished to play golf joined separately as Associate members. Country Club members (House members in today's terminology) could play golf at half the guest fees, an unlimited number of times. Later on, this privilege was revoked; those who intended to play golf had to join as a Regular or Associate member.

Election to be a club member was through the Board of Governors, and two nay votes resulted in rejection. There was a House Committee, a Grounds Committee, a Golf Committee, and an Admissions Committee consisting of five board members.

There were to be no gratuities paid to employees, and caddies were not to be paid more than set fees. Violation of the latter could result in suspension of playing privileges for a couple of weeks. The Club had a pool table, but owing to the "blue laws" of the day, it could not be used on Sundays. There was to be no card playing from midnight on Saturday until 8 a.m. on Monday morning.

By the end of November 1913, membership had reached twenty-seven, including eighteen Regulars and four Associates, all wives of Regulars. Play by Gedney Farm Hotel guests was encouraged and was expected to generate significant revenue. Guest fees were \$1.

The Club's first golf tournament was held on Memorial Day 1914 (or as it was known then, Decoration Day). The format was medal play with handicap. There were eight golfers in the tournament.

Construction of five more holes—the 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, and 18th, all lying on the former Safford property—proceeded throughout the spring and summer of 1914. When completed in September, the order of play was 1 through 7, 12, 17, 18, 10, 11, 8, 9, and then repeating 1 through 4 to complete 18 holes.

Two tennis courts were finished in 1914. A large barn was preserved between the 4th and 6th holes, serving as the maintenance facility for many years.

On July 8, 1914, the Board established a Polo membership, utilizing a field on the hotel grounds adjacent to Murchison Drive. Initially, there were fourteen Polo members, some of whom already belonged to the Club. Polo members could play golf or tennis but were charged guest fees to do so. There is a trophy at the United States Military Academy at West Point commemorating a victory by the cadets over the Gedney Farm Country Club.

By mid-September 1914, the Club had ninety-nine members, including forty-five Regulars and eight Associates. A rowboat for members' use on the pond at the 6th tee was purchased for \$5. Mrs. Safford, former owner of the clubhouse and much of the property, moved into one of the guest rooms in the clubhouse at a rent of \$60 per month. She was made an honorary member.



The pond by the sixth tee, complete with rowboat

Work began on the remaining four holes, the 13th through the 16th, all lying on the former Purdy property owned by Robert Farley. A significant portion of the property was wetlands, and the drainage effort was challenging. The grassy mound on the 13th hole was originally a dumping ground for rakings and rocks from the swamps and other holes. These last four holes were opened for play in July 1915.

The first Annual Meeting was held on November 18, 1914, with twenty-four in attendance. The Club now had 117 total members and an annual surplus of \$1,191 on income of \$10,000. Nothing had been paid back to

the Gedney Farm Company. Twenty percent of the Club's income came from Gedney Farm Hotel guests.

At the second Annual Meeting in 1915, club membership had reached 187, on income of \$12,500, with an annual surplus of almost \$800. Again, nothing had been paid back to the Gedney Farm Company. Hotel guests represented one-third of total income.

Good caddies were at a premium because of a large number of local clubs. To attract good caddies, three steps were taken: (1) monthly prizes were awarded for performance; (2) caddies were allowed to play the course on Mondays; (3) the golf pro was authorized to hire up to eight caddies and guarantee them fees of \$8 per month.

The authors had a chance to meet one of the early caddies at Westchester Hills, Lionel Weinstein, who currently lives in Somers, New York. In 1931, Weinstein, at age eleven, began to caddy on weekends at the Club. Golf bags in those days were not as heavy as they are now, and this eleven-year-old was able to carry two bags, earning \$2. Weinstein said that no golfers went out on the course without a caddy, and caddies were not to give advice to the golfers. Weinstein's boss was Caddy Master James "Buster" Harmon, whom Peter Clark hired in 1925. Buster became legendary to hundreds of members and boys for more than four decades at Westchester Hills.

The Club's first Men's Club Champion was Jay Jones in 1916. Jones would later become Club President in 1923.

At the third Annual Meeting in December 1916, membership was up to 226, including 119 Regulars and 32 Associates. Income was up to \$18,450, and the annual surplus was over \$5,000, but still no payment was made to the Gedney Farm Company. Guest fees were doubled to \$2 on weekends and holidays, amounting to almost \$7,000 in income. The Club joined the US Golf Association, the Metropolitan Golf Association, and the National Lawn Tennis Association in 1916.

In 1917, many Club members were called to military service in World War I. That year the Men's Club Champion was Ensign Conklin, who won a close match over defending champion Jay Jones.

At the fourth Annual Meeting in March 1918, there were 274 members. World War I was in full swing. The Gedney Farm Country Club ran War and Thrift Stamp drives, saw many of its younger members go into military service, and on Sundays roped off club entrances so as not to allow cars on the grounds, in sympathy with the government drive to conserve gas. Charles Paul won his first Club Championship and continued to win four more championships in the next five years. The first member directory, which was called the Year Book, was printed in 1918.

In 1919, the limit on Regular memberships was raised from 200 to 225 and the Club had a waiting list. A bus was purchased for \$900 to provide service between the Club and the White Plains Railroad Station, for a fare of twenty-five cents each way. Many club members commuted from New York City. The bus service ended a year later after an accident in which a pedestrian was injured.

Five members of the original Board of Governors were still board members in 1919, including President Robert Farley, Vice President Thomas Conklin, horseman Howard Willets, and Dr. D. Austin Sniffen. Sniffen was a local dentist who served on the Board for thirty-two of his thirty-four years in the Club. Farley and Sniffen must have been close because Sniffen married Farley's older sister Helen in 1897, with Farley as his best man, and Farley's future wife, Grace Colvin, as the maid of honor. Helen Farley Sniffen

died in 1916. Grace Colvin Farley went on to become the Ladies Club Champion at Westchester Hills in 1930.

Sniffen was the Greens Chairman for many of his years on the Board, working with Peter Clark to continually improve the course during the early years. As an example, here is a 1918 report from the Greens Committee: "At No. 5 the old well is being filled in, and this work will be finished in the very near future. The new green at No. 7 has been finished and will be open for play about the middle of May. No. 12 green has been

converted into a punch bowl with pits all the way around. No. 14 green has been raised at the back and sand pits placed to catch a ball over-running the green, and a long sand pit has also been constructed along the fence on the right side of the fairway at No. 14. Three additional sand pits have also been constructed on No. 14 fairway, one to catch a slice to the green, another to catch a pull and one to catch a topped ball from the tee. No. 15 green has been very much improved. The approach to the green has been trapped with four sand pits, and the green has also been raised at the back to permit a player to hold the ball on the green on his approach."

In 1919, the Club made its first payment of \$3,750 to the Gedney Farm Company, representing five years of the agreed-upon annual payments toward furniture and insurance premiums. Still owed was \$1,407. A special committee was set up to consider plans to buy the leased property from the Gedney Farm Company.



Dr. D. Austin Sniffen, a White Plains dentist and founding governor (White Plains Archives)

Robert Farley resigned as President in 1919. The Board elected Vice President Thomas Conklin as the second Club President. By November 1919, the Club had grown to 330 members.

In 1920, the Club hosted the inaugural Open Championship of the Westchester Golf Association, a tournament won easily by Tom Kerrigan of Siwanoy, with Jack Dowling and Johnny Farrell tied for second place six strokes behind.

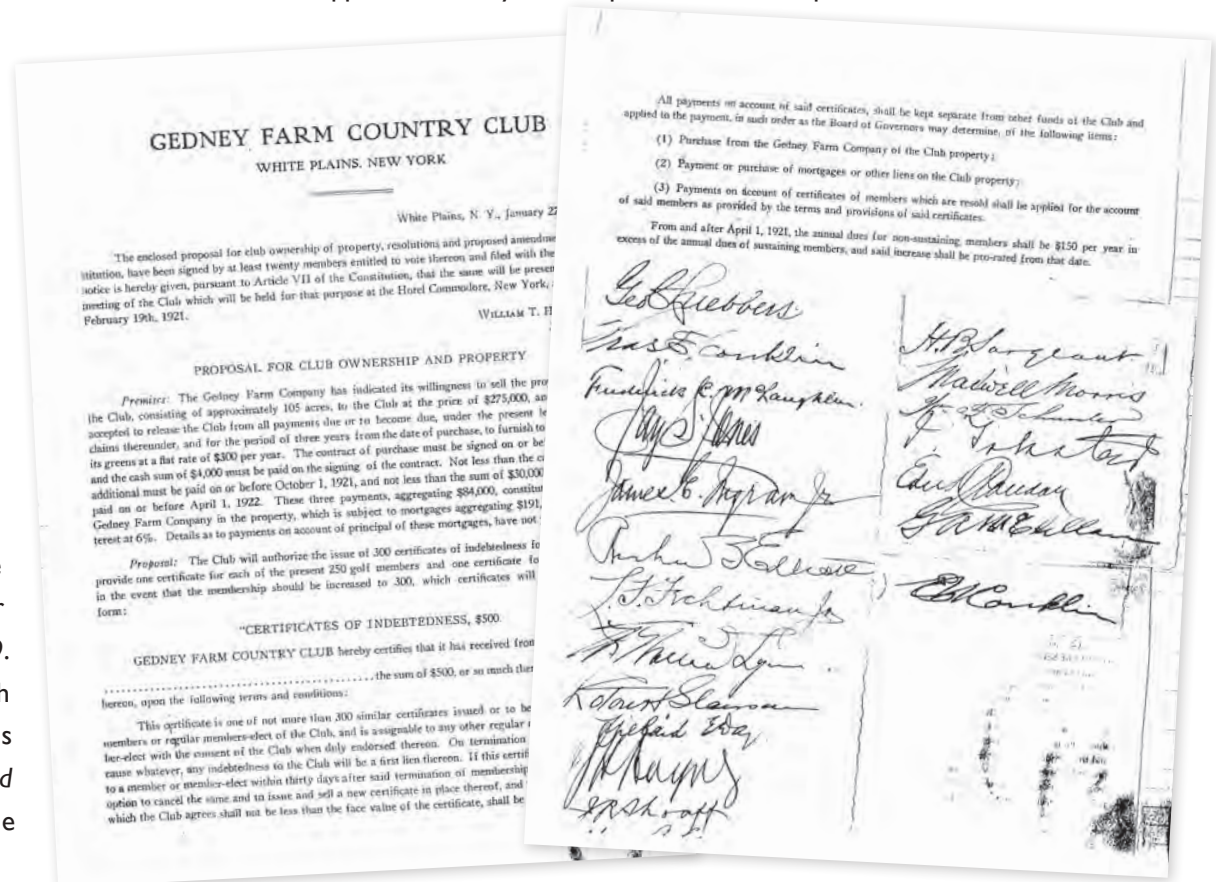
In 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment, prohibition of liquor, went into effect, lasting until its repeal in 1933. There are indications that some members may have enjoyed alcoholic beverages at the Club during this period although club rules forbade it.

In 1920, for the first time, there was a Ladies Club Champion, Miss Martha Parker. Parker won the first seven Ladies Championships, overcoming an attempt by the Ladies Golf Committee to ban her from playing in 1921.

Richard Jones Jr. of our Club won the 1921 Westchester County Junior Championship. George Brush of our Club was the runner-up. Jones, a descendant of Isaac Newton, went on to win the Metropolitan Junior Championship in 1923 and 1924 and the Westchester Hills Club Championship in 1931 and 1932. Brush set the course record at that time with a 68 in 1924, and went on to win the Club Championship in 1926, and the Westchester Amateur Golf Championship in 1928 and 1929. Martha Parker, Richard Jones, and George Brush were the first of many great Westchester Hills junior golfers over the years. In 1924, *Golf Illustrated* magazine referred to Westchester Hills as "the nursery of junior golfers."

Our Own Declaration of Independence

In 1921, the Gedney Farm Company demanded that the Club pay its outstanding debt or forfeit the property. Led by President Thomas Conklin, Vice President George Luebbers, Treasurer Fred McLaughlin, and Golf Chairman Jay Jones, the Club decided to purchase its leased property for \$275,000, funded by \$500 and \$1,000 Certificates of Indebtedness sold to Regular members. This decision was approved by the membership in a meeting at the Commodore Hotel in New York City, with more than one hundred people in attendance. Robert Farley was one of the attendees and reportedly was in support of the buyout. The purchase was completed on November 1, 1921.



Left: The first page of the 1921 board proposal for club ownership of the property

Right: The signature page of the 1921 board proposal for club ownership of the property

The Club decided to accelerate its independence from the hotel by changing its name. Members voted on the new name, with Westchester Hills Golf Club winning over Ridgeway, Quarropas (former name of White Plains), White Plains, Gedney Farm Country Club, Brookwood, and Gray Fox.

It was also decided to have the members elect a new Board of Governors. Surprisingly, President Conklin, who had led the movement to break away from the hotel, was voted out and former Club Treasurer Fred McLaughlin was voted in as the third Club President. Conklin was thanked for his service to the Board since its inception in 1913, and for the grand piano he had recently donated to the Club. McLaughlin went on to become the third mayor of White Plains, serving the city for three terms starting in 1925.

Howard Willets resigned from the Club in 1921 and was made an honorary member.

In 1921, board member Walter Shafer published the first club newsletter. Overall, Shafer published eight issues, copies of which are still available. Shafer went on to become President of the Metropolitan Golf Association in 1928.

The first Annual Meeting of the Club under its new name was held on November 15, 1922, at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. About sixty people attended.

In 1923, a new 18-hole golf course, also designed by Peter Clark, opened across Ridgeway. The new golf course was known as the Gedney Farm Golf Course and catered to guests of the Gedney Farm Hotel, who had previously been playing at Westchester Hills. Westchester Hills was offered the opportunity to rent the new golf course but opted not to. The new golf course eventually became the Ridgeway Country Club in 1952; it closed in 2011.

In 1923, Westchester Hills started a new tournament called Guest Day, an early version of our present-day Member Guest Tournament. Every member was urged to invite guests, for whom greens fees were exempted. Prizes and dinner followed the golf competition. Guest Day was cited in *Golf Illustrated* magazine as a new concept.

Fred McLaughlin resigned as President, presumably to start work on his mayoral campaign. Jay Jones, the first Men's Club Champion, became the fourth Club President.

In 1924, the present-day men's locker room was built for \$50,000, thanks to a loan of \$35,000 from member David Leggett. Prior to that, the men's locker room was located on the second floor of the clubhouse (the former Safford mansion).

In 1924, Walter Westall was appointed to the Board. Westall was a New York State assemblyman from 1919 to 1922 and a New York State senator from 1923 to 1934. He had joined the Club in 1920, and would become Club President in 1935 and remain on the Board until the 1950s. In 1957, a resolution was passed by the Board making Westall Governor Emeritus, the only such designation in the Club's history.

The Hotel Burns

On September 20, 1924, a fire completely destroyed the Gedney Farm Hotel in about nine hours. The only remaining parts of the building were the two barn silos that were used to create French turrets along the front of the hotel. Lack of water pressure in the Gedney Farms neighborhood was cited as the critical issue for White Plains firefighters. It was said to be the largest fire in White Plains history. Damage was estimated at \$750,000, plus another \$250,000 in personal belongings. Comedian Eddie Cantor was among the hotel guests at the time of the fire.

A New Clubhouse

In 1924, Westchester Hills had a minor clubhouse fire of its own. The Club decided to build a new fireproof clubhouse with an internal sprinkler system. This was unanimously approved by the membership at the 1924 Annual Meeting held at the Commodore Hotel in New York City, with more than one hundred people in attendance. A ten-year mortgage of \$125,000 was secured to cover the cost of the new clubhouse and furnishings. Members were asked to subscribe to \$100,000 worth of 6 percent bonds. The balance of the clubhouse cost was secured from



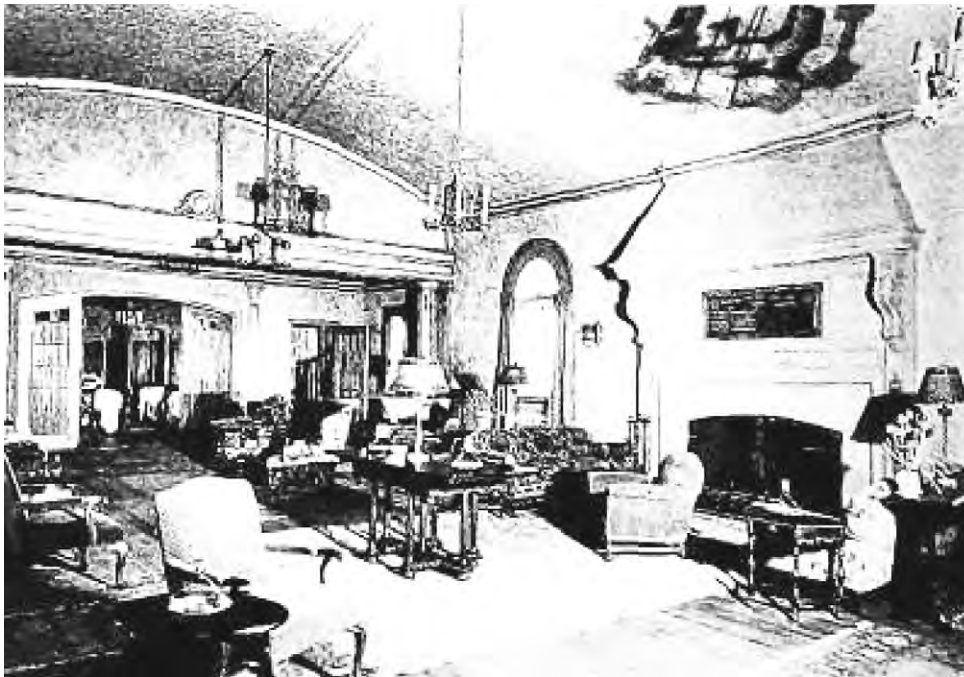
The 1924 Gedney Farm Hotel fire (Westchester County Historical Society)



External view of the 1926 clubhouse (*Golf Illustrated* magazine)



The stone terrace outside the 1926 clubhouse overlooking the first tee



The Grand Room in the 1926 clubhouse (*Golf Illustrated* magazine)



A 1946 photo of the Grand Room, virtually unchanged from 1926

operating profits. Much credit for the financial success of this effort was given to the Club Treasurer, John Hamilton, Vice President of the American Exchange Pacific National Bank.

