

# Whitemarsh Valley Country Club



## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE PACKET 2020

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*Thank you for your interest in joining Whitemarsh Valley Country Club.  
Enclosed in this packet, you will find information on the following:*

- Club History*
- Membership Amenities*
- Membership Application Process*
- Facts of Interest to a Candidate for Membership*
- 2020 Dues and Fee Structure*





## Whitemarsh Valley Country Club est. 1908

Whitemarsh Valley is extremely proud of our tradition as one of the premier private clubs in the greater Philadelphia area. Our history takes us to when William Penn granted land ownership in the late 1600's, a defining moment in American history which involved the area called White Marsh, so named due to the morning whitish aura, the mists arising from the many springs and meandering Wissahickon Creek. In 1777, General George Washington personally selected this suburban Philadelphia territory as a strategic campsite for the Continental Army.

The original clubhouse, whose stone was dated 1769, had a strong link with history; it served as headquarters of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne during the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Germantown. Progress forced the replacement of the original clubhouse, rebuilt 200 years later in 1969. The Clubhouse has undergone major renovations in the years 2000 and 2017.



*Original Clubhouse – about 1914*



*George C Thomas Jr.*

George C. Thomas purchased much of the land in 1892, later presenting it to his son George C. Thomas, Jr. At the time it was called "Bloomfield Farm". George C. Thomas Jr. was instrumental in designing the original golf course, later moving to California to become a renowned botanist and golf architect. Here he would become renowned as the designer of such outstanding courses as Bel-Air, Los Angeles Country Club's North course, and Riviera. Here, too, he would write his classic *Golf Architecture in America: Its Strategy and Construction*.

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club was incorporated on April 6, 1908, by a group of former members of Mount Airy, which was forced to disband when the club was unable to get a satisfactory extension of its lease. The bulk of the club's land—its present property—was bought from George C. Thomas, Jr., over the next three years.



The Club had its share of major tournaments, starting in 1918 when Whitemarsh held its first major national tournament, the All-American Open, won by Jock Hutchinson. The tournament was a substitute for the National Open, which had been suspended due to World War I. In subsequent years Whitemarsh held the Women's National Amateur Championship in 1933, won by Virginia Van Wie; a men's pro tournament called the True Temper in 1934; and the Women's National in 1936 featuring the famed Babe Didrickson.

The Inquirer Tournament for touring pros was held in 1947 and 1948, won by Johnny Palmer and Joe Kirkwood respectively. During the 1948 tournament, Light Horse Harry Cooper set a course record by shooting a 30 on the back nine. In 1949, the USGA rated Whitemarsh the 3rd most challenging course, behind only Pine Valley and Merion.

Patty Berg won the Women's Western Open here in 1951. Two years later Louise Suggs won the Women's National Weathervane tournament. A notable club champion is Mrs. Annette Kane winning many championships along with the first club team championship in 1972.



From 1963 to 1980 a new tournament on the pro tour called the Whitemarsh Open, later the Philadelphia Classic and finally the IVB Golf Classic, started with Arnold Palmer being the first winner. Jack Nicklaus won in '64, '65 and '78. Nicklaus won his largest purse to date with \$24,000. Tom Kite won his first PGA Tour event here in 1976, and he along with Gary Player, each shot a course record 63 during the Pro-Am session. The Champion's Cup for this event with a list of

winners is on display in our Grille Room.

The Philadelphia Amateur Championship was played at Whitemarsh for the 15<sup>th</sup> time in 2008, and returned again in 2018.

Whitemarsh has a history rich in heritage. With a membership that is sensitive to family oriented activities whether at the pool, on the golf course, or with fine dining; it's all here - welcome to Whitemarsh Valley Country Club!





As a Member of Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, you will enjoy a wide array of amenities and services, as well as establish friendships and business relationships that will last a lifetime in a respectful atmosphere of camaraderie.

### **Golf Facilities:**

- 18-hole George Thomas Design Golf Course
- Practice Range
- Indoor Practice Facility
- Putting Green
- Chipping Green
- Golf Professional Shop
- Bag Storage

#### **Men's Locker House:**

- Lockers
- Showers
- Card/T.V. Lounge
- Grille Room & Bar

#### **Women's Locker Room**

- Lockers
- Card/T.V. Lounge
- Showers

### **Clubhouse:**

- 50,000 Square Feet
- Ballroom Seating For 300
- Bridge & Card Room
- Thomas Grille Restaurant (open 6 days / week in season)
- Outdoor Patio Dining with spectacular course views
- Multiple Private Dining spaces
- Social Gatherings & Events - Throughout the year, the Club hosts a variety of parties and events, from the family favorites like Breakfast with Santa and Halloween Party to the adults-only Wine Dinners and Christmas Ball

### **Swim Facility:**

- 25-meter pool – renovated in 2015
- Diving Board
- Zero entry baby pool with fountain features
- Basketball court
- Our organized swimming program includes a competitive swim team that practices regularly and hosts numerous meets with neighboring clubs. Private swim lessons are available for kids of all ages, whether or not they swim competitively.



