

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

Despite what it may look like outside right now, it is almost that time of year again..... **GOLF SEASON!!!**

What better way to kick it all off than “**A TRADITION UNLIKE ANY OTHER**”. Join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Masters Party on April 14<sup>th</sup> for what promises to be another great event with some friendly wagering.



## Staff News

We have hired a professional chef with over 45 years of experience. Please welcome Ken Bechard as the newest member of the Ridgewood Country Club staff. Ken is retired military, has been in food services his entire career, and has already put together a new menu with some of his great ideas. We have more new faces this year as we have Jay Polini coming on as our first assistant golf professional bringing 20+ years of experience to our golf operations program. Benoit Cromwell will also be joining us as an assistant golf professional. Benoit got into the golf industry after serving his country and brings a lot of energy. We feel that both of these guys will fit in perfectly with our returning staff of Scott, Kevin, and Cookie.

Peg, Barbara and Melinda are all ready to get this season fired up and let the good times roll!

Kevin and Brendan have been working on getting all of the equipment tuned up and ready to go. The irrigation project is complete as well. They are making it their mission to give you the best golfing conditions possible this season! It's been a long and grueling Winter, but the end is in sight and these guys will be looking to get out in the coming weeks to start removing the snow from the greens. This is a slow and delicate process, but must be done in order to allow the ice to melt and prevent any damage to the greens.

Our bridge repair project has been completed and is now ready for traffic! We have also been doing continual work on the golf cart fleet as we look to keep them in the best condition possible this year. We ask each of you for your help in keeping the carts in tip-top shape.

If you're feeling a little confused or lost with all of the new rule changes made by the USGA this past off-season, you are not alone (just look at the tour pros). For a better understanding of the rule changes for 2019, visit [USGA.org](http://USGA.org) where they go into further detail about the changes made. If you need further help, just ask Matt for a better explanation of any of the new rules.



#### **THE 20 MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF 2019**

1. SEARCH TIME - REDUCED FROM 5 MINUTES TO 3 MINUTES
2. BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH - REPLACE NO PENALTY
3. EMBEDDED BALL - FREE RELIEF ANYWHERE THROUGH THE COURSE
4. MEASURING A DROP - USE LONGEST CLUB (EXCEPT PUTTER)
5. DROPPING - DROP FROM KNEE HEIGHT RATHER THAN SHOULDER
6. TAKING STANCE ON WRONG GREEN IS NOT PERMITTED
7. BALL UNINTENTIONALLY HITS PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT - NO PENALTY
8. DOUBLE HIT - NO PENALTY. NOW ONLY COUNTS AS THE 1 STROKE
9. TOUCHING SAND IN BUNKER INCIDENTALLY IS PERMITTED
10. LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS CAN BE REMOVED ANYWHERE INCLUDING HAZARDS
11. DROPPING A BALL OUT OF BUNKER - 2 PENALTY STROKES
12. WATER HAZARDS - NOW CALLED "PENALTY AREAS"
13. TOUCHING GROUND IN PENALTY AREA - NO PENALTY
14. BALL MOVES ON GREEN AFTER BEING MARKED - REPLACE WITHOUT PENALTY
15. BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN - REPLACE NO PENALTY
16. ALL DAMAGE TO GREEN CAN NOW BE REPAIRED
17. POSITIONING A CLUB FOR ALIGNMENT IS NOT PERMITTED
18. CADDIE ASSISTING WITH ALIGNMENT IS NOW NOT PERMITTED
19. PUTTING WITH FLAG STICK IN HOLE IS NOW PERMITTED
20. BALL WEDGED AGAINST FLAG STICK AND SIDE OF HOLE IS DEEMED AS HOLED

You will notice some new flags and pin indicators on the pole itself. If the indicator is high up near the flag that means the pin is in the back of the green lower means more towards front of the green



You may have noticed a new appearance and feel to this month's newsletter. Please give us your feedback on the new look. Gregg Ford has been brought on board as our Director of Marketing and will be handling all of our mailings, newsletters, social media, and more! Gregg has operated his own golfing website for over 5 years, possesses PGA tour media credentials, is a member of the Golf Writer's Association of America, and has an absolute passion for golf and engaging more people in this wonderful sport.

We are looking to fill multiple positions in our maintenance department. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our team, please help spread the word about the available position(s).

We are currently "manicuring the greens" on the website. The new, updated version will be rolled out in the very near future!

I know many of you are excited to get out on the links, and we are looking to make 2019 Ridgewood's best year ever!!!

If you have any general questions, comments or recommendations please feel free to reach out to Matt Hibbert anytime [mhibbs21@hotmail.com](mailto:mhibbs21@hotmail.com)

**THE COUNTDOWN TO GOLF SEASON IN NH HAS  
OFFICIALLY BEGUN!**