Noted architect Frank Moore was engaged, and a new Northern Italian-style structure opened on April 15, 1926. The Club held a dinner-dance to celebrate the opening of the new clubhouse, which was attended by a large and enthusiastic gathering. In the center of the building was a large lounge room (today called the Grand Room), with a barrel-shaped ceiling two stories high, furnished with comfortable chairs, couches, attractive lighting fixtures, and a large open fireplace. On one side of this room were French windows that opened out onto a stone terrace that overlooked the first tee and the golf course. This terrace was furnished with painted wicker furniture and an attractive colored awning.

The 1926 clubhouse remains the core of our current clubhouse. The barrel-shaped ceiling and the fireplace were covered up in the 1960s renovations, and subsequently uncovered and restored in the 2012 renovation.

Along with the new clubhouse in 1926 came a renovated “Caddie House,” quite possibly the building that we use today for bag storage and employee living quarters.

The First Men’s Closing Day Tournament

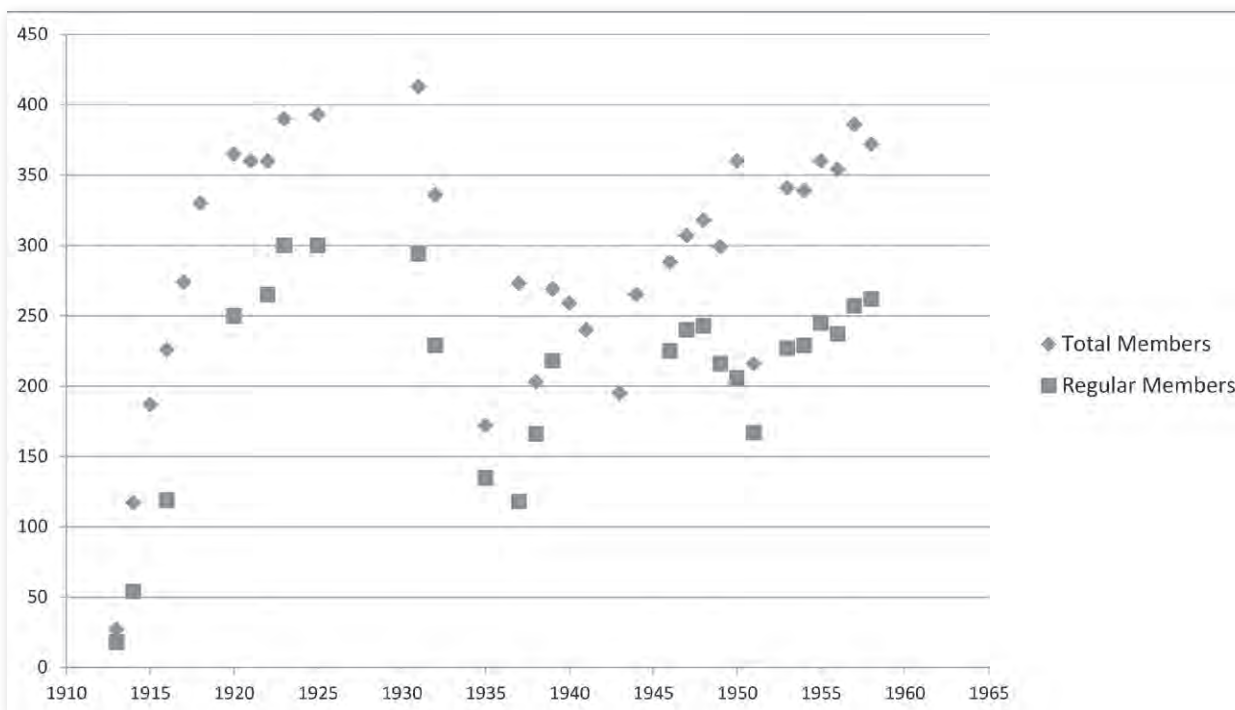
The Men’s Closing Day Tournament is traditionally held each year in October, featuring a competition between men with upstairs lockers and men with downstairs lockers. This tradition began in 1926, in a contest called the Battle Royal tournament. The losing floor had to pay for the dinner at the Club for all who participated. Walter Shafer was captain of the

upper floor and Richard Jones Sr. was captain of the lower floor. The men from the two floors were matched up in foursomes, two from each floor, and played with club handicaps. The Nassau system of scoring was used. An enormous scoreboard was arranged, and the players spent much of their time around it, keenly interested in the scores as teams reported in. In one of the most exciting matches, the team with Richard Jones Jr. beat the team with George Brush, Jones shooting 68 and Brush shooting 70.

A Chicken in Every Pot and a Great Depression

In 1926, the Club hired a new assistant golf pro named Jack Sabol. Jack would be on the golf staff for the next fifty-two years, forty as the second Head Golf Pro.

The membership had grown steadily from 1913 to 1930, peaking at about 300 Regular members in the late 1920s. The membership would



A graph showing the total number of members and the number of Regular members from 1913 to 1960

have grown even more had it not been for a limit placed on the number of Regular members. This period was referred to as the Roaring Twenties in the United States. "A chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage" was a popular saying at that time. The Great Depression, triggered by the stock market crash of 1929, led to a nosedive in club membership around 1932 under Club President D. Austin Sniffen. Regular membership hit a low of about 120 in 1937. Membership rebounded a bit in the late 1930s, exceeding 200 Regular members in 1939. Membership struggled in the early 1940s because of World War II but rebounded in 1944 when about twenty-five members transferred from the Club across Ridgeway, which was then known as the Gedney Farm Golf Course. One of the members who transferred from across the street was W. A. Landry, the father of Bob Landry, one of our most active members today. Regular membership dipped below 200 again in 1951, but climbed steadily throughout the 1950s to around 250 Regular members, thanks to a new focus on family-oriented amenities.

Changing of the Guard

As the Club moved into the 1930s, it seemed like the end of an era. From its start in 1913, the Club had become a major force in Westchester County golf, with a central location, a challenging golf course, influential members, highly skilled golfers, and a beautiful new clubhouse and locker room. Then the Great Depression hit the Club, and the founding fathers began to thin out.

In 1931, Robert Farley, the Club founder, was still a club member. Tragedy struck in 1933 as Farley, one of Westchester's pioneer real



Second Head Golf Pro Jack Sabol, in white jacket, at a trophy presentation

estate developers, hanged himself in the attic of his home at 29 Greenridge Avenue in White Plains. He was sixty-two years old and had been in ill health.

In 1937, Peter Clark passed away suddenly at the age of sixty-two, and Jack Sabol was named the second Head Golf Pro at Westchester Hills. A Memorial Tournament was held for the benefit of Peter's widow. Forty-seven members participated in the tournament, and fifty others sent donations; a total of \$605 was raised.

Also in 1937, Dr. D. Austin Sniffen and Richard Jones Jr. resigned from the Board. Sniffen had served on the Board for all twenty-four years of the Club's existence, and would return to the Board in 1942.

In 1938, Howard Willets passed away. In 1939, Richard Jones Jr. died at age thirty-four following an appendicitis operation. In 1940, Jay Jones passed away.



This Certificate of Indebtedness, signed by Edgar Treacy Sr., was issued to club member Herbert Morrell, grandfather of current member John McClatchie.

In those days, the annual clambake, the Club's premier summer social event, was held in the vicinity of the fourth green, before the pool existed. This event was a joint cooking effort by many of the men of the Club, most notably Edgar Treacy Sr., who had joined the Club in 1932. Treacy Sr. became House Chairman in 1935, Board Secretary in 1938, Vice President in 1942, and President in 1946. The pond by the 6th green is named after him, as is the Treacy Memorial Golf Tournament, which is held each year on Memorial Day weekend.

In 1939, A. J. "Jack" Purdy became Club Treasurer, a post he would hold until 1949. Purdy saved the Club in the 1930s with his infusion of funds and help at key times. His nickname, "Little King," came from his build and walk, reminiscent of a popular comic strip character of the era. He would keep tabs on how well the Club was being cleaned by deliberately leaving powder behind doors or in out-of-the-way places.

In 1943, World War II rationing caused the clubhouse and locker room to be closed from January until April.

There was a failed attempt to rename the pond by the 6th tee, which was generally referred to as Fox Brook. A member named Jim Rutherford was notorious for driving his tee shot into the pond. Some of the members made up a large sign, "RUTHERFORD'S POND," and placed it against the rocks on the far side of the pond facing the tee. The Board failed to see the humor in this sign and had it removed.

Another member named Jack Sweeney had similar problems at the 6th tee. On one occasion he carried the pond with his tee shot, but the ball sat on the opposite bank just above the water line. On his second shot, Jack took a mighty swing and tumbled backwards into the pond.

Dr. D. Austin Sniffen, still on the Board as Greens chairman, submitted his resignation in 1949, writing that "our Board of Governors and I have come to the parting of the way and I am forced, through no wish of mine, to resign from the Board." In January 1950, he was critically injured in a fall, and passed away a month later.

Family Focus

In 1948, Regular membership dropped below 200. The Club under President Edgar Treacy Sr. was having trouble attracting postwar members. As a result the Club was having trouble making payroll, and some of the members kicked in to help. It was decided that Westchester Hills needed to do more to attract families. A committee was formed to evaluate

the construction of a swimming pool. The committee estimated the construction effort at \$35,000, but there was not enough support in the Club to raise the funding at that time.

The swimming pool was finally approved in 1953. The new facility included a main pool, a locker building, and a wading pool. Seventy-five thousand dollars was raised in pool subscriptions. New club members were required to buy \$400 Pool Bonds, which were redeemed annually

by lot over the next several years. A new membership category called House/Pool was formed, with fifty-two families joining in the first year of the pool.

In 1949, another committee was formed to consider the construction of a bowling alley. Unlike the swimming pool, this effort moved quickly. The Board accepted a contractor's bid of \$31,000, and Bowling Chairman William Peckham was authorized to move ahead with the construction of four lanes, located behind the present-day Pro Shop. The final cost was \$44,000; \$23,000 was raised from members who purchased \$100 Bowling Alley Certificates of Indebtedness at 3 percent interest. Redemption was made annually out of bowling alley net earnings, with certificates redeemed by lot. Brunswick Corporation, who provided the alleys, took a note for \$6,000. The remaining funding was borrowed as part of the Club's mortgage.



Children taking a break on the diving board

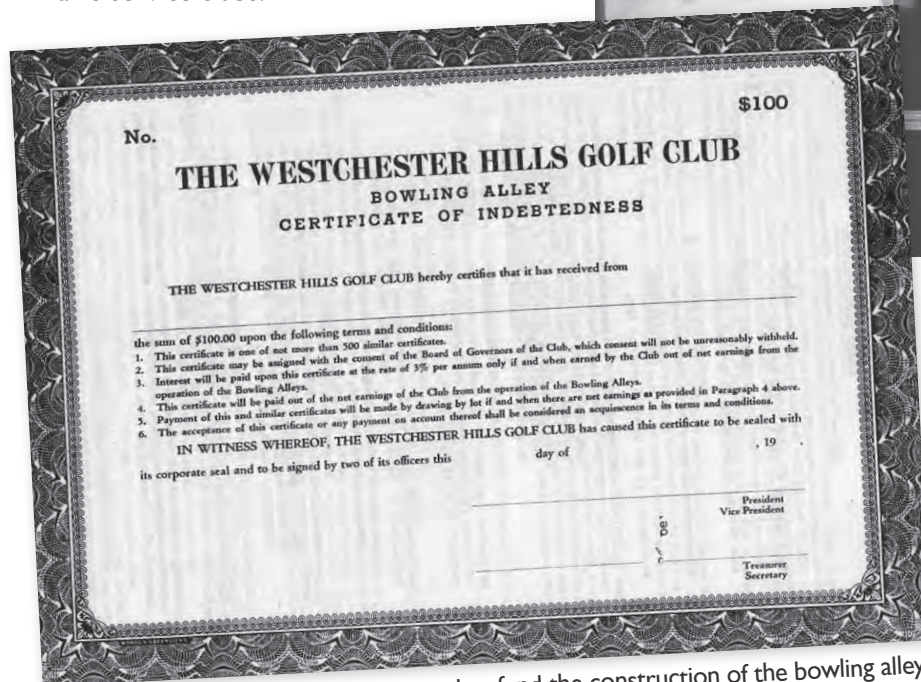


An "Aqua Show" at the pool



A 1970s pool staff

Bowling Operations Chairman John Hanselman got the program off to a good start. Members entered the bowling alley from the Grill Room lobby. Jack Sabol was enlisted to compute and maintain averages and handicaps. Lessons were available. The facilities were used seven days a week, with 149 games, on average, bowled each day in the first year. Men's bowling was held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights; ladies' bowling on weekdays; children's bowling on Saturday mornings; interclub leagues, mixed, and special events on Saturday and Sunday evenings; and open bowling at other times. On Monday evenings the alleys were rented out to White Plains service clubs.



A \$100 Certificate of Indebtedness used to fund the construction of the bowling alley

Ces Harper; second from left, was Ladies Bowling Champion and Ladies Golf Champion many times.

Until 1957, "pin boys," typically sons of club members, set up the bowling pins. One of the pin boys was Buzz Ackerman, son of member Don Ackerman. Buzz was one of the top junior bowlers and later became a member himself.

As the early years came to a close in the 1950s, strong membership growth was attributable to the addition of family amenities like the pool and the bowling alley. The bowling alley provided a popular winter activity that enabled the Club to be a daily gathering place for members year-round.

THE MIDDLE YEARS

This chapter describes how the Club evolved during the sixty years leading up to the Centennial. Significant people, events, and trends are described for each decade during this period.

The 1950s

In 1950, Joseph “Buddy” Mitchell became Club President. Mitchell had joined the Club in 1924 and had won the Club Championship in 1940. He was on many committees, including the formative Pool Committee in 1948, and joined the Board in 1949.

In 1952, John “Frank” Shanklin joined the Club. Shanklin would go on to become Club President twice, from 1962 to 1963 and from 1978 to 1979. Shanklin was a fierce competitor, an affable playing partner, and a consummate gentleman for whom golf etiquette always came first.

As the Club entered its fortieth anniversary in 1953, the clubhouse,



Club President Buddy Mitchell presents an award.



A sketch of Club President Frank Shanklin

which had been built in 1926, did not include the current day dining rooms, nor did it have a patio. Indoor dining was held in the Bar Room and the Grand Room. Weather permitting, outdoor dining and drinks were available on the stone terrace overlooking the first tee, covered by a canvas awning. In 1953, the terrace was enclosed in glass, taking the first step toward today's Terrace Room.

In January 1955, while waiting for his morning commuter train in Scarsdale, Edgar Treacy Sr. collapsed and died. His son Bud Treacy was on the same train but unaware of the tragedy. The last words that passed between them were "See you at the Club tonight." Bud Treacy said the following about his father: "A man who spent years working on club items.



A typical dining scene in the 1950s

As President, member, and avid golfer, he did things that still, to this day, have merit. He closed the Club on Christmas Day for the benefit of the employees. He fought for the pool when he thought its time had come, not a popular position at the time. He was perhaps best known for overseeing the Clambakes, in its time the biggest night of the Club year. He was a badminton buff, and joined with the group that played during the winter in what is now



Above: A 1971 Member Guest foursome: Bud Treacy, far left; Ed "Skip" Sutton, far right; and two guests



Above right: A 1968 Mixed Member Guest foursome: Bob Landry, second from right; Lou Landry, second from left; with guests Bill and Cathy Cuddy

Right: Bud Treacy and Buddy Mitchell play at Winged Foot in 1953.

the clubhouse lounge or living room. He played a lot of bridge when it was popular at Westchester Hills and endorsed a separate card room for the bridge players. He was a fabulous father and a great guy!"

In 1955 Club President Buddy Mitchell revived the Member Guest Tournament, a concept that originated in 1923, but had disappeared for many years. Later on, a Mixed Member Guest Tournament was added as well.

President Mitchell and Jack Sabol were close friends who enjoyed fishing and hunting together. In 1956, Mitchell died tragically while playing in a pro-am tournament with Sabol at Westchester Country



Club. In 1957, the Member Guest tournament was renamed the Joseph A. Mitchell Memorial Tournament.

In 1957, automatic pin-setting equipment was installed in the bowling alley, replacing the pin boys. Bowling continued to be very popular through the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1959, the Halfway House was built next to the 9th green, where it remains today.

The 1960s

In 1960, the city of White Plains debated zoning actions that would convert our club property to open space. These discussions were resolved

by an agreement that provided the city with the first right to purchase the Club property should the Club decide to sell it. This issue returned in 2011 when the Ridgeway Country Club closed and new proposals surfaced to rezone the Ridgeway Country Club and Westchester Hills properties as open space.

In 1961, the first annual Governor's Day was held at Westchester Hills to honor past and present board members. The event included lunch, a golf tournament, and a black tie dinner. Until his death in 2012, Bud Treacy attended all but one of the Governor's Day events and served for many years on the Governor's Day Committee, including a period as committee chairman.



The ninth green in the 1960s



The first Governors Day in 1961: (3rd row) Charles Hoyler, John Williams, Bud Treacy, William Peckham, John Hamilton, J. Robert Bennar, John Rago, Frank Shanklin, Dan Donaldson, Chester DeMond, Oliver Birkhead; (2nd row) Forbes Shaw, Hubert Foley, Otto Jaeger, Leroy Walker, John Erbeck, Paul Wiggins, James Rutherford, Harry Gordon, Willard Kniffen, Emil Chervenak, Donald Harper; (1st row) Robert Belete, Thomas Croake, Harold Carpenter, Walter Westall, John Hanselman, Lester Bennett, Gernet Brown, Fred Close, William Bachmann, Allan Stevens



The drop ceiling can be seen in this photo of Monica and Steve Povemba.

In 1964, air conditioning was installed in the clubhouse for the first time. Air conditioning ducts were placed in the barrel ceiling of the Grand Room, and a drop ceiling was added to hide the ducts. Around this time the fireplace was hidden by a wall. Later the barrel ceiling and fireplace were uncovered and restored in the 2012 renovation, which is described in chapter 3.

In those days, members spent more of their time at the Club than they do today. Despite the construction in the clubhouse, twenty-one dances were held in 1964, with an average attendance of 125 people. Clambakes usually drew 300 people.

