

Sterling Farms Golfers,

As winter slowly comes to an end, and we are finally starting to see bits and pieces of green grass under the snow, The Sterling Farms Men's Club Board of Governors is excited to welcome you all into the 2011 season.

During the off-season, we've had some new additions to the Board of Governors, including Stamford residents that grew up on Sterling Farms and have even worked in the pro shop earlier in their lives. This will strengthen our relationships across the course and the city and will definitely help make our events and entire golf season one of the best yet. We changed roles and responsibilities of some of the Board members and I was elected as the new President of the club.

I'd like to start with some changes we hope will continue to increase participation in our events, make information more easily accessible and have more of an open line of communication throughout the year.

- ✓ New Event added to schedule - Governor's Cup 2-Man event
- ✓ President's/Vice Presidents Cup moved towards the end of the season
- ✓ Member/Member in June
- ✓ Member/Guest moved later in the season
- ✓ Sign-up fees for Interclub and Shoreline qualifiers lowered from \$20 to \$10
- ✓ One link to our website [www.sfmensclub.com](http://www.sfmensclub.com)
- ✓ Weekly, brief email with weekend event and sign-up reminders
- ✓ Monthly, longer email with updates and results

Some other benefits of membership that have not changed are:

- ✓ USGA Handicap
- ✓ Over \$12,000 available in prizes throughout the season
- ✓ Free entry in to weekly events
- ✓ 30+ Events including 4 Majors and Player of the Year Award
- ✓ Multiple levels of ability for both Gross & Net awards
- ✓ Eligibility to play in MGA, CSGA and WGA Events/Tournaments
- ✓ Sterling Farms Pro shop discounts on Clothing and Equipment
- ✓ 1-year *Golf World* and *Met Golfer* magazines subscription

The Men's Club season, as well as the official start of the CT and NY handicap season begins on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>. The handicap computer will be available and members of the Board and I will begin to input members that sign up in March and are aiming to do this in batches, 2 times per week. Our goal is to have members active in the computer within 10 days of receiving the membership form and payment. Remember, everyone working on the Men's Club Board is doing this on a volunteer basis. The earlier you get the forms in the easier it is on everyone.

We are hoping to get most of you to sign-up online, so please take the time to click the link [http://www.sfmensclub.com/membership\\_signup\\_2011.html](http://www.sfmensclub.com/membership_signup_2011.html)

You can also find membership forms across Sterling Farms (driving range, ticket office, resident ID office and pro-shop) or print out the PDF online. If you choose to not go online, please complete the form and drop it off at the pro shop with checks made out to

“Sterling Farms Men’s Club”. Please write legibly on the forms so we may get accurate information. The pro shop usually opens on or around March 1<sup>st</sup>. You can print the form here [http://www.sfmensclub.com/SFMC\\_Sign\\_Up\\_Form.pdf](http://www.sfmensclub.com/SFMC_Sign_Up_Form.pdf)

The complete 2011 Men’s Club schedule has been approved and posted online and will also be posted at the course in the days to come. You will be able to easily find the qualifying rules for our major events as well as rules and formats for all other events posted in both places.

This year the CSGA fees have increased from \$125 to \$1500 so we needed to increase the membership fee by \$5 for regular members in order to maintain the current level of prizes and competitions. This is our first increase in 3 years so we chose to decrease the cost of qualifying in some events (explained below). This is still one of the most competitive deals in Fairfield County with the average membership fee for our neighboring clubs being over \$79.

Membership fees: \$75 Regular Membership, \$60 Senior Membership (62 and older), \$30 Junior Membership (12 to 17 years old). Entry fees for Interclub and Shoreline Tournament will be \$10/person (down from \$20). Sterling Farms is also a member of the CSGA (CT State Golf Association). Anyone who plans on participating in CSGA events must pay an additional \$10. We will be checking CSGA participation to regulate compliance.

Pace of play is a critical issue with the Golf Authority. We improved in this area last year and NEED to keep that top of mind during our events. The Men’s Club has a higher profile than any other group of people at the course and the SGA gives us exclusive use of the course many mornings throughout the season. We must show our appreciation by not holding up the golfers behind us. Also, if the golf course is undergoing renovations during our competitions, any hole playing with a temporary green will be scored as par plus any handicap strokes you would get (always check the board for details).

As a last note, Angela and the pro shop staff have always been a major partner of the Men’s Club. They work hard on all of our events, assist us with our weekly results, give many of us lessons and fit us for new clubs, provide our membership with great discounts and always have tremendous selections of whatever it is you may be in the market for. We are lucky to have a fully-stocked golf shop with off-course prices, along with all the support they give to the club, so let’s do what we can to support them.

Enjoy the season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the course.

Marc Schultz  
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