### **Items required before a Candidate will be considered for Membership**

1. Membership Application
  - a) Completed by the Candidate legibly and fully
  - b) Signed by the Candidate and their spouse/fiancé(e)
  - c) Returned to the Club office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

**Note: An application received after the 20<sup>th</sup> will not be considered at the next membership meeting due to the required amount of time to be posted.**

2. Applicant Questionnaire on Prospective Membership Candidate for the Proposer
  - a) Completed legibly, fully and signed by the Proposer
  - b) Submitted to the Club office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of any month

**NOTE: The By-Laws of the Club required that applicants for all categories of membership except Social, be proposed and seconded by Proprietary members. An Applicant for a Social membership may be proposed and seconded by Proprietary and/or Social members. This requirement is important for any application who is applying for Social membership but who intends in the future to request a chance to the Proprietary membership category. In order for this request to be considered, they would need sponsorship of three Proprietary members as outline in the By-Laws.**

3. Applicant Questionnaire on prospective candidate for the Secunder
4. Letters
  - a) Letters of recommendation from the Candidate's Proposer and each of the Candidate's two (2) Seconders

**NOTE: See note under item 2 above outlining By-Laws requirements for Proposers and Seconders.**

5. Check
  - a) A check payable to Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in the appropriate amount. This amount will be determined and provided to the Candidate when they are ready to submit the application
6. Interview
  - a) The Candidate and spouse/fiancé(e) must appear before the Membership Committee. The time and place of the interview will be emailed to the Candidate in advance.
7. Upon acceptance, the Candidate and spouse/fiancé(e) must attend a mandatory new member orientation meeting prior to using the Club facilities



## **Facts of Interest to a Candidate for Membership**

The following are some facts about Whitemarsh Valley Country Club which may be of interest. If there are questions about the application process, please feel free to contact the Club office or a member of the Membership Committee.

### **1. Sponsorship of Applicants for Membership**

The By-laws of the Club require that applicants for all categories of membership except social be proposed and seconded by Proprietary members. An applicant for a Social Membership may be proposed and seconded by Proprietary and/or Social members. This requirement is important for any applicant who is applying for social membership but who intends in the future to request a change to the Proprietary membership category. In order for this request to be considered, they would need sponsorship of three Proprietary members as outlined in the By-laws.

### **2. Operation of the Club**

It is important to us that you realize that the Club is run by its members through their elected officials. These officials serve on a voluntary basis, donating their time and energies to make Whitemarsh the best club. All members can help run the Club by supporting their elected officials.

The elected officials include:

Board of Governors  
President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Supporting the elected officials are various committees, staffed by club members who also serve on a voluntary basis. Those committees include::

By-laws	House
Long Range Planning	Junior Activities
Finance	Membership
Golf	Pool
Greens	

As these committees act on your behalf and advise the Officers and Board of Governors, it is important that you communicate to them your likes and dislikes.

3. **Dues and Initiation Fees**

The current fee structure for all categories is attached. Although this is self-explanatory, there are several items that should be noted:

- a) Dues for golfing members include only the member. Fees for spouses are listed separately and are only applicable if a spouse wishes to play golf;
- b) Dues are billed December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and payable annually or semi-annually. It is extremely important that all members recognize the need to pay dues, and all fees, on a timely basis.

4. **Minimums**

The Club goes to great expense to provide and maintain our facilities and encourages all members to use them on a regular basis. In fairness to all members, a monthly food minimum has been established. The amount is \$225.00 per quarter to be utilized in the Main Clubhouse only.

5. **Valley Views Newsletter**

The Club publishes a monthly newsletter and calendar to keep the members informed regarding:

- a) Events occurring in the next month;
- b) Special activities such as golf tournaments, bridge and social events;
- c) Rules and Regulations updates.





Whitemarsh Valley Country Club  
2020 Dues and Fee Schedule



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	INITIATION FEE *	ANNUAL DUES **	FOOD MINIMUM	CLUBHOUSE ASSESSMENT	CAPITAL DUES <i>Billed Annually</i>
Proprietary Member	\$ 16,000	\$ 7,710	\$225 / qtr.	\$115 / month	\$600
Proprietary - Waiting "B"	\$ 16,000	\$ 7,710	\$225 / qtr.	\$115 / month	\$600
<i>Full golf privileges - waiting for B certificate to become available</i>					
Jr Playing					
21-25	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500		\$35 / month	\$400
26-30	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,500	\$100 / qtr.	\$55 / month	\$500
31-34	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,510	\$100 / qtr.	\$75 / month	\$600
Legacy Members ***					
21-25	\$ 2,750	\$ 1,500		\$35 / month	\$400
26-30	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,500	\$100 / qtr.	\$55 / month	\$500
31-34	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,510	\$100 / qtr.	\$75 / month	\$600
Golf Privileges for Spouse	N/A	\$ 950			
Junior Golf Privilege	N/A	\$ 500			
<i>Young Adults 21-24 whos parents are Proprietary Members</i>					
Non -Resident	\$ 800	\$ 1,150	N/A	\$20 / month	\$200
Social Members *****					
21-34	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,460	\$100 / qtr.		\$400
35 =>	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,400	\$225 / qtr.	\$65 / month	\$400

\* Initiation Fee may be financed in three equal installments upon acceptance (1/3 with application).  
Includes \$2750 Class "A" Certificate when 35 years old

\*\* Annual Dues are due January 1st. May be paid Quarterly with 6% Finance Charge.

\*\*\* Parent must have been a Proprietary Member for at least 7 years to qualify for this category.

\*\*\*\*\* Social Initiation may be paid in 2 equal installments.

*Membership is an Annual commitment based on a Calendar Year.  
Membership Dues for new Memberships are Pro-rated after June 1st.*