From 1957 to 1970, Ed Fischer served fourteen consecutive years as Club Treasurer, the longest-serving treasurer in the Club's history. In his regular job,



Above: A 1960s New Year's Eve table at the Club

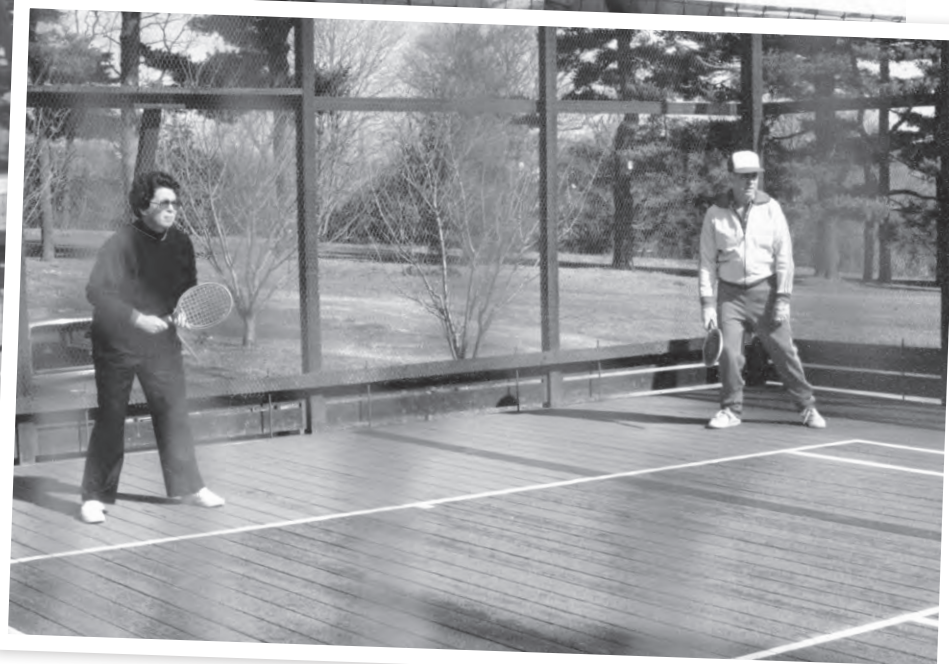
Right: The Landrys dance at the Club.



Ed was the treasurer of the Mobil Oil Company.

In the late 1960s, two paddle tennis courts were built near the Halfway House. The construction included a Warming Hut between the paddle courts since the

courts were used throughout the winter. About twenty to thirty men and fifteen to twenty ladies played paddle tennis regularly, with games scheduled almost every night. They played in an inter-club league that included New York Athletic Club, Wykagyl, Ardsley, and Sunningdale. On Friday nights they would have mixed competition, with a buffet dinner in the Warming Hut. The combination of bowling and paddle tennis made Westchester Hills a popular place to go during the winter.



Above: Mike and Carolyn McBride play paddle tennis.

Top right: Four members enjoy mixed competition paddle tennis.

Bottom right: Tom Kenny and Ellen Kealy team up in paddle tennis.

The 1970s

In the 1970s, the Westchester Hills Swim Team began to compete in the Westchester County Swim Conference Championships, a tradition that continues today.

In 1973, under Club President Bruce Lent's direction, the Round Room was built to provide more dining space with a spectacular panoramic view of the golf course.

In 1975, Mike McBride, a club member and publicity professional, led an effort by the Club to establish a new Guinness World Record for the fastest 18-hole round of golf. Many club members worked together to hit a single ball around the course as fast as possible. After four to five weeks of trying, the team could not break the standing record of fifteen minutes, but the members had a great time trying.



A view of the Round Room from the practice green, before the patio was built



Bruce Lent and Bud Treacy in a club play

In the latter half of the twentieth century, Westchester Hills members staged several club plays. The last one, in 1977, was named *Golfers Are a Girl's Best Friend*. Alice Whitehead, eight-time Ladies Club Champion, directed it. In this play, the Board sang the following memorable verse:

We are the members of the Board of Governors at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

We are the guys who make all the decisions at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

If you want to build a new third story, or decorate the downstairs lavatory, you'd better get it through your gourd to talk it over with the Board at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

We are the members of the Board of Governors at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

We are the guys that tell the guys that tell the other guys at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

If you're thinking of enlarging the swimming pool, or turning the bar into a nursery school, you'd better meet us face to face or find yourself another place than Westchester Hills, White Plains.

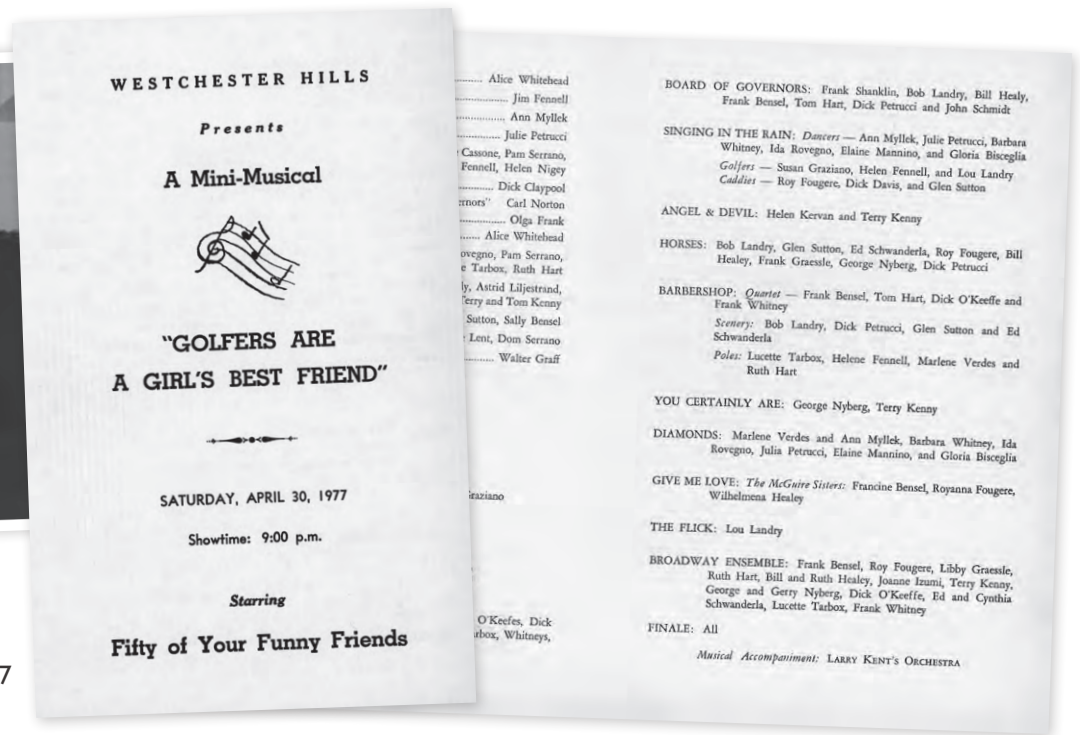
We are the members of the Board of Governors at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

Bob tells Bill and Bill tells Frank and Frank tells next to him in rank at Westchester Hills, White Plains.

By the time the word gets to the other eight, and they tell all the members it's much too late for anyone to have their say, and that is how we get our way at Westchester Hills, White Plains.



Mike McBride, Mel and Linda Teetz, and Mike Antonelle



The playbill from the last club play in 1977



Bob Landry, Frank Shanklin, Bill Healey, and Frank Bense in the Board of Governors skit in the 1977 club play.



Sue Graziano, Helene Fennel, and Lou Landry played "golfers in the rain" in the 1977 club play.



A scene from another club play



Gerri and George Nyberg

The play continued with ladies holding umbrellas and “Singing in the Rain.” A male quartet sang “Heart of My Heart” while ladies danced in barber



Third Head Golf Pro Kevin Morris with Bob Landry

pole costumes. George Nyberg emerged from a crib in a nightgown as a cast member sang, “You Must Have Been a

Beautiful Baby.”

In 1977, Jack Sabol retired after more than forty years as Head Golf Pro and more than fifty years on the golf staff. Club President Bob Landry led an intensive search to find the third Head Golf Pro and found a gem in Kevin Morris, a talented twenty-six-year-old who had played for the University of Florida. Morris was at that point an assistant pro at Mt. Kisco Country Club. Landry wanted a head pro who could play in tournaments and bring publicity to the Club, which Morris did very well. Morris’s many accomplishments are profiled in chapter 4.

In 1977, two new tennis courts were built as part of a larger renovation of the facilities called Project 76. Although two tennis courts had been built in 1914, there had been no tennis courts at the Club for many years.

In 1978–79, under Club President Frank Shanklin, the Club ran into hard times. There was a cash shortage that reportedly led to President Shanklin writing a personal check to finance golf operations.

The 1980s

In the early 1980s, the first irrigation system was installed on the golf course. Prior to this, the course had no rough, and balls would roll a long way after landing. With irrigation came tall rough surrounding narrow fairways. The course changed from a wide open “bomb it anywhere” course to more of a position course.

From 1977 to 1982, Bud Treacy, serving as publicity chairman, wrote the Club newsletter, *The Hillabaloo*. In 1982, Club President Tom Hart asked board member Jim Egan to take over *The Hillabaloo*, to which Egan agreed. Egan’s first edition was twenty-four pages long, and he went on to write many more editions until the early 1990s when Jim Luddy took over.

Club President Bill Healey hired Drew Bollard as General Manager in 1982. Bollard would become a fixture in the Club, staying on as General Manager until his retirement in 2009.

In 1987, Peter Looser became Club Treasurer, subsequently becoming Club President in 1990. He was known for his support of the swimming and diving programs at Westchester Hills, as well as his smile and upbeat mood. The Peter M. Looser Memorial Invitational swim meet is held each summer in his memory.

In 1988, Jim Egan bowled a near-perfect 278 in a Friday night mixed bowling match.



Bill Healey with Club Manager Drew Bollard (playing Santa Claus)



Helen Daly, wife of Club President Mike Daly, and Gera Looser, wife of Peter Looser

This was likely the highest score at the Westchester Hills lanes, although records were not maintained. Egan started with nine strikes, converted a split in the tenth frame, and ended with a strike.

Under Club President Lou Spizzirro and Golf Course Superintendent Matt Ceplo, the pond in front of the 6th green was completed in 1988. The new pond was named Treacy Pond in honor of Edgar Treacy Sr. The 6th green was reshaped, new bunkers were added, and a cart path

around the 6th green to the 7th tee was installed. Coupled with the startling landscape and blind drive at the 6th tee, these changes made this hole one of the most beautiful and challenging holes in Westchester County. An April 2008 article in *Westchester Magazine* called this hole a “daredevil’s delight,” stating that “a solid drive anywhere on the fairway on this classic risk-and-reward par 5 gives you the chance to justify that faith by bombing your second shot over the water and onto the green.”

In 1988, the Club celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary, with Bud Treacy chairing an Anniversary Committee. Bill Petti designed a seventy-fifth anniversary logo. Several events were held during the year, including an open house with free drinks and buffet dinner, a nostalgia night, a pro-am tournament, and a “Grand 75” event. At the nostalgia night, more than 200 present and former members gathered to look at old photos and videos. At the pro-am tournament, top-playing professionals from the area played with Westchester Hills members. Sixteen foursomes played, with a low professional score of 68 by Bobby Heins of Old Oaks.

The 1990s

Member interest in bowling declined in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s, the automatic pin-setting equipment needed to be replaced. Because



Peter Looser

of the high cost of new equipment and the declining interest in bowling, the Board decided to remove the bowling alley.

Despite the loss of the bowling alley, the Club in the 1990s was the social hub for members and their families. The main attractions were golf, cards, swimming, tennis, paddle tennis, and parties, though not necessarily in that order. Members generally ate at the Club after participating in activities. Ladies' golf was very active. Children grew up at the Club learning to swim, caddy, and play golf. Families played golf and socialized together. Participation on club committees was very high.

The card rooms were very active in the 1990s. There were daily games both upstairs and downstairs. In comparison, today only one card room is used and there are only a few card players.

In 1990, the Member Guest Tournament was renamed the William M. Healey Memorial Member Guest Championship, in memory of former Club President Bill Healey, who passed away in 1989.



Bud and Suzi Heithaus play golf with Bill and Ruth Healey.

In 1998, during Club President John Sheehan's tenure, the patio was built. Maintenance Chairman Jim Bilotta argued for the patio, designed it, and supervised its construction. He was strongly supported by Mike Labriola and Bill



Kenny's Corner, a former sitting area above the pool locker rooms

Egan. The patio made a big difference in the nature of the Club, and brought in significant new revenue. Prior to the patio, the only options for outdoor seating were the pool and "Kenny's Corner," an area above the pool dressing rooms named after member Tom Kenny. Members quickly began to enjoy lunch and cocktails on the patio, and it became the venue for many wonderful parties and golf ceremonies.



Members enjoy the original patio in 2009.



Members enjoy the renovated patio in 2012.



Joe Carducci, right, with locker room attendant Pepe Salazar and Club Manager Drew Bollard (playing Santa Claus)

Around this time, a new bathroom was constructed on the 13th hole after a fire destroyed the previous facility, which was behind the 12th green. In 1999, the 16th hole was improved when member Joe Carducci excavated a pond between the tee and the green.

Another important golf course improvement in the 1990s was the Cayman Driving Range, spearheaded by Kevin Morris. This addition allowed members to learn golf and warm up for a round in the restricted space that was available. In addition, a short-game practice area was built adjacent to the maintenance barn. At a golf course like Westchester Hills, short-game practice is critical to be competitive. The short-game practice area was later closed owing to construction of a new maintenance facility, but once construction was completed, a new and improved short-game practice area was built and remains a popular facility.



The short-game practice area, built in the 1990s

The 2000s

In 2000, the Club was thriving in the midst of a strong US economy. Under Club President Kevin Keane, a state-of-the-art dual-line irrigation system and pump station was installed on the golf course, a significant improvement over the original irrigation system installed in the early 1980s. The pool was renovated, including a heater for the main pool and a new wading pool with a mushroom. The Club was beginning to draw members from a wider geographical area, including New York City and Connecticut.

The paddle tennis courts were removed because of high maintenance costs and low utilization. The courts were replaced by the Upper Parking Lot, which provided much-needed additional parking spaces.



1999 Board of Governors: (back row) Vice President Tom Devine, President Kevin Keane, Brian O'Connor, Jim Rice, Joe Nardo; (front row) Mike Labriola, Mike Bisceglia, and Jim O'Connor



2011 photo of a "White Night" party at the pool

Everything changed on September 11, 2001. Terrorists from the Islamic militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets and intentionally flew two of the jets into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Both towers collapsed within two hours. The hijackers crashed another plane into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks. The 9/11 attacks were not only a personal disaster for people in the New York area, but they caused severe damage to local, national, and global economies, kicking off a string of financial crises that continue today. The country club industry saw a sharp decline in membership during this period. Between 2000 and 2007, the number of rounds of golf in the United States declined by a startling 25 percent. Westchester Hills and many other country clubs found themselves in a very difficult situation, with declining membership and lower spending by existing members.

In the early 2000s, under Club President Bob Lynch, a new maintenance facility was built between the 4th and 6th holes, replacing an old barn that had been acquired from the Saffords in 1913.

In 2006, Kevin Morris retired and was replaced by his assistant golf pro, Jason Gobleck, who became our fourth Head Golf Pro.

In 2008, the Club built its first website, www.WestchesterHills.org, in an effort led by member Chris Manning. The website was maintained for several years by member Steve Buckley and significantly upgraded in 2012, through marketing services provided by Troon Golf Management.



Fourth Head Golf Pro Jason Gobleck, right, at a Pro-President event with Bob Lynch

CHAPTER 3

A NEW BEGINNING

"In every crisis there is an opportunity."—Club President Mike Daly

In 1926, George Girard wrote an article in *Golf Illustrated* magazine about the new clubhouse at Westchester Hills entitled "Some Clever Financing." Girard wrote, "The Club owns 110 acres of land worth \$450,000, a new \$125,000 clubhouse, and a \$50,000 locker house, a total of \$625,000 that will be all free and clear in seven years time! It must be admitted that this is a wonderful accomplishment, when it is realized that the Club originally started with an obligation of \$275,000, and no money in the treasury."

History would repeat itself about eighty-five years later. As the 2011 golf season was winding to an end, it was becoming clear that Westchester Hills was at a crossroad. Membership had been steadily declining since 2007, and operating revenues were down. As a result of the national economic downturn, disposable family incomes for luxury expenditures like private club memberships were hit hard.

Nationwide, there was a 25 percent decline in the number of rounds of golf played in the first seven years of the new century. Many private clubs



This 2011 patio scene shows the old oak tree, which was removed in 2012.

were closing. It was clear that this trend was going to continue to affect Westchester Hills unless something bold and innovative was done—and fast!



Patio being prepared for renovation and new tree plantings

President Mike Daly and the Board of Governors held meetings to discuss the options available to them. There was no magic bullet, nothing that was guaranteed to work. In the membership decline since 2007, the Board had worked hard to trim operating expenses, but still Westchester Hills was losing ground. Spending was severely restricted on capital improvements, and a backlog of work to maintain the Club's appearance was placed on hold. The Board knew that the condition and appeal of the facility was starting to suffer.

In an effort to increase membership and bolster revenues, the Board had implemented various policies and incentives. One-year trial memberships were offered to new prospects, allowing them to defer the cost of the initiation fee until the following year if they chose to stay. To increase play and usage revenue, members were allowed to invite up to three guests but only pay greens fees for one.

Troubled by what they were witnessing, President Daly and the Board decided that a transition to a professionally run golf management company was advisable. Daly had become aware that certain companies specialized

in private club management and that they had dealt with many issues similar to those being faced by Westchester Hills. He proposed this alternative to the Board members, and they unanimously agreed to interview some companies to see what they had to offer.

In the summer of 2011, three of the largest and most successful golf management companies were contacted. President Daly spearheaded the search, later reflecting, "I did it the old-fashioned way. I looked up companies, called, and asked to speak to someone who could help us. I was selling what Westchester Hills had to offer." One of the companies contacted, Troon Golf Management, was the largest golf management company in the world, with more than two hundred managed properties accumulated over twenty-one years in the business. Troon presented



New handicap accessible ramp being graded



New clubhouse steps being built

the Club with an opportunity to hire a renowned golf management company that successfully operated top-notch golf clubs throughout the world. While the Board was considering which direction to take the Club, something totally unexpected was about to happen in parallel.

Starting in 2001, Westchester Hills played its golf club neighbor across the street, the Ridgeway Country Club, in an annual grudge match known as the Gedney Farms Cup. In 2009, declining membership at Ridgeway Country Club led to the cancellation of this match. To replace it, Westchester Hills instituted

a Ryder Cup-themed tournament in September 2009, dubbed the 1913 Cup. The 1913 Cup quickly became a favorite event for club members, with players assigned to teams representing the countries of the world, competing in four different golf formats over a two-day period for large cash prizes.

Immediately after the 1913 Cup concluded in September 2011, something amazing was set in motion. Members Mark Stagg, Kevin O'Shea, and Rich Sages huddled together on the patio, pondering the idea of renovations and improvements to the Club that could be made with the involvement and participation of the members. Collectively they felt that they could make an impact, and they knew that they were

running out of time. They felt inspired to do something.

Stagg and O'Shea approached President Daly on the patio. They told him that they had a plan to make some renovations at the Club. Since both Stagg and O'Shea had expertise in the construction industry, they offered their time, knowledge, and resources. They told Daly that they could put together a group of members that would put up the capital to fund the work. Daly was intrigued. The Board members knew that the Club needed to make improvements to appeal to new members, but they also knew the Club



Grand Room immediately after the drop ceiling was removed

lacked the financial resources to make it happen. Daly saw this proposal as the opportunity the Club desperately needed and the one that the Board had been looking for.

President Daly presented the proposal at the next board meeting in October to a receptive Board. Over the next few weeks, Stagg and O'Shea were given an opportunity to present their plan. Three areas of the facility were going to be addressed. It was known that the large oak tree that served as the focal point for the patio had been declared dying and unsafe by an arborist. Stagg and O'Shea's plan for the patio was to remove the tree and the existing slate and build a new patio that would extend from the Pro Shop over to the 1st tee. The 1st tee would be rebuilt so that it was accessible from the side and not the front of the tee complex. It was proposed that additional work to the tee boxes would be done throughout the course and certain trees would be removed to allow for better air flow and healthier grass conditions. Finally, O'Shea discussed his idea to completely renovate the pool locker room facility. Stagg and O'Shea proposed a modest budget as the amount necessary to handle the work. It



Bar area gutted and ready for restoration

was revealed that some of the members were interested in contributing financially to the project.

The Board carefully considered what Stagg and O'Shea had proposed. President Daly was very concerned about the structuring of the member advances that were to be used to pay for the project. After consideration of numerous aspects of the proposal, it was decided that any contributions received from members would be reimbursed as prepaid dues in future years. Seeing this as an incredible opportunity and knowing that doing nothing was not an option, the Board approved the plan to move forward with the projects. Daly asked two of the Board members, Tom Devine and Rocco Sollecito, to oversee the work on behalf of the Board and to report back to him with regular periodic updates. With the hiring of Troon looming, the second major piece of the revitalization of Westchester Hills was now in place.

After receiving the approval to move forward, Stagg and O'Shea quickly assembled their team of contractors, and the work began on November 5, 2011. The first contractor to arrive on the scene was member Luigi Borrello. Borrello and his team were asked to work on the 5th tee box, and they



Kevin O'Shea reviews architectural plans.



Grand Room being framed out for finishing

expertly built a stone pathway to the tee. Borrello's team went on to perform much of the exterior work that was done, including all the stone work on the golf course, the front entry into the Club, the landscaping of the entrance circle, and the 1st tee box. Also instrumental in this phase of the work was member Jim Amodio, who supplied many of the trees, shrubs, and plantings that adorned the grounds.

The old oak tree on the patio was removed. Rather than patching the current footprint, Stagg and O'Shea wished to extend the patio to the Pro Shop. This would increase the capacity of the patio and create a much nicer transition from the patio to the clubhouse and locker room. Rocco Bellantoni, 2009 Club Champion, was called upon to rebuild the patio. Governor Sollecito, assisted by his father, Michael, took responsibility for rebuilding the staircase from the patio to the clubhouse.

Remarkably, during the period when this exterior work was being done, the Northeast was experiencing one of the mildest winters on record. It was as if divine intervention had been granted to Westchester Hills. The extremely mild weather conditions allowed a huge amount of work to be done in a short period of time.

O'Shea and his team began to demolish and rebuild the old pool locker rooms. For many years this part of the Club had been neglected, and members who utilized the pool frequently complained about the conditions. There was no doubt that a complete overhaul of this facility would increase the appeal of the Club. This phase of the project would not have been possible without the generosity of O'Shea. "He donated all the stone and materials," said Tom Devine. This work led to the Club offering private pool-only memberships in 2012, a new starting point for prospective members. This work was completed in time for the grand reopening of the pool over the 2012 Memorial Day weekend.

While the outside work progressed, a newly formed Marketing Committee under the direction of member Frank Sampogna and board member Steve Buckley met to discuss ideas to increase membership. This committee had an immediate and profound impact on the new direction of the Club. They discussed the need for a modernized club website. They felt



A view of the barrel ceiling, soon to be the focal point of the new Grand Room



Grand Room starting to take shape with the finishing millwork

that the improvements being made to the Club needed to be promoted to the members so that they would spread the word to prospective members. They discussed the idea of a Member Appreciation Night. Buckley successfully pitched this idea to the Board. On the evening of December 2, 2011, more than two hundred members attended the first-ever Member Appreciation Night. President Daly addressed the members and announced the renovation plans. Stagg and O'Shea were both on hand, and they explained the architectural plans and the changes to the patio and pool locker rooms. For the first time, the membership had an opportunity to see the changes that were being made. The members were excited.

In early December, while Stagg and Sollecito were in Florida with several other members for a pro-am tournament, they discussed the possibility of expanding the renovation work to include a facelift of the clubhouse. The clubhouse at Westchester Hills had not been renovated for decades and was



Terrace Room ceiling opened, awaiting new electrical and air conditioning



Governors Rocco Sollecito and Tom Devine address the membership regarding the status of the renovation.

considered outdated. For the benefit of the current members and in order to compete with other clubs for new members, an attractive clubhouse was needed. Stagg and Sollecito asked fellow member Steve McCloskey if he could lend his expertise in interior design and renovation. McCloskey agreed to get involved after the “passionate appeal that Mark made to me.”

McCloskey evaluated the interior space to determine what could be done in a cost-effective way. He created a line item budget for this additional project that addressed the work that he proposed. President Daly said that McCloskey opened up some ceiling tiles and “got me up on a ladder; which considering I hate ladders wasn’t an easy thing to do, to take a look at the grand ceiling that rose above it.” McCloskey and Sollecito advocated the removal of the old drop ceiling that had been installed in the 1960s to hide new air conditioning ducts. They wanted to expose the original barrel ceiling designed by noted architect Frank Moore in 1926. Daly poked his head through the tiles and with a flashlight was able to catch a glimpse of what could become a spectacular and dramatic focal point for the renovated clubhouse. In addition to



Kevin O’Shea, Jim Scully, Carol Servidio, Governor Rocco Sollecito, and Governor Nick Boncardo

the hidden barrel ceiling, most club members were unaware that there was a huge fireplace in the clubhouse because it too had been covered up at some point. Member Bob Landry brought this fact to light as he recalled his wedding reception at Westchester Hills in 1959. Landry and his wife, Lou, have photographs of that event in front of the fireplace.

With some slight urging and the promise that additional funds would be raised to fund the additional projects, the go-ahead was given for a total restoration of the clubhouse. What started initially as a minor facelift to the Club now had grown in scope to a huge project, one that was certain to catch the eye of prospective new members.

On January 5, 2012, Rob DeMore and Jarrad Evans of Troon Golf Management appeared before the membership of Westchester Hills. Their presentation outlined the benefits of having their company manage the Club. Troon has special expertise in marketing private golf clubs to prospective new members, which Westchester Hills desperately needed. Troon promised a sophisticated, professional, and systematic approach to private golf facility



New bar area ready for action

management at a level unsurpassed in the golf industry. Beyond that, under Troon, Westchester Hills members would have access to a large number of golf courses that Troon manages across the world, at significantly discounted rates. The members voted to authorize the Board to hire Troon. On

February 1, 2012, Troon Golf Management, under the oversight of the Board, began to manage the Westchester Hills Golf Club.

As the mild winter continued, member Jim Scully and his professional construction team coordinated the increasingly complex set of projects. The

New Round Room ready for the Ladies Holiday Social



New Terrace Room set up for a party



New Grand Room in December 2012



View of the clubhouse from the putting green

drop ceiling in the Grand Room was removed, and the soaring barrel ceiling was exposed. The trophy cabinet that covered the original brick fireplace was removed. The carpets were pulled up, and every inch of the building was methodically prepared for total renovation.





The 2012 Westchester Hills Swim Team is shown enjoying the renovated pool facilities.



Jim Amodio, who supplied many trees, shrubs, and plantings, with Governor Dan McLaughlin

Between February and March of 2012, the work inside the clubhouse progressed at lightning speed. For the first time in many decades, every facet of the building's infrastructure was addressed. The clubhouse was once again a top-notch facility. The details included new electrical, heating, and air-conditioning systems; sound and alarm systems; hardwood flooring; custom millwork; granite bar tops and serving areas; flat screen televisions; and elegant chandeliers to hang from the beautiful barrel ceiling. The Round Room and the Terrace Room were dramatically upgraded with custom millwork and moldings. A new bar was built and the Bar Room was opened up, allowing greater views of the 1st tee and a panoramic view of the beautiful grounds. The Grand Room was transformed from a dark and dingy space to a vibrant and inviting space for members and guests to enjoy. According to

Governor Sollecito, "We blended a modernization with a classical look that I think will stand the test of time." As the final touches were put into place, there was an immediate surge in the scheduling of parties and events for the 2012 season.

On March 19, 2012, the members were invited to the Club to preview the work that was being done. Many members had not been at the Club since the holiday season concluded. They were astonished at the transformation that the Club had undergone in just a short period of time. President Daly addressed the audience and discussed, among other things, the findings of the recent survey conducted by Troon Golf Management. New General Manager Jack Hrad was introduced, and he spoke about the goals that Troon had for the upcoming season. Stagg and Governor Sollecito discussed the work that was scheduled to be completed by Opening Day. The excitement of the members in response to the new Westchester Hills was tangible. As springtime approached, the exterior of the building was painted for the first time in many years. Governor Devine said,

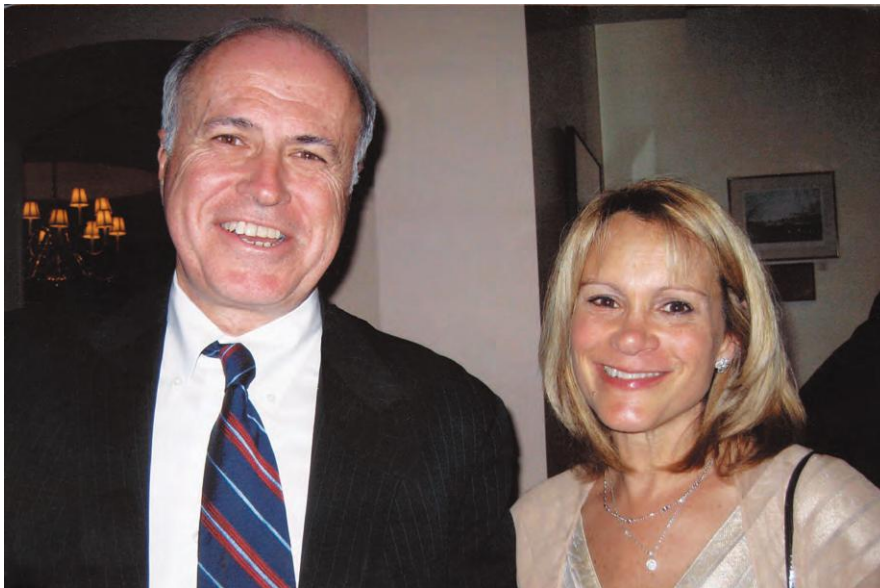
"The Gisondi family really made it happen for us. They handled all the finishing touches for the Club. From Peter Sr., to John, to Peter Jr., they were incredible."

With Troon now in place and the renovation work quickly heading toward completion, plans were being made for a grand opening celebration. General Manager Hrad and longtime maitre d' and Food and Beverages Manager Helio Echeverry worked with their staff to plan out the special night. New executive chef Saul Schwartz worked on the menu. Invitations were sent out, and the response from the membership was overwhelming.

On April 19, 2012, Westchester Hills was ready to unveil its new clubhouse and grounds. More than 220 members attended the very special evening. A club with a declining membership and a tired old facility had been



Club President Mike Daly addresses the membership in the new clubhouse.



Jim O'Brien, who donated his legal services to support many of the recent projects and actions, with Theresa McKeown

transformed in just a few months! At the heart of this transformation was the amazing dedication of the Club members to save their club. In looking back on the project, President Daly said, "I think the Club looks tremendous; but what I honestly find more overwhelming than the actual physical changes is the fact that this was member-driven. Members made the proposal; members were willing to give us supplies; members gave their time and effort at cost or close to cost. To me this was the most outstanding aspect because it speaks volumes of Westchester Hills. It speaks volumes of our tradition, and it speaks volumes of our members. To me, that is even a greater accomplishment than the project itself."

In 2012, Westchester Hills celebrated a new beginning. With a new website, the marketing expertise of Troon Golf Management, and the support of club membership, seventy-nine new members joined the Club. Their excitement beautifully compliments the spirit of the existing members. The Club that was founded in 1913 is now alive and well heading into its centennial year. With the members that we have at Westchester Hills, the second century of the Club is likely to be even better than the first.

CHAPTER 4

GOLF

This chapter describes the Club's iconic golf pros, its beautiful and challenging golf course, and its talented golf champions.

Men's Club Champions by Year

Year	Winner					
1916	Jay Jones		1935	Albert Haigh	1954	Jim Hoagg
1917	Ensign Conklin		1936	William Bengert	1955	John Rago
1918	Charles Paul		1937	Donald Jones	1956	Jim Hoagg
1919	Charles Paul		1938	Ray Townsend	1957	Phil Santora
1920	Charles Paul		1939	William Bengert	1958	Jim Hoagg
1921	Charles Paul		1940	Joseph Mitchell	1959	Cliff Sharp Jr.
1922	Ensign Conklin		1941	Ray Townsend	1960	Tom Luddy
1923	Charles Paul		1942	Richard Dalglish	1961	Tom Luddy
1924	Russell Neale		1943	Robinson Murray	1962	Jim Hoagg
1925	William Doggett		1944	Charles Sticklen	1963	Tom Luddy
1926	George Brush		1945	Donald Aldrich	1964	Phil Santora
1927	Albert Haigh		1946	Richard Dalglish	1965	Ron Mahood
1928	Albert Haigh		1947	Hubert Duffy	1966	John Rago
1929	Albert Haigh		1948	Hubert Duffy	1967	Phil Santora
1930	William Bengert		1949	John Rago	1968	Ron Mahood
1931	Richard Jones Jr.		1950	Jim Hoagg	1969	Edward Sutton
1932	Richard Jones Jr.		1951	Jim Hoagg	1970	Edward Sutton
1933	William Kane		1952	Phil Santora	1971	Ray Noletti
1934	William Kane		1953	Phil Santora	1972	Stephen Lent

Men's Club Champions by Year continued

1973	Peter Cirocco	1987	Mike Henderson	2001	Chris Damiano
1974	Frank DiGilio	1988	Bill Egan	2002	Chris Damiano
1975	Charles Hansen	1989	John Hamilton	2003	Chris Damiano
1976	Richard Oleson	1990	John Hamilton	2004	Max Buckley
1977	Charles Hansen	1991	John Hamilton	2005	Max Buckley
1978	John Rago	1992	Dan Patti	2006	Max Buckley
1979	John Zeiss	1993	Ken Irving Jr.	2007	James Marchewka
1980	Bill Cook	1994	John Hamilton	2008	Bill Falvey
1981	Bill Cook	1995	Ken Irving Jr.	2009	Rocco Bellantoni
1982	Steve Heffering	1996	Eric Kullberg	2010	Steve Sherwood
1983	Lou Spizzirro	1997	John Hamilton	2011	Mark Stagg
1984	Mike Henderson	1998	John Hamilton	2012	Tyler Stagg
1985	Frank Bense Jr.	1999	Ken Irving Jr.		
1986	Mike Henderson	2000	Chris Damiano		

Ladies Club Champions by Year

Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner	Runner-Up
1920	Martha Parker	Mrs. W. H. Watson	1934	Mrs. Maynard Holt	Mrs. Mark McGarry
1921	Martha Parker	Mrs. Muriel Campbell	1935	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	
1922	Martha Parker		1936	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	Mrs. Don Crawford
1923	Martha Parker		1937	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	
1924	Martha Parker		1938	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	
1925	Martha Parker		1939	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	
1926	Martha Parker	Mrs. Muriel Campbell	1940	Mrs. Vernon Brooks	
1927	Mrs. G. W. Stearns		1941	Mrs. Archie McLave	Mrs. Richard Dalglish
1928	Ellen Parker		1942	Mrs. L. F. Beard	Mrs. D. Berry
1929	Ellen Parker		1943	Mrs. Richard Dalglish	Ethel Wetter
1930	Mrs. Colvin Farley	Mrs. Maynard Holt	1944	Margaret Hanselman	Mrs. Vernon Brooks
1931	Mrs. M. F. Holt	Mrs. Mark McGarry	1945	Alice Whitehead	Margaret Hanselman
1932	Mrs. Mark McGarry	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	1946	Mrs. Donald Aldrich	Alice Whitehead
1933	Mrs. Mark McGarry	Mrs. Emmet Whalen	1947	Elaine Timme	Alice Whitehead

Ladies Club Champions by Year continued

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
1948	Barbara Bruning	Mrs. Donald Aldrich
1949	Jay Erbeck	Alice Whitehead
1950	Alice Whitehead	
1951	Margaret Hanselman	Jay Erbeck
1952	Jay Erbeck	Alice Whitehead
1953	Margaret Hanselman	
1954	Alice Whitehead	
1955	Alice Whitehead	Margaret Hanselman
1956	Alice Whitehead	Grace Litterer
1957	Jay Erbeck	Grace Litterer
1958	Alice Whitehead	Margaret Hanselman
1959	Ces Harper	Grace Litterer
1960	Ces Harper	
1961	Ces Harper	Alice Whitehead
1962	Ces Harper	Jay Erbeck
1963	Alice Whitehead	Jay Erbeck
1964	Jay Erbeck	Ces Harper
1965	Ces Harper	Alice Whitehead
1966	Alice Whitehead	Phyllis Schofield
1967	Ces Harper	Alice Whitehead
1968	Ces Harper	Alice Whitehead
1969	Connie Brown	Ida Rovegno
1970	Ces Harper	Connie Brown
1971	Connie Brown	Ces Harper
1972	Connie Brown	Mrs. George deBary
1973	Connie Brown	Alice Whitehead
1974	Connie Brown	Ida Rovegno
1975	Connie Brown	Helen Kervan
1976	Connie Brown	Ida Rovegno
1977	Helen Kervan	Helene Fennell
1978	Connie Brown	Ida Rovegno
1979	Connie Brown	Ida Rovegno
1980	Ida Rovegno	Connie Brown

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
1981	Helen Kervan	Mary Marino
1982	Helen Kervan	Momoko Shirakura
1983	Maria Ciaravino	Momoko Shirakura
1984	Maria Ciaravino	Lorraine Houlahan
1985	Lorraine Houlahan	
1986	Linda Hubbard	
1987	Linda Hubbard	
1988	Linda Hubbard	
1989	Lorraine Houlahan	
1990	Linda Hubbard	
1991	Linda Hubbard	
1992	Cecilia Pak	
1993	Linda Hubbard	
1994	Linda Hubbard	
1995	Sr. Cecile	
1996	Sr. Cecile	
1997	Mary Marino	
1998	Sr. Cecile	Lynn Cullen
1999	Sr. Cecile	
2000	Sr. Cecile	
2001	Sr. Cecile	
2002	Sr. Cecile	
2003	Sr. Cecile	
2004	Laura Algiero	Sr. Cecile
2005	Laura Algiero	Sr. Cecile
2006	Laura Algiero	Sr. Cecile
2007	Laura Algiero	Donna Bianca
2008	Laura Algiero	
2009	Laura Algiero	
2010	Laura Algiero	Barbara Paonessa
2011	Barbara Paonessa	Nancy Barry
2012	Barbara Paonessa	Sr. Cecile

The Golf Pros

Amazingly, Westchester Hills has had only four Head Golf Pros in its one-hundred-year history. This section profiles each of these special individuals who have had a profound effect on the Club.

Peter Clark worked for seven years as a golf club maker in Musselburgh, Scotland, before immigrating to the United States in 1897. He designed the golf course for the nearby Century Country Club in 1898 and became their first Head Golf Pro. In 1913, Club Founder Robert Farley hired Clark to design our golf course and become our first Head Golf Pro. Farley also hired legendary golf course architect Donald Ross to advise Clark in the golf course design. Clark was also assisted in golf course decisions by Dr. D. Austin Sniffen, a local dentist who served as Greens Chairman for many of his thirty-four years in the Club.

Later on, Clark wrote the following account of the golf course construction:

In March 1913, I laid out our eighteen-hole course and started actual building work on April 1st for the first nine holes. These holes were ready for play in October of 1913 and were the same layout as our present first nine. When first opened these holes were in fairly good shape considering the short time the seed had been planted. Number six was built through swamp and woods and was by far the most costly hole on the course. These nine holes were carefully handled and their condition improved steadily, because the play was not heavy and the fairways had a good chance to mature. Election Day of 1913, I well remember as being the "Big Day" of the first season, and it seemed we were headed for success. In the fall of 1913 we started construction work on five additional holes, working all winter and had them in shape ready for play in September 1914. Our success seemed nearer. These five holes correspond



First Head Golf Pro Peter Clark is on the left.

to our present numbers 10, 11, 12, 17, and 18, and were you to play these 14 holes by our present numbers the rotation would be the first seven, then the 12th, 17th, 18th, 10th, 11th, 8th, and 9th. To complete the full 18 we doubled on the first four holes. These fourteen holes received continuous and careful attention and later on in 1914 we started work on the other four. Here was real difficulty, as we had quite a problem getting the fall for the drainage. The mound short of the green going to the present 13th hole was used as a dumping place for all the rakings and rocks from the swamp and other holes, and when finally covered with soil and grass it added greatly to the layout, and eventually made one of the best holes on the course. These four holes were finished and the full eighteen holes were opened for play in July 1915. Our success had almost arrived. Every year added improvements have been

made, such as water pipes to all of the greens, putting in bunkers and sand pits, or altering old ones, additional drainage, etc., also larger tees on every hole.

In 1916, the Third Annual Report of the Board of Governors stated, "Golf players visiting the course for the first time are usually much surprised and gratified to find it in such excellent condition after so short a time, and most of the credit for this is due to the faithful and competent service of Mr. Clark. Defects are being sought and remedied as promptly as possible, and there is very little criticism of the course."

Clark also designed the golf course across the street from ours, which opened in 1923, under the name Gedney Farm Golf Course. In 1952, that golf course was renamed Ridgeway Country Club. In 2011, it was closed after the property was sold to the French American School of New York.

Peter's starting salary was \$75 per month plus \$20 for housing. He provided golf instruction to the Club members and to nearby residents; it was written that his pupils included members of an old Mamaroneck motion picture colony operated by D.W. Griffith.



Jack Sabol stands tall in a white jacket at the 1966 Governors Day.



Jack Sabol with his wife (left) and Marty and Bruce Lent in the 1970s

In 1937, Peter Clark died suddenly at the age of sixty-two. A memorial tournament was held for the benefit of Peter's widow. Forty-seven members participated in the tournament and fifty others sent donations; a total of \$605 was raised.

Jack Sabol was a Yonkers native who got his start in the game as a caddie at what is now Lake Isle Country Club (originally Mount Vernon Country Club). In 1926, Peter Clark hired Sabol as an assistant golf pro at Westchester Hills. Sabol won many local tournaments, and in 1929, he played in the US Open at Winged Foot, which was won by Bobby Jones. In 1936 Sabol shot 63 to set the Westchester Hills course record at that time, which stood for sixty-two years! During the record-setting round, Sabol aced the par 3 16th hole.

When Peter Clark died in 1937, Sabol was promoted and became our second Head Golf Pro. Sabol was loved by everyone, and highly respected for his ability to teach golf. He was especially good at teaching juniors and ladies. In fact, ladies from outside the Club such as New York State champion Kay Burn would come to Westchester Hills to receive instruction from him.

When World War II ended in 1945, the Club was suffering. Sabol had other opportunities but chose to stick with Westchester Hills during this difficult period. A Jack Sabol Day was held in 1945, saluting him for his twenty years of service. More than \$1,700 was raised and presented to him.

In 1951, the Club held a daylong gala recognizing Sabol's twenty-five years of service to the Club. In 1956, his close friend Buddy Mitchell died on the 18th hole at Westchester Country Club while playing a pro-am with him. Mitchell and Sabol had enjoyed hunting and fishing together. In the late 1950s, Sabol developed back problems and his playing time became limited and painful. He continued to play in pro-ams despite the pain. He was known as the pro with the shortest backswing owing to his back ailment.

In 1960, Sabol was named the Metropolitan PGA Golf Professional of the Year. Sabol served both the Metropolitan and Westchester PGA organizations for many years as secretary and treasurer. He later served as President of the Westchester PGA.

In recognition of his forty years of service, Sabol was made an honorary life member of Westchester Hills in 1965. A party was held in his honor with

200 members, guests, and friends in attendance. Bud Treacy was the master of ceremonies. Sabol was presented with a substantial check.

In 1977, Sabol retired after more than forty years as Head Golf Pro and more than fifty years on the golf staff. Club President Bob Landry stated, "Jack was a class act whom everyone loved."

Treacy considered Sabol a mentor and a friend, saying, "Westchester Hills was home to me. I was almost brought up here. Jack Sabol was a big part of that."



A sketch of Kevin Morris (Frank Becerra)



Like his predecessor, Kevin Morris stands tall in a white jacket at the 1987 Governors Day.

Kevin Morris was the son of a New York City fire captain, growing up in the Bronx and Connecticut. His early golf instruction came from his father and at Silver Springs Golf Club in Ridgefield, Connecticut, where he caddied and played. He took lessons from Harry Cooper at Metropolis Country Club. He went to the University of Florida where he played on an undefeated team that won the SEC Championship and the 1973 NCAA Championship.



Kevin Morris hits a drive at a recent club event.

That team included future PGA tour pros Andy Bean, Gary Koch, Woody Blackburn, and Phil Hancock. The team missed repeating as NCAA champions in 1974 when Curtis Strange of Wake Forest eagled the final hole.

When Jack Sabol retired in 1977, Club President Bob Landry led a committee that performed an intensive search to find the third Head Golf Pro. More than eighty resumes were examined; over time, the list was narrowed down to Morris, a talented twenty-six-year-old who at that point was an assistant pro at Mt. Kisco Country Club.

Morris chose the Westchester Hills job over a career as a playing professional. Landry wanted a club pro who could play in tournaments and bring publicity to the Club, which Morris did very well, playing in five PGA Champion-

ships and one US Open, and on two PGA Cup teams. He won many local tournaments, including the Met PGA Championship in 1984 at Bethpage Black, and the Westchester PGA in 1984, 1986, and 1996. He was honored as the Met PGA Player of the Year in 1984 and 1985. He was a great teacher and a strong proponent of the Junior Golf program.

In 1998, Morris shot 62 at Westchester Hills to break the sixty-two-year-old course record set by his predecessor, Jack Sabol.

Morris enjoyed playing in pro-ams with members such as Frank Bense, Joe Christiano, Vic Pizzolato, Bill Mangold, Jim Rice, Mark Stagg, Greg Myers, and Ian Buckley. They played pro-ams locally and traveled to places like Atlantic City, Bermuda, Mexico, and Ireland.

Morris loved Westchester Hills and stayed on as Head Golf Pro until his retirement in 2006. Morris gave a lot of credit for his success to his staff, especially to Assistant Golf Pro Joe Girardi and General Manager Drew Bollard. Bud Treacy said, "Kevin is one of the nicest guys I've ever met. He is the kind of guy you'd want as a roommate." Treacy used to say that Kevin was the best thing to happen to Westchester Hills since the back nine was completed.



Members enjoy the 19th hole at a pro-am in Ireland.

In 2006, Westchester Hills held a retirement dinner for Morris. One hundred eighty members and guests attended. Club President Bill Susetka presided as master of ceremonies, and longtime members Bob Landry and Bud Treacy delivered heartfelt speeches.

In 2006, Morris was given the Metropolitan PGA Junior Golf Leader Award.



Jason Gobleck with the 18ers in 2010

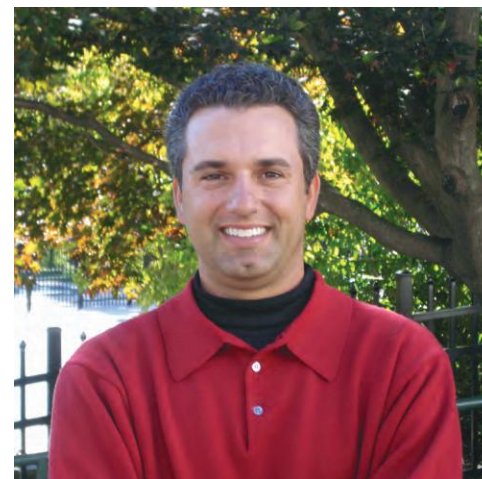
Jason Gobleck was born just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He learned the game of golf in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, area where he moved at the age of ten. He played four years of golf at Miramar High School. After high school, he played two years at Broward College, earning most valuable player honors. Gobleck's professional career started in South Florida as an Assistant Pro at the Presidential Country Club in North Miami Beach and the Bonaventure Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. He traveled to the Stowe Country Club in Stowe, Vermont, during the summer months to teach at its golf schools. In 1998, Gobleck came to the New York area to work at the Apawamis Club as assistant pro. In 2002, Kevin Morris hired him as Assistant Pro at Westchester Hills.

During his years as assistant pro, Gobleck worked closely with Morris to develop and improve the rapidly growing junior program at the Club. After Morris retired at the end of the 2006 season, Gobleck was promoted to become

the fourth Head Golf Pro. Gobleck has continued to improve the junior program as well as the member tournaments, golf shop operations, and member relations.

Gobleck was a three-time winner on the Met PGA Assistants Tour and was selected to the Assistants Squire Cup Team in 2001. In 2006 Gobleck and Club President Bill Susetka won the 2006 Pro-President event. In 2009 Gobleck and board member Bob Carlisto were winners of the same event. In 2007, Gobleck and Ladies' Club Champion Laura Algiero won the 2007 Pro-Lady Championship. Gobleck had a hole-in-one on the 5th hole in 2010. His personal best score at the Club is 64, three strokes off the current record.

Gobleck currently lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut, with his wife, Mary Kate, and two girls, Walsh and Millie.



Jason Gobleck, the fourth Head Golf Pro



Bill Susetka and Jason Gobleck, the winning team in the 2006 Pro-President event

The Golf Course

This section provides a guided tour of the Westchester Hills golf course.



Hole 1: The opening hole is a medium-length par 4 that plays from a slightly elevated tee to a level fairway that is bunkered right and left. The small,

firm green is well bunkered on both sides and behind. The green is very undulating, making par a good score.



Hole 2

Hole 2: This long par 4 slopes downhill with a slight dogleg to the right. A well-positioned drive down the left center of the fairway is required to avoid the large tree on the right side of the hole. The second shot is slightly

downhill to a flat green that is guarded by bunkers on both sides. Par is a very good score on this hole.



Hole 3: The first par 3 on the course is an uphill shot that plays one more club than the yardage. The only bunker the player can see is at the top of the hill and is well short of the green, allowing for a run-up shot if desired. Blind

bunkers to the left and right of the green will catch any shot slightly off-line. The green is tilted from back to front and is quite slick.



Hole 4

Hole 4: The number one handicap hole is a long straightaway par 4. Two long and accurate shots are required to reach this green in regulation. Players unable to reach the green in two must avoid the bunker on the left

side of the fairway 100 yards from the green. Players going for the green in two must be wary of the deep bunker to the left of the green and the hedge of bushes behind the green.



Hole 5: This is a long par 3 with water dangerously close to the right of the green. Aim at the left edge of the green, as the fairway and green are sloped to the right toward the water hazard. Players bailing out too far left will find

a very tricky downhill chip to a green sloping away toward the water hazard. It is time to be brave and hit a good shot.



Hole 6

Hole 6: This par 5 is a true risk-reward hole. The blind tee shot must be hit long and straight to catch the down slope in the fairway. Longer players can go for the green in two but must hit a solid shot off a downhill lie to carry the pond in front of the green. Players laying up with their second shots will

want to hit the fairway, as the rough on the right and left side is very thick and will bring the pond very much into play. The green is one of the most undulating on the course.



Hole 7

Hole 7: Do not let the short length of this hole fool you; this is one of the most difficult par 4s on the course. The tee shot requires an accurate shot through a chute to a narrow fairway. The second shot is a very challenging

shot to one of the smallest greens on the course, which is very firm and surrounded by bunkers.



Hole 8: This straightaway par 5 is your best chance for birdie on the front 9. Long hitters go for the green in two. Accuracy is required off the tee to avoid the fairway bunkers left and right. On the second shot, players must decide whether to fly the cross bunker that sits 100 yards short of the

green. Players able to get over the bunker in two and in the fairway will have a nice look at the green for their third shot. Players laying up short of the bunker will face a blind uphill shot to the green.



Hole 9: This is a short par 4 that offers many options off the tee. Players may hit a driver to get as close as possible to the green, but the drive must be straight as the fairway narrows near the green. Players may also lay back

to the widest part of the fairway and play a full shot into the green. Only the longest of hitters will be able to carry the large bunker and drive the green. The large green is very undulating and requires an accurate read.



Hole 10

Hole 10: The back nine opens with a long straightaway par 4. The tee shot should favor the right side of the fairway to allow for a strong left kick. A cross bunker thirty yards short of the green comes into play for some

players, who must decide whether to go for the green or lay up short of the bunker. The undulating green is one of the most difficult on the course, continually fooling many of the members.



Hole 11

Hole 11: This is a medium-length par 4 played from a slightly elevated tee to an inviting fairway. Two cross bunkers sit about seventy yards from the

green and should be avoided. The approach shot to the green is quite narrow with deep bunkers to the left and right of the green.



Hole 12: This is the most difficult par 3 on the course. The tee shot plays over 200 yards to a small green protected by a large bunker short right of the green and another to the left. The green features a small shelf in the

middle that slopes off to the left and right, adding to the challenge. Par is a very good score on this hole.



Hole 13

Hole 13: This is a straight medium-length par 4 that plays long. The tee shot plays to a fairway that ends 220 yards off the tee. The blind second shot plays

over a rocky ridge to a small green. This is another undulating green that will require a good read.



Hole 14

Hole 14: This medium-length par 3 plays at least one extra club up the hill to a tiny green. Deep bunkers left and right of the green will catch any shot

slightly off-line. The green is sloped severely from back to front, requiring a great touch with the putter.



Hole 15

Hole 15: This par 4 is one of the most picturesque on the course. The tee shot is played from an elevated tee down to the fairway. Players need to avoid the narrow stream that crosses the fairway about fifty yards short of

the green. The rough around this small green is quite thick, making chipping very difficult.



Hole 16

Hole 16: This is a short par 3 played from an elevated tee to a large green. The tee shot must carry a pond and a large bunker short of the green. With

a good shot, the player will have a good chance of making a birdie on this hole.



Hole 17: This is a straightaway par 5. Avoid the right rough, as balls tend to kick toward out-of-bounds. Long hitters may be able to reach the green in two. Average hitters lay back and need a full shot to reach the green in

regulation. The front right portion of the green slopes severely to the front and should be avoided.



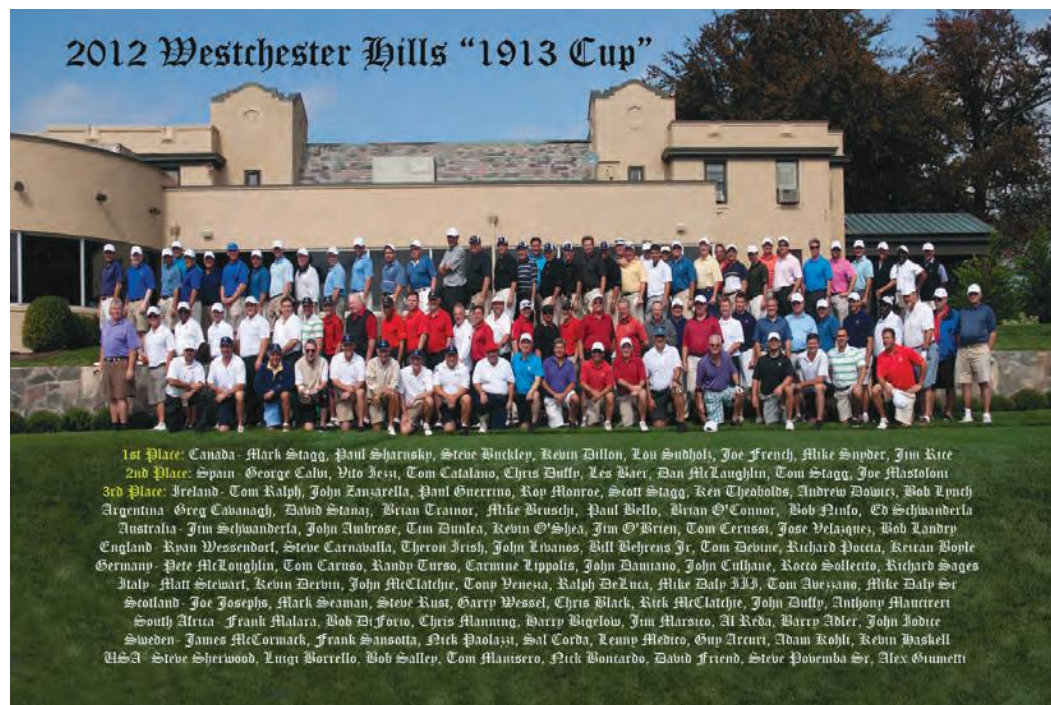
Hole 18

Hole 18: The final hole is a short par 4 with a dogleg to the left that requires accurate placement of the tee shot. For the best shot into the green, place your drive over the bunker on the left and short of the bunker on the right. The second shot is made to a slightly elevated green that is

protected by deep bunkers left and right and a steep downhill slope toward out-of-bounds behind the green. This is another green that is sloped from back to front and is very fast.

Men's Golf

Since 1916, the marquee golfing event at Westchester Hills each year is the Club Championship. This grueling, intensely competitive event begins in late August with a thirty-six-hole medal play competition to determine the fifteen qualifiers for the Championship Division. The sixteenth qualifier



The participants in the 2012 "1913 Cup" Tournament

is the previous year's Club Champion, who gets an automatic no. 1 seed. The Championship Division then begins a match play competition that culminates on Labor Day with the two finalists playing a thirty-six-hole match to determine the year's champion.

Jay Jones was the first Club Champion in 1916. Ensign Conklin beat Jones to win in 1917. Charles Paul went on a four-year streak to win from 1918 to 1921. Ensign Conklin beat Paul in 1922 to get his second victory. Paul regained the championship in 1923. Russell Neale, William



Richard Jones Jr., 1931–33 Club Champion

Doggett, and junior golfer George Brush won in 1924–26, respectively, and then Albert Haigh went on a three year run from 1927 to 1929. William Benger won in 1930 and again in 1936 and 1939. Junior golfer Richard Jones Jr. won two in a row in 1931 and 1932, and William Kane did the same in 1933 and 1934. Haigh picked up his fourth victory in 1935.

A list of the low handicaps at the Club in 1922 includes many of the champion golfers: Charles Paul (2), Ensign Conklin (6), Albert Haigh (7), Richard Jones Jr. (8), L. C. Dalley (8), Jay Jones (10), J. M. Hobbs (10), George Brush (11), and Russell Neale (11).

In 1937, Vernon Brooks made the only known hole-in-one on the par 4 18th hole.

In 1942, Richard Dalgleish won the Club Championship, and in 1943, his wife won the Ladies Club Championship. They were the first married couple to accomplish this feat at Westchester Hills. Donald Aldrich and his wife accomplished the same thing three years later. Richard Dalgleish won again in 1946.

From 1949 to 1964, four men won nearly all of the Club Championships: Phil Santora, John Rago, Jim Hoagg, and Tom Luddy. On one occasion Santora set the amateur course record with a 65, shooting 28 on the back nine. That must have been an interesting round because the foursome included Rago, who shot 66; Jim Hoagg, who shot 68; and Bud Treacy, who shot 75. Santora was a five-time club champion who had three holes-in-one during his career. He made additional headlines by setting off a large Cherry Bomb firecracker



John Rago, four-decade Club Champion, with Jack Sabol and Bud Treacy

in the men's locker room, for which he was censured for "conduct improper to the best interests of the Club."

Rago held the remarkable distinction of being the Club champion in four different decades, the 1940s through the 1970s. Interestingly, he won the championship exactly once per decade. Bud Treacy said "Johnny had the greatest short game in the world. If he was within fifty yards of the pin he was down in two." Rago won a number of championship matches by sinking putts from off the green, thrilling the crowds.

Jim Hoagg and John Hamilton were big men who each won the Club Championship six times. Hamilton, a talented basketball player in college, belonged to a number of different golf clubs.

Kevin Morris included the following in his list of the top golfers during his tenure at Westchester Hills: Phil Santora, John Rago, John Hamilton, Mike Henderson, Tommy Healey, Mike Polera, Frank Bense Jr., and Max Buckley.

In the early 1980s, the Club experimented with the Club Championship format by using medal play instead of match play. Club Champion Bill Cook lost a substantial lead, and numerous errors led to an exciting but exhausting match. It is also worth noting that Cook had a hole-in-one on the difficult 12th hole in the 1984 semifinals. Junior golfer Mike Henderson won the Club Championship that year.

In 2011, Assistant Golf Pro Matt Belizze set the current course record with a 61, breaking the previous course record of 62 set by Kevin Morris in 1998. Morris had broken the former record of 63 set by Jack Sabol in 1936. Belizze started with six pars and three birdies on the front nine. He bogied the 10th, followed by a mix of four pars and two birdies. He birdied the last two holes to set the record.

The final match in the 2011 Club Championship will be remembered for a long time. Mark Stagg and Paul Servidio approached the par 4 18th hole dead even after thirty-five holes of play. Servidio reached the green in regulation, his ball resting at the top of the green. Stagg hit trees on the left side twice in a row and found himself lying two in the 10th fairway. Stagg shrugged it off and launched his third shot over a line of tall trees, landing near Servidio's at the top of the green. He two-putted, sinking a long uphill



Above: Matt Belizze, current course record holder, with Jason Gobleck and staff member Pilar Echeverry

Left: Mark Stagg, 2011 Club Champion

putt for bogey. Servidio ran his birdie putt past the hole and was unable to sink his comeback putt, settling for bogey and a tie. On the first playoff hole, Stagg's drive hit the fairway and his approach shot came up just short of the green. He nailed his chip shot close to the pin for a tap-in par, bettering Servidio's bogey for the victory.

Junior Golf

Westchester Hills has a renowned Junior Golf program that has produced many skilled recreational golfers as well as PGA professionals. In 1924 *Golf Illustrated* magazine referred to Westchester Hills as "the nursery of junior golfers." Throughout the history of the Club, the Head Golf Pros preserved this tradition by maintaining a focused training and practice environment for younger players. Bud Treacy said, "Westchester Hills has its own PGA—Pretty Good Amateurs." Treacy fondly recalled Jack Sabol asking him if he wanted to play nine

holes as he hung around the putting green as a youth.

Kevin Morris made the following comments: "The Junior Golf program was very special to me. I took it on myself to try to get the kids involved. We'd play in the late afternoon and evening. Even though a lot of them became really good players, they all became tremendous adults. I took pride in watching the kids grow from 7–8 years old to 20–23 years old and start their own families. I still stay in touch with a lot of them. The Board always stayed behind the Junior Program. Eight to twelve of the Junior Club Champions went on to become overall Club Champions at Westchester Hills."

The Junior Golf tradition at Westchester Hills can be traced back to 1920, when young Martha Parker won the first Ladies Club Championship. In 1921, Richard Jones Jr. won the Westchester County Junior Championship and then went on to win the Club Championship at Westchester Hills two



Ron Mahood, 1965 and 1968 Club Champion, on the right, plays in a Member Guest tournament with Bud Treacy, second from left, and two guests.

times in a row, 1931 and 1932. George Brush won the Westchester Hills Club Championship in 1926 and the Westchester Amateur Golf Championship in 1928 and 1929.

Tom Luddy was Club Champion three times in the early 1960s, and also won the Metropolitan Junior Amateur Championship in 1960. He was known for banging a three-wood over the mound on the 13th hole.

Ron Mahood, one of the finest junior golfers in the history of the Club, hit 700 practice balls a day. He won the Club Championship in 1965 and 1968 and also won the Westchester Amateur in 1967. He played on the golf

team at the University of Florida, which won the National Championship in 1968. His teammates at Florida included Andy North, Steve Melnyk, and Kevin Morris, who was a freshman on the team when Mahood was a senior. Mahood played in the Florida Invitational and made the finals of the College North-South.

Several other great junior golfers won Club Championships, including Stephen Lent in 1972, Richard Oleson in 1976, and Mike Henderson in 1984, 1986, and 1987.

In 1980, Bob Landry Jr. won the New York State Putting Championship. He also won several Junior Club Championships.

Frank Bensel Jr., now a club pro at Century Country Club, was club champion in 1985, and was the Met Pro of the Year twice. Bensel has played in the US Open and the PGA Championship.

Current playing pro Chris Damiano won the Club Championship four times in a row, from 2000 to 2003. Damiano also won the Westchester Amateur in 2001.

In 2004, Max Buckley became our youngest club champion at the age of fourteen. Buckley

won three times in a row, eventually losing to James Marchewka in 2007.

In 2003, Michael Povemba, who won the Junior Club Championship several times, was the no. 1 golfer on the Fordham Prep golf team. He won nine matches, averaging thirty-eight shots per nine-hole round, and earned a spot in the federation tournament as the Rams claimed the CHSAA title.

Sean Trainor won the Westchester-Putnam High School Golfer of the Year award in 2011. That year Trainor won the Westchester Hills Junior Club Championship, the Section 1 Championship, and the WGA Junior Championship. He was the no. 1 golfer on the White Plains High School golf



Above left: Sean Trainor, 2011 Westchester-Putnam High School Golfer of the Year

Above: 2011 White Plains High School Section I Championship golf team: (back row) Ryan Stagg, Sean Trainor; (front row) Aaron Kreilsheimer, Tyler Stagg, Brendan Trainor, Justin Stagg

Left: Tyler Stagg, 2012 Club Champion, with his father, Mark

team, which won the Section I High School Team Championship. He was joined on the White Plains High School golf team by fellow Westchester Hills junior golfers Ryan Stagg, Tyler Stagg, Brendan Trainor, and Justin Stagg.

In 2012 Tyler Stagg won the Junior Club Championship, narrowly defeating Sean Trainor, and went on to win the Club Championship. Stagg's father, Mark, had won the Club Championship the year before.

Ladies Golf

The history of ladies golf at Westchester Hills is a reflection of social changes of the twentieth century. For example, a 1919 club rule prohibiting high heels on the greens illustrates how traditions have changed over the years.

The Women's Golf Association was well under way by 1914. Martha Parker won the first Ladies Club Championship in 1920, and continued as Ladies Club Champion through 1926. The format of the championship has been match play, with the exception of one year of stroke play.

Parker was recognized in the 1924 issue of *Metropolitan Golfer Magazine*: "Westchester Hills has another star in the person of Miss Martha Parker, who has won the club championship four times in a row. Miss Parker is a daughter of Dr. R. J. Parker, who with Mrs. Parker summers at Spring Lake, where they have a beautiful home. Miss Parker also won the Spring Lake championship this past summer but was unable to play in the National on account of her school work. Experts agree that she will make one of the best among the women players."



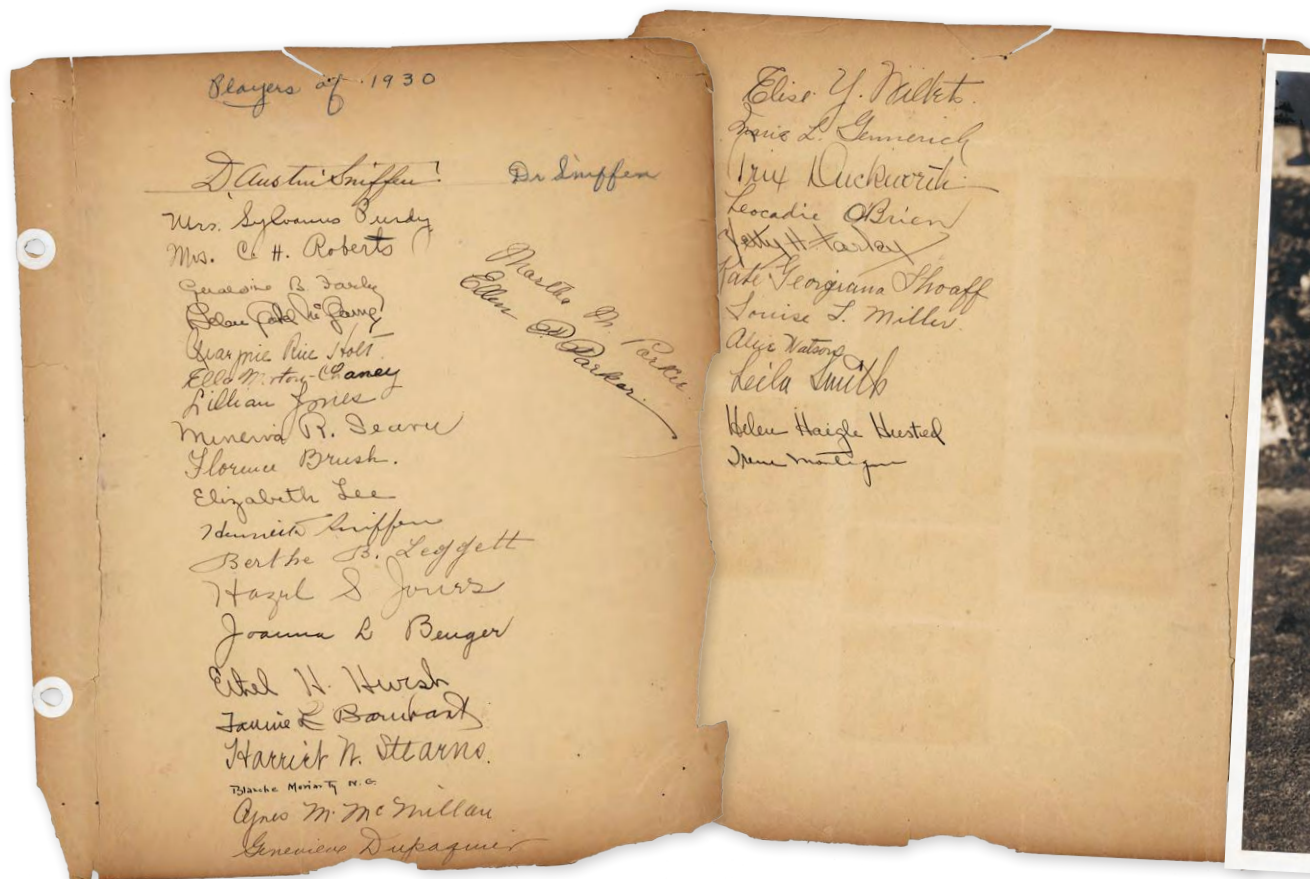
Mrs. Albert Haigh wears a "farmerette" costume at a costume tournament in the 1930s.

Competitive tournaments and creative events marked the early days, making our club the envy of other clubs. Some of the golf contests featured unusual prizes. In June 1922, the *Westchester Hills Golf Bulletin* reported that two club employees presented the Women's Golf Committee with a large embroidered centerpiece, six small doilies, and a lady's collar, all of which were hand embroidered on the Isle of Cyprus. These were used as prizes for putting contests in May and July.

Scheduling women's tee times has been a challenge. In his 1925 annual report, D.A. Sniffen, longtime Greens Chairman, addressed the issue with eloquence and understanding: "May I say a word about ladies playing? . . . It would be a great mistake not to allow the women members the use of our course on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays or to make them feel that they were in the way and were not wanted by us. On the



"Halloween" costume tournament in 1971



Signatures of lady golfers from 1930, along with the signature of Dr. D. Austin Sniffen, a founding governor



Kay Whalen, five-time Ladies Club Champion (1935-39)

other hand, I should think we would welcome them during their playing hours. With our new clubhouse open, we need the ladies interested in our club and it seems to me as though their presence and their enthusiasm is an advantage rather than a disadvantage to any club and rather than have them discouraged by the attitude of some of us men who seem to think or act toward them as though they were a nuisance, we should do everything we can to encourage them."

During the 1930s, there were thirty to forty active players. Kay Whalen won the Ladies Club Championship five times during this period. The economic climate of the decade was challenging. Club renovations were often undertaken through the generosity

of members. Women kept the clubhouse and ladies locker room tastefully appointed.

Westchester Hills ladies kept the local newspapers informed of their activities. Newspaper clippings were saved in a scrapbook. In 1933, a scrapbook entry read: "Owing to the Depression we are saving ink and paste by throwing away most of the clippings." A newspaper account of Annabelle Kissling's 1937 hole-in-one on the 3rd hole survived, describing this golfer's achievements and demonstrating the captivating way that local golf was described at that time: "The third hole at Westchester Hills is a 170-yard par three layout with peculiar difficulties. The green is on a hilltop considerably above the level of the tee and is well trapped. A shot, in order

COSTUME TOURNEY AT WESTCHESTER HILLS GOLF CLUB

Mrs. Harvey Husted Gets Low Net in Novel Event; Garb of Players Causes Near Riot.

With the members of the association dressed in all sorts of fantastic costumes ranging all the way from a "Kiki" effect achieved by Mrs. Lambert Oeder to a "Mutt" costume worn by Mrs. Frederic Leggitt the women golfers of the Westchester Hills club yesterday staged their first "costume tourney" of the season.

The event was a distinct success with one exception and that was the scoring. Mrs. Harvey Husted had the low net for the nine holes that the players went but the scores were not posted.

One of the novel features of the tournament, in addition to the costumes, was the fact that each player was allowed to use only one club on the round. That resulted in some fantastic scores the highest being a tie between Mrs. Howard Willetts and Mrs. Sylvanus Purdy.

Both of these players were using spoons and Mrs. Purdy ran up a total of 14 strokes on the third hole, one of the shortest on the course, when her tee shot was trapped. Mrs. Willetts was getting along famously, playing in and out of bunkers with her spoon, until the ninth and at that one she too piled up a total of 14 strokes.

Peter Clark, the club professional acted as judge of the costumes and declared that the most unique was the "Kiki" attire affected by Mrs. Oeder, the most novel was the "Nanki Poo" costume of Mrs. William Benger and the most beautiful costume was the gypsy dress of Mrs. Willetts.

1933 press article about a costume tournament

to reach the green, has to be played high in the air with the intention of dropping on the carpet. The distance is all carry." Miss Kissling used a "brassie" (two-wood) for the shot. Her ace was the first for a woman player on the 3rd hole. To this date, Westchester Hills ladies have recorded eighteen holes-in-one.

Club records of ladies golf at Westchester Hills during the 1940s through the 1960s are scant, although archived editions of local newspapers such as the *White Plains Reporter Dispatch* contain many references to ladies golf tournaments, luncheons, and formal dinners. Much ado was made of the women's attire at these events: hats, furs, and elaborate jewelry were de rigueur.

Barbara Bruning broke the course record, pigtailed and all, in 1948 at the age of sixteen. Her achievements on the course received much press, as that year she was also the Ladies Club Champion. Her course record of 73 held until Laura Algiero shot a 69, which still stands today.

In 1957, the Governor's Trophy was established for women golfers, a tradition that is carried on today. In 1958, Ces Harper won the first of her eight Ladies Club Championships. She



A typical ladies luncheon, 1958



Barbara Bruning, 1948 Ladies Club Champion

was also the Ladies Bowling Champion many times. The bowling, paddle tennis, and synchronized swimming programs were very popular with the women of Westchester Hills; sadly none of these programs have endured.

Many of the prominent names in ladies golf at Westchester Hills are also found in records of social events and amateur club plays organized by club members. Alice Whitehead,



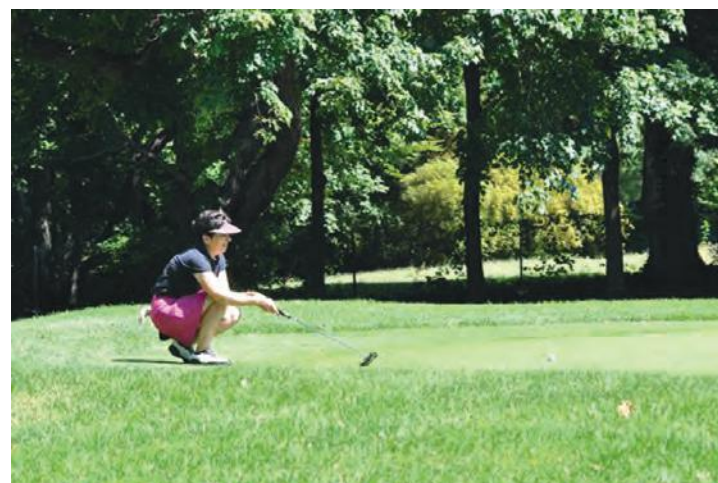
Frequent Ladies Club Champions Connie Brown (left) and Ces Harper at a trophy presentation with Bud Treacy

who won the Ladies Club Championship eight times and played in the final match seventeen times, produced and directed many of the club plays, the last being held in 1977.

Kevin Morris made the following comments about the ladies golf program during his tenure: "With our Ladies Club Championship we never had two or three women at the same time that were at the same ability. We had a lot of really good players. Mrs. Hubbard was a tremendous player; Miss Houlihan; Sr. Cecile. There was always one player that was so much better than the others. Connie Brown won it many times; she's a tremendous player. Laura Algiero is one of the best female players in all of New York. There was always a lot of support for the Ladies Club Championship." In addition to winning the Westchester Hills Ladies Club Championship from 2004 to 2010, Algiero won the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association (WMGA) Stroke Play Championship in 2005, 2008, and 2010.



Ces Harper at a "Three Guys and a Doll" tournament with Bud Treacy (left), Jim Hoagg (center), and Don Harper (right)



Laura Algiero, Ladies Club Champion from 2004 to 2010



Westchester Hills ladies volunteer at the MasterCard International Pro-Am.

From 1984 to 1987, in cooperation with several nearby clubs, Westchester Hills co-hosted an LPGA tournament called the MasterCard International Pro-Am. The tournament gave Westchester Hills an opportunity to present its assets to a wide audience, including professional golfers and national golf writers. Club members volunteered to run the tournament, and in so doing found great enjoyment.

In 1984, the tournament was held at Wykagyl Country Club, Knollwood Country Club, and Westchester Hills. Sally Quinlan was the winner.

In 1985, the tournament was held at Knollwood and Westchester Hills, with Muffin Spencer-Devlin winning the competition. Spencer-Devlin came from eight strokes down to record the largest final round come-from-behind victory in LPGA history at that time. Annika Sorenstam, who

overcame a ten-stroke final round deficit at another tournament, broke this record in 2001. Spencer-Devlin shot a career-low 64 in the final round of the MasterCard International and went on to win two more LPGA events in her career.

The 1986 MasterCard International involved a fascinating story of continuing significance. That year the tournament was played at Westchester Hills, Knollwood, and Ridgeway Country Club. Cindy Mackey won the \$30,000 first prize by fourteen strokes, still the largest margin of victory in the history of the LPGA Tour. Ironically, it was Mackey's only career victory on the tour. She carded her career-low round



LPGA pro Lori West played with Mike Henderson, Bill Healey, and Frank Bensele in the 1985 MasterCard International Pro-Am.



An unidentified LPGA pro played with Bill Healey, Tommy Healey, and Frank Bensel in the 1986 MasterCard International Pro-Am.

of 65 in the third round at Knollwood. Colleen Walker trailed Mackey by four strokes at the end of the third round, but Walker made a mistake on her scorecard in the rain-delayed final round at Knollwood. "I was in the parking lot, getting ready to leave, when I realized I had actually shot one shot higher," Walker told the *Palm Beach Post*. "I had made a 6 on a hole, but my playing partner (Muffin Spencer-Devlin) had put down a 5. Nobody had caught it. I was in a state of shock, but I knew what I had to do." Walker disqualified herself, costing her the second-place prize of \$18,500. Her disqualification led to Mackey's record-setting margin of victory because the next competitors were way behind Walker. To this day, Mackey's record is mentioned whenever LPGA players establish large leads.

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- One Hundred Season Tickets (retail value \$2,200)
- Four Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$144)
- Special Parking Space (retail value \$12)

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$400

GOLD SPONSOR

- Name in Gold Ticket Sponsor Page in Program
- Fifty Season Tickets (retail value \$1,100)
- Four Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$144)
- Special Parking Space (retail value \$12)

GOLD SPONSOR \$300

SILVER SPONSOR

- Twenty Season Tickets (retail value \$440)
- Two Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$72)
- Special Parking Space (retail value \$12)

SILVER SPONSOR \$150

BRONZE SPONSOR

- Ten Season Tickets (retail value \$220)
- Two Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$72)
- Special Parking Space (retail value \$12)

BRONZE SPONSOR \$100

ADVERTISING PATRONS

FOUR COLOR PAGE

- 50 Season Tickets (retail value \$1,100)
- 8 Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$128)

FOUR COLOR PAGE \$1,500

FULL B/W PAGE

- 50 Season Tickets (retail value \$1,100)
- 4 Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$144)

FULL B/W PAGE \$1,000

ONE-HALF B/W PAGE

- 25 Season Tickets (retail value \$550)
- 4 Clubhouse Badges (retail value \$144)

ONE-HALF B/W PAGE \$600

ONE-QUARTER B/W PAGE

- 10 Season Tickets (retail value \$220)

ONE-QUARTER B/W PAGE \$400

Program note - Full Page 7 1/2 x 10. Please provide offset negatives or camera-ready reproduction proofs for PHOTO OFFSET printing. There will be additional charge if the material does not arrive ready for offset printing. Art or mechanical work required will be charged at cost. Color, bleed or users will be additional charge at cost. Estimate will be furnished upon request. Ad Deadline July 18, 1988.

Brochure for the 1988 Lady Westchester Open, which was cancelled

The tournament's final year, 1987, was played at Westchester Hills and Ridgeway Country Club, with Val Skinner winning the competition on the final day at Westchester Hills. Skinner was four shots off the lead at the turn, but won on the 18th hole with a par 4. Runner-up Shelley Hamlin blasted short out of the front bunker on the 18th, resulting in a bogey and a one-stroke defeat. Returning champion Cindy Mackey finished nine strokes off the lead. Skinner won six times on the LPGA Tour, all between

1985 and 1995. In 1987, Skinner recorded seven top-ten finishes, and later became a golf analyst for CBS Sports and the Golf Channel.

In 1988, MasterCard pulled out of the tournament. Working with Club President Lou Spizzirro, tournament organizer Dick Anzolut attempted to stage the tournament at Westchester Hills without MasterCard's sponsorship, under the name Lady Westchester Open. However, Anzolut cancelled the event at the last moment.

Drew Bollard, General Manager during that period, said, "The tournament gave us a lot of exposure. The LPGA officials told us that we are a 'diamond in the rough' and 'an untapped gem.' But we didn't have the facilities to grow with the event, and ultimately the event went to Wykagyl. It was a great exposure for Westchester Hills, for golf in Westchester, and for ladies golf."

Today, ladies golf at Westchester Hills is more informal than in the past, with emphasis on fun and friendly competition. Outside leagues such as LIE, WIGL, and WMGA are popular. Members of these leagues play competitive matches at area clubs and, in turn, host tournaments at Westchester Hills.

In the following interview, two longtime Westchester Hills golfers, Lou Landry and Connie Brown, discuss the changes they have witnessed over the years.

LL: Connie, your name has always been synonymous with ladies golf at Westchester Hills. How did you get started?

CB: I started to play golf in the early '60s when my father gave me a set of Patty Berg clubs. I joined the Women's Golf Association and became an Eighteen Holer. I only played on weekends because I lived and worked in Manhattan. An excellent golfer, Alice Whitehead, helped and encouraged me.



This foursome from a "Three Guys and a Doll" competition featured Rupe Zickyl, Lew Anderson, and Lois and Bud Treacy. Anderson was an actor who played Clarabell the Clown on the *Howdy Doody* television show.

CB: What are some of your early memories, Lou?

LL: There were about sixty golfers in the ladies organization. We were divided into four groups (A, B, C, and D) based on handicap. Every Wednesday a tournament was held. Some tournaments were themed, such as "Ironing Day," where we could only use irons; "Odd and Even Holes," where your score included only the odd or even holes; and "Puttless Tournaments." Mixed events were very popular, especially "Three Guys and a Doll." Teams consisted of three men and one woman. There was a lot of fun and participation all around. All the mixed events were followed by a dress-up dinner dance.

CB: Lou, let's hear about your golf story.

LL: I've been playing golf for about fifty years. I started out as a Nine Holer. Nine Holers were encouraged to move up to the Eighteen Holers

when their game improved. There was a specific handicap to qualify for the Eighteen Holers. I moved up when I won the Nine Holers Championship.

LL: Connie, what changes have you observed recently?

CB: Today, both groups are more informal. More women are working with less time to devote to golf. The influx of new younger members has increased our Nine Holers membership. They are very active and do a great job running the very popular Twilight events.

LL: Connie, you were quite a golfer. Your name is on every plaque in the ladies locker room. How many times did you win the Ladies Club Championship?

CB: I won nine times.

CB: Lou, do you remember when the LPGA played here?

LL: I remember how exciting the LPGA events were. The entire club participated. We kept scores, provided hospitality and transport, and took care of logistics so that players could concentrate on their games. LPGA champion Val Skinner stayed with our family, much to the delight of our teenage daughters. I remember how Val, club in hand, recounted every shot of her game to her father over the telephone. Many members kept up friendships with players after the tournaments. Jim Egan was an excellent Master of Ceremonies for the events.

LL: Connie, what is one of your favorite memories of the club?

CB: In 1974, I hosted the one and only "Candy Bar Open." This was a four-hole alternating shot tournament. I remember Bobby Landry had to chip out of the rough just short of the fourth green. His comment to his father was "Aw, Dad, why do you ALWAYS leave me with the crummy shots!" It made no difference, as the ball went in the hole, determining the winner. The prize was one Hershey bar.



A foursome in the Candy Bar Open: (back row) Bob Landry Jr. and Bob Landry Sr. centered between two caddies; (front row) Sandy Smith and Connie Brown.

CHAPTER 5

PEOPLE

This chapter profiles some of the Governors, members, and staff who have made Westchester Hills such a unique Club over the years.

The 2012 Board of Governors

Mike Daly, President: Born in Bronx, New York, in 1946, President Daly joined the Club in 1988 and served on the Finance Committee soon after joining. He was elected to the Board in 2007 and served as Treasurer (2007–2010) and President (2010–present). Daly and his wife, Helen, have four children, Michael J. III (wife Michele), Christopher (wife JoAnne), Jennifer (husband Anthony Bruton), and Elizabeth (husband John Hayes). They have eight grandchildren: Brendan, Luke, William, Kieran, and Timothy Daly; Emma, Declan, and Maeve Bruton. In Daly's career he was a Certified Public Accountant and held the position of Managing Director at UBS, AG. His current outside involvement includes President of the Board of Trustees at Preston High School in the Bronx and member of the Board of Trustees at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains.

Jim Rice, Vice President: Born in New York City in 1940, Rice joined

Westchester Hills in 1989. He served on the following committees: Admissions, Membership, House (as Chairman), Golf, Long Range Planning, and Centennial. He served on the Board from 1997 to 2001, 2002 to 2004 (as Club Vice President), and 2009 to the present. He has been Club Vice President since 2010. He received the prestigious Frank Shanklin Award



2012 Board of Governors: (back row) Tom Devine, Steve Sherwood, Steve Buckley, Rocco Sollecito; (front row) Treasurer Nick Boncardo, Dan McLaughlin, President Mike Daly, Vice President Jim Rice, Secretary Jim Schwanderla

in 2008. He is married to Ruth Rice; they have three children, Michael, Kristen, and Neil.

Jim Schwanderla, Secretary and Golf Chairman: Schwanderla was born in White Plains in 1968, the son of Edward Schwanderla, who was a member of Westchester Hills from 1963 to 1991. He grew up as a member of the Club, learning how to golf, participating on the swim team and in the bowling league, and playing paddle tennis in the winter months. He forged friendships that continue today. Jack Sabol taught him to play golf, and Schwanderla was a member when Kevin Morris became the third Head Golf Pro. He joined the Club on his own in 2001. He served on the Membership Committee for two years, the House Committee for two years, and the Board for six years as the House Chairman (2007–2010) and Secretary and Golf Chairman (2011–2012). Schwanderla is a general dentist serving the greater White Plains area since 1994. He lives with his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Jaclyn.



2010 Club Champion Steve Sherwood

Nick Boncardo, Treasurer: Born in Bronx, New York, in 1959, Boncardo joined the Club in 2004. He served on the Finance, Admissions, Golf, and Long Range Planning Committees. He joined the Board in 2011, serving as the Treasurer up to the present time. He is a partner at Caputo & Boncardo, CPAs, PC. Boncardo and his wife, Amy, have two children, Michael and Teresa.

Dan McLaughlin, Membership Chairman: Born in White Plains in 1957, McLaughlin joined the Club in 1993. He served on the Membership and Golf Committees, and joined the Board in 2008, serving as Golf Chairman (2008) and Membership Chairman (2009 to present). He owns Benfield Electric Supply Company Inc., an independent electrical wholesaler with five operations in metro New York City and international operations in Japan, England, and Guam. He lives with his wife, Mary, and their three children, Danny, Kellie, and Shannon.

Steve Sherwood, Greens Chairman: Born in Newport Beach, California, in 1962, Sherwood joined Westchester Hills in 2004. He served on the Golf, Membership, and Greens Committees, and joined the Board from 2009 to 2012 as Maintenance Chairman (2009) and Greens Chairman (2010–2012). He is the President and owner of Valuation Plus, Inc. Sherwood was the Club Champion in 2010. He lives with his wife, Linda, and children, Steven Jr. and Kayla.

Rocco Sollecito, House Chairman: Born in Bronx, New York, in 1957, Sollecito joined Westchester Hills in 2004. He served on the Golf, House, Maintenance, and Long Range Planning Committees, and joined the Board in 2011. Sollecito is the President of Bend-All Industries Inc., a steel fabricator. He lives with his wife, Paige, and children, Katie, Michael, and Thomas.

Tom Devine Jr., Maintenance Chairman: Devine was born in White Plains in 1952. In 1968, his parents, Tom Sr. and Marge, joined Westchester Hills. In 1975, he and his wife, Linda, had their wedding reception at Westchester Hills. They joined the Club in 1986, sponsored by Dr. Bob Doherty. Devine served on the Board from



Tom and Linda Devine

1994 to 1999 and from 2010 to the present. He was Maintenance and Pool Chairman from 1994 to 1996 and Club Vice President from 1998 to 1999. He has served on the following committees: Long Range, Admissions (as Chairman), Nominating, Membership, Pool, House, Maintenance, and Construction. He is

the President of Healy Electric Contracting. Devine and his wife have four children: Heather (engaged to Doug Burleson), Brianne (married to Chris Penn), Tommy (married to Sarah), and Kathryn (married to Christopher Johnson).

Steve Buckley, Pool & Tennis, Marketing, and Communications Chairman: Buckley was born in Somers, New York, in 1956. He and his wife, Carrie, had their wedding reception at Westchester Hills in 1998 and joined the Club in 2001. Buckley served on the Website and Centennial Committees, and subsequently joined the Board in 2011. He works for IBM Research in Yorktown Heights, New York. He lives with Carrie and their two boys, Brian and Stephen.

Frank Shanklin Award Winners

In 1997, an important Club award was created in honor of Frank Shanklin, who passed away in 1996. The Frank Shanklin Award is presented annually to a long-term member of the Club who is not currently on the Board, has made significant contributions to the success of the Club's activities and related programs, and exemplifies the highest level of sportsmanship both on and off the golf course. The Frank Shanklin Award winners to date are profiled here.

Jim Egan, 1997: Jim joined the Club in 1974, and was a Board member from 1980 to 1982. In 1982, Club President Tom Hart asked him to take over the Club newsletter, *The Hillabaloo*, to which he agreed. Egan's first edition was twenty-four pages long. He went on to write many more editions until the early 1990s, when Jim Luddy assumed authorship. In 1993 Club President

Brian Hansbury asked Egan to write a separate report on the Club's history. Egan wrote a 256-page report covering the years 1913–1959. Much of this book is based on Egan's report, which he estimates took him two years and about 1,500 hours to write. In addition to his writings, Egan served on most of the Club's committees, including the Admissions Committee for about fifteen years and the Nominating Committee for nearly twenty. He also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual Member Guest Tournament, the MasterCard International Pro-Am LPGA Tournament, and many other Club events. Egan was quite a prankster. One summer he donned a wedding gown and a red wig at a Club dance, staging a peculiar dance with another member who was in on the joke. The next day, he put on the costume again and dove into the pool, the amused crowd still unsure of the mystery guest's identity.

Ed and Karen Hayes, 1998: Ed and his wife, Karen, lived near the seventh hole of the golf course and were extremely active members at the Club. They are both regarded as great golfers. Ed was a Board member from 1984 to 1986 and again from 1988 to 1990. Karen Hayes coordinated the ladies' golf program for many years. Since receiving this award, the Hayeses have retired to southern Florida.

Tom Beaudrot, 1999: Westchester Hills' in-house artist. In addition to creating the painting reprinted on the back cover of this book, Beaudrot contributed a number of his tasteful works to the Club to use as awards



Frank and Sally Bense

and decorations. This longtime and deeply committed member also designed a flag for each hole on the golf course, mapping out its obstacles. These flags are no longer used on the course, but the memory of and gratitude for them remains.

Frank Bensel, 2000: Dubbed “Mr. Westchester Hills,” Bensel was a Board member from 1976 to 1978 and again from 1984 to 1989. He served as Club Vice President for much of his second term and as Club President in 1989. His zeal for the game of golf paid off as he enjoyed a single-digit handicap. Bensel is the father of 1985 Club Champion and current professional golfer Frank Bensel Jr.

Bob Landry, 2001: Bob enjoys one of the longest-running memberships at Westchester Hills and continues to be one of its most active members. His father, W. A. Landry, joined the Club in 1944 as part of a group of members who transferred from the Club across the street, which at that time was named the Gedney Farm Golf Club. Landry married his wife, Lucille, at the Club in 1959. Starting in the 1960s, he served on most of the Club’s committees, including House, Golf, Admissions, and Nominating. He joined the Board in 1973 under Club President Bruce Lent, served as Club Vice President in 1975, and as Club President from 1976 to 1977. Landry served a second term on the Board from 1989 to 1994, acting as Treasurer from 1990 to 1994. Bob organized Governors Day for several years, and was a key contributor to this book.

Alfred J. Patti, 2002: Al and his wife, Judy, were very active club members. He served with distinction as a member of the Board, chairing both the Membership and Admissions Committees. He was an active member



John Culhane (far left) and Lou Spizzirro (far right) play in a Member Guest tournament with two guests.

and official with the Westchester Golf Association. His son Dan was Club Champion in 1992. Patti retired in 1998 as the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer for HSBC Futures. His untimely death at age fifty-five was most unfortunate; he is remembered as a consummate gentleman, impeccably dressed, unfailingly polite, always with a kind word, a firm handshake, and a warm smile.

Lou Spizzirro, 2003: Spizzirro was a Board member from 1983 to 1988. He served as Club Vice President from 1984 to 1987 and as Club President in 1988, the Club’s seventy-fifth anniversary year. He is an excellent golfer, winning the Club Championship in 1983. He is gratefully remembered for ensuring that junior golfers could compete in Club Championships. Although



Ruth and Bill Healey

Spizzirro has retired to Florida, he visits the Club every summer and still shoots an occasional round in the 70s.

Bud Treacy, 2004: Treacy was seven years old when his family joined the Club in 1932. He was a junior golfer under Peter Clark and Jack Sabol. He was a Board Member from 1961 to 1971, 1974–76, and 1985–87. He served as Club Vice President from 1966 to 1967, and as Club President from 1968 to 1971 and 1985–87. He was Publicity Chairman from 1977 to 1982, publishing the Club newsletter, *The Hillabaloo*, during that period. In 2010, Treacy commented, “Westchester Hills was home to me. I was almost brought up here. Jack Sabol was a big part of that. I’m going to miss Westchester Hills when I go. I’ve got memories I can talk about forever. Every time you mention a name, a whole big thing slides into my memory. It was home.” Sadly, Treacy passed away in 2011 when this book was written.

Jim Bilotta, 2005: As the Maintenance Chairman in 1998, Bilotta was strongly in favor of building a patio, and convinced the Board to do so. Using his professional skills as a kitchen and bathroom contractor, he designed the patio and supervised its construction, assisted by Mike Labriola and Bill Egan. The patio changed the nature of the Club for the better and brought



John Sheehan (second from left) and Brian O’Connor (second from right) play golf with two guests.

in significant new revenue. Sadly, Bilotta passed away in 2012. He is remembered for his commitment to the Club’s social events, his hard work, and his perpetual smile.

Bill and Ruth Healey, 2006: Remembered as a strong leader who always kept the Club’s best interest in heart, Bill served as Club Vice President and Treasurer from 1976 to 1977, and as Club President from 1982 to 1983 and again in the late 1980s. In 1982, he hired Drew Bollard as General Manager. Bollard would become a fixture in the Club, staying on as General Manager until his retirement in 2009. Healey passed away in 1989. In his honor, the Member Guest Tournament was renamed the William M. Healey Memorial Member Guest Championship from 1990 to 2010. Bill’s wife, Ruth, has served



Bob Lynch and Mike Daly

the Club in many capacities, most recently on the Centennial Committee which produced this book.

John Sheehan, 2007: Sheehan was on the Board from 1993 to 1998, serving as Club President in 1998. He also served on the Board in 2006. He is remembered for demanding nothing but the best for Westchester Hills. Under his presidency, the patio was built and the Frank Shanklin Award was created.

Jim Rice, 2008: Recognized as a true gentleman and a leader who takes initiative, Rice is credited with spearheading popular social events such as the Member Guest Clambake, Smoker Poker, and the Wine Dinner, as well as the Centennial Committee. His biography is included earlier in this chapter.

Lou Sudholz, 2009: Sudholz has been a member of the Club since 1987. He contributed to the Golf and Admissions Committees before joining the Board in 2003, serving for many years as Membership Chairman. He continues to serve on the Admissions Committee today. Sudholz had an extensive active duty and reservist military career in the US Army, retiring with the rank of colonel. In his business career, he

worked for the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation and later became the CEO of the Gottesman Company, a middle market business merger and acquisition firm.

Bob Lynch, 2011: Lynch joined the Club in 1979, sponsored by Frank Shanklin and Kevin Morris. In addition to serving as Club President from 2007 to 2008, he served on the Board for two years as House Chairman and for two years as Vice President. Prior to joining the Board in 2003, he served on the Admissions, Golf, and Membership Committees. He was also the Caddie Chairman for four years. Lynch's accomplishments during his six years on the Board include completing the new maintenance facility and renovating the ladies' locker room and the Grill Room. In his business career, he is a highly regarded employee benefits and retirement planning consultant. Lynch and his wife, Jean, reside in Thornwood, New York. Lynch's most vivid memories of Westchester Hills include scoring an eagle two on the first hole, and scoring a hole-in-one on the fifth hole.

Staff



General Manager Jack Hrad

Jack Hrad: General Manager Jack Hrad joined us at the beginning of 2012. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, and has managed golf and country clubs around the world, in locations including North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, South Africa, and Indonesia. Hrad has an MBA from the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas. He lives with his wife, Kathy, in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Helio Echeverry: Food and Beverages Manager Helio Echeverry was born in Colombia. He studied law there for two years before coming to the United States. Prior to joining Westchester Hills fourteen years ago, he worked at Le Panetiere in Rye, Emilio's Restaurant in Harrison, and Pastore's Restaurant in Port



Food and Beverages Manager Helio Echeverry

Chester. His diligence and attention to detail, coupled with his rapport with members, ensures an excellent dining experience for all. He is married to Pilar, who also works at Westchester Hills. They have two children and eight grandchildren.

Peter Waterous: Golf Course Superintendent Peter Waterous was educated at Ithaca College and started in the business by working with his father, Herb Waterous, Golf Course Superintendent at Scarsdale Country Club. In 1992, he accepted an assistant position under Westchester Hills Golf Course Superintendent Matt Ceplo. Two years later, Ceplo left Westchester Hills and Waterous was promoted to Golf Course Superintendent. He has held that position for nineteen years. It is challenging to maintain a golf course as old as Westchester Hills, with its relatively small greens. Peter has met these challenges by methodically installing drainage and irrigation systems and judiciously removing trees that were unnecessarily complicating the course. From 1999 to 2000, he oversaw the installation of a new state-of-the-art irrigation system and pump station. He was also deeply involved in the construction of the new maintenance facility and golf practice area. He is married with two daughters.



Golf Course Superintendent Peter Waterous (Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association)



Executive Chef Saul Schwartz with Sous Chef Jose Valdovinos

Chef Saul Schwartz: Executive Chef Saul Schwartz joined us at the beginning of 2012. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1983 and grew up in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, working at various restaurants. He attended Johnson & Wales University in 2001. Upon graduation he was an evening sous chef at Misto restaurant while working at Miel Patisserie in the morning. From there he became executive sous chef for five years at Laurel Creek Country Club in New Jersey, followed by eighteen months as executive sous chef at the Muttontown Club on Long Island. Schwartz has a wonderful wife, Laura, and a brother who lives in Buenos Aires.

Chef Mark Wills: Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Wills started



Executive Sous Chef Mark Wills



Bartender Carlos Castano



Oscar Salazar and his family



Locker room attendants Pepe and Oscar Salazar

in the hospitality industry as a busboy at age thirteen and quickly worked his way up in a number of different country clubs. He became a sous chef at Westchester Hills twenty-five years ago. He enjoys cooking traditional dinners with fresh, high-quality ingredients. Wills has been married for fifteen years and has a nine-year-old daughter.

Carlos Castano: Born in Colombia and previously trained as an auto mechanic, Castano came to Westchester Hills in 1994. Married for sixteen years, he is the proud father of two daughters. He is a highly appreciated bartender who thinks of and looks after members like they are part of his family.

Oscar and Pepe Salazar: Nearly forty years ago, Oscar Salazar began his tenure at Westchester Hills as a waiter and bartender under



Waitress Pearl Karnsombtob, with husband Shaw and son Sahnjai

maitre d' Waldo Reuss, and continued under Eddie Gonzalez. Pepe, Oscar's brother, began his career soon afterward. At one point the brothers were given the responsibility of looking after the men's locker room, and the rest is history. Oscar and Pepe enjoy a close rapport with the members and are well respected for the incomparable service they have provided for many years. Sadly, it was recently announced that Oscar was diagnosed with bone cancer. Board Member Dan McLaughlin organized a fundraiser for Oscar and his family in August 2012. A group of 200 members, including 120 golfers,

gathered at the Club to honor Oscar and present his family with a generous scholarship fund.

Pearl Karnsombtob: A longtime favorite of members for her sweet disposition and excellent service, Pearl has been with Westchester Hills for well over twenty years. Born as one of ten children in Bangkok, Thailand, she came to the United States in 1972 and married her husband, Shaw, also a longtime Westchester Hills employee, in 1976. She came to Westchester Hills after her coworkers at Westchester Country Club went on strike in 1993. Shaw, who retired in 2008, is best remembered for sketching members' children while they dined. Pearl and Shaw have two sons and two grandchildren.

Teddy Cremin: Born in London, Cremin honed his bartending skills at McCann's, a Wall Street bar.



Bartender Ted Cremin



Former Club Manager Drew Bollard on the right, with member John Zanzarella

He has worked at Westchester Hills for thirteen years. His fondest memories of Westchester Hills include meeting a number of high-profile political figures who have played golf here, including former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Mayor Bloomberg.

Olga Lopez: Born in Colombia, Lopez is one of the longest-serving employees at the Club, having been here for more than twenty-five years. This warm and gracious woman has taken care of members in the ladies' locker room for many years. She is also a talented seamstress.

Pat Sapio: Hungry golfers at Westchester Hills look forward to seeing Sapio at the Halfway House as they come around the turn. Having been here for fifteen years, Sapio commits member preferences to memory. When she started working here, she did not know a thing about golf, but through her conversations with members, she has learned much about the game and what is going on out on the course. She resides in Danbury, Connecticut.

Drew Bollard: In 1982 Drew Bollard became General Manager at Westchester Hills, and retained that position for twenty-seven years, until his retirement in 2009. Growing up, Bollard was an Eagle Scout who began his career at the age of thirteen caddying at the Elmwood Country Club in White Plains. At the age of fifteen he became a busboy at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club. He served in the US Army in Korea during the Vietnam War. He earned a

degree in hotel management from Paul Smith's College in Saranac Lake, New York. Following his graduation he rejoined Sleepy Hollow Country Club and became the Assistant Manager. In 1977 he took a job at the Westchester Country Club, running its beach club and hotel. In the course of his career, Bollard took pleasure in seeing members' children and young employees grow up. He enjoyed playing Santa Claus for twenty-five years, and going to football games with members. Bud Treacy said, "Drew was good. He was a manager's manager. He was levelheaded. He knew everyone's likes and



This 1970s staff photo includes former bartender Eddie Gonzalez and former maître d' Waldo Reuss in the third row on the left. Former club manager Tom Tuthill is in the first row, second from right.



Former bartender Eddie Gonzalez, 1972

dislikes. He was loved by both the staff and the members, which is a hard combination.” Kevin Morris said, “Drew is the fairest person I’ve ever met in my entire life. He treated everybody the same. He worked as hard as anyone I’ve ever seen in my life, probably too hard. Westchester Hills became his life. Drew is one of the very special people in my life. He gave a tremendous amount to Westchester Hills.” Bollard said, “Westchester Hills members and staff are great. People don’t quit from Westchester Hills; they retire. They don’t work for me; they work with me. This is a family.” He believed that a

Club Manager must focus primarily on pleasing the members, based on each member’s individual needs.

Waldo Reuss and Eddie Gonzalez: A large part of the Club atmosphere in the 1990s came from the excellent staff, including beloved maitre d’ Waldo Reuss and bartender extraordinaire Eddie Gonzalez. Reuss was a fixture at the Club for many years, charming and friendly and always the perfect host. Gonzalez served Club members almost as long as Reuss, and took over the position as maitre d’ when Reuss retired.



Judge John Marbach and his wife

Celebrity Members

Robert Farley, the Founder of our Club, was the cousin of the twenty-seventh US Vice President, James Sherman, who served under President William Howard Taft.

Walter Westall, Club President from 1935 to 1938, was a New York State Assemblyman from 1919 to 1922 and a New York State Senator from 1923 to 1934.

Club members who became mayors of White Plains include Fred McLaughlin (1926–31), Edwin Michaelian (1950–56); Harry Gordon (1975); and Alfred Del Vecchio (1976–93).

Edwin Michaelian was Westchester County Executive from 1958 to 1973.

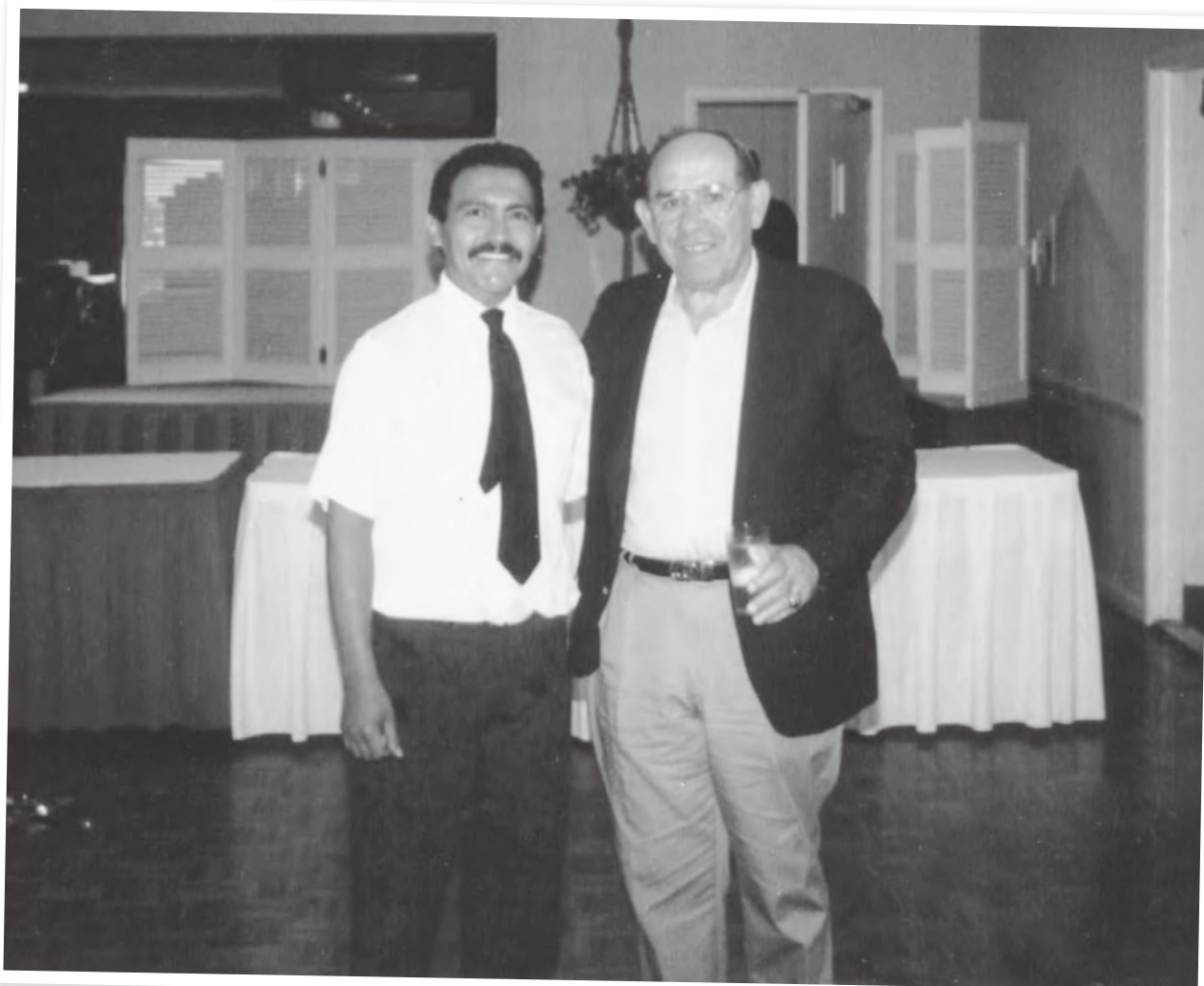
Judge John Marbach, Club President from 1966 to 1967, in World War II helped research and write the legal opinions that were used at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He later became a Westchester County Court judge and a New York State Supreme Court justice.

Bill Luddy was Democratic Party Chairman in Westchester County from 1957 to 1963.

Bob Hyland played professional football for the immortal Vince Lombardi at Green Bay, and also played for the New York Giants.

Billy Van Heusen was a punter and wide receiver for the Denver Broncos from 1968 to 1976.

John Nyikos played center on the Notre Dame basketball team in the 1920s, and was named to the NCAA All-American team in 1927.



Yogi Berra visited the club in 1993.



Mayor Bloomberg visited the club in 2002.