



## 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1910 - 2010









On October 4, 1910, a group of General Electric engineers formed the Thomson Club. The club was named in honor of Dr. Elihu Thomson, a world renowned scientist who was also a co-founder of the General Electric Company. The original purpose of the club was to provide it's young engineers new to the area the opportunity to socialize with peers and to establish new friendships.

After founding the club, they rented a room at the West Lynn Odd Fellow's Hall in order to provide a meeting place. They also held some meetings at 70 Moulton Street in Lynn, where some of the members lived at the time. But prior to 1913, the Thomson Club didn't own a permanent home.



Dr. Elihu Thomson



The year was 1913 when General Electric purchased the Ashcroft estate at 24 Baker Street in Lynn to provide a permanent place for these engineers. The estate was reconstructed into a clubhouse that provided meeting rooms and sleeping quarters for 19 men. The Thomson Club resided within these walls from 1913 to 1945.

Some would stay for months, others for years, but nobody stayed longer than Ray Moeller. He had been a resident of the Thomson Club for over 25 years. To many he became know as "Mr. Thomson Club".

In his own words: "Living at the Thomson Club is much like having a bed in the center of a night club - a party practically every night. The men who have moved in and out of the club number in the hundreds. Some left to get married and found happiness in that state; others found it intolerable and returned to the Thomson Club wondering why they ever gave up such a carefree existence."



In 1945 the Thomson
Club was incorporated. It's charter stated: "for the purpose of
establishing and maintaining a
club house and other facilities to
provide for the physical, mental
and intellectual development of
its members and to cultivate and
encourage athletic sports, games
and other social activities and
relaxation for its members, and
of leasing, holding and disposing of real and personal property
therefor".



The Thomson Club in Nahant



In 1946, the club purchased the Nahant Tennis Club. The club paid \$15,000 for the building and approximately eight acres of land. This facility contained a spacious ballroom, dining room, cocktail lounge and living quarters for 16 men. While in Nahant, the Thomson Club was quite the center of social activities. They held frequent dances - both formal and semi-formal - costume parties on special occasions. Monthly smokers for men only were



very popular. Many events where scheduled monthly for the entire family to enjoy. Some of those events were family clambake's, family field day, Sunday evening family smorgasbord and the annual children's Christmas party.

As the membership grew during the post-war years, it became apparent that a need existed for a more modern facility that would provide greater recreational activities for the members, especially golf and swimming. The decision was made to sell the Nahant facility and the search for more land for a better facility was initiated.



#### How the Thomson Club Came to North Reading

In the late 1950's the Thomson Club formed a search committee to investigate sites suitable to satisfy the needs of the growing club. One of the original locations that the committee considered was a 100+ acre lot in Middleton, MA. This site, located opposite Richardson's Ice Cream property on Route 114, was only large enough for a nine-hole golf course, a clubhouse, pools and tennis courts.

Prior to making the final decision on that piece of land, the committee was shown the present site at 20 Elm Street. Its 196 acres was sufficient to accommodate an 18 hole golf course. It also offered many hills and ponds suitable for such winter sports as skating, sledding and skiing. In fact, the original pro shop was built with a very large fireplace to act as gathering place for those enjoying such winter sports. The parcel's nearness to the Ipswich River also provided potential for the development of various water sport activities such as fishing and kayaking. While the North Reading site had much more potential, it was also the lower cost per acre (\$650 per acre vs. \$840 per acre for the Middleton site) that the committee found appealing.

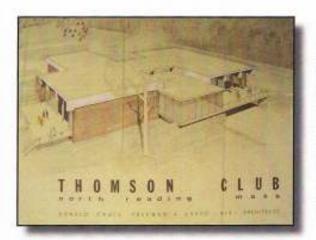
Thus, when the committee recommended the North Reading site, the Board, on August 30, 1961, with an approval vote by the full membership, purchased the property.



#### AN EARLY AERIAL VIEW

The Ipswich River is barely visible at the top of this early aerial view of the Thomson Club property. To the right is an old ball field which now houses the driving range. Lower right was the original practice area where use was limited to 8 irons or less. Use was discontinued due to the danger to passing traffic. Left center is the old Robin Hood Day Camp, which is now Gillis Drive.

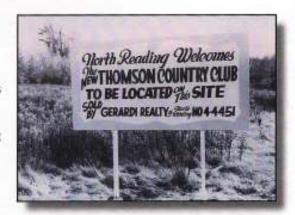




Negotiations to buy the property involved three entities: Huntington Trust, Odelette and Arthur Deschenes and a Mr. Hutchison, an abutter who claimed ownership of some 6 acres located beyond the third green and the fourth tee. The six acres in question comprised mostly of wetlands so the Thomson Club chose not to contest Mr. Hutchison. He later donated the 6 acres to the Town of North Reading for conservation purposes.

The Deschenes property controlled the transaction. Their property ran north of what is now Haywood Farms, across the eleventh tee, the fourteenth green and northwest to about where Cleek Court is today. It only contained 15.8 acres but it essentially divided the Huntington Trust land in two. Without the sale of this lot, the golf course could not be built. A deal was struck and the Deschenes received \$13,000 for their land while the Huntington Trust received \$127,000. The total final acreage was 196, 172 acres on the golf course side and about 24 acres on the clubhouse side.

In November, 1961, ground was broken and construction of the new clubhouse complex was started. The building that was constructed consisted of two levels made up of reinforced steel and concrete blocks. It was constructed with large glass walls that provided excellent views of the property from the upper level ballroom and the lower level Dean Smalley Room.







Over 1000 members and their wives attended the Grand Opening of the new Thomson Clubhouse on Friday, April 19, 1963. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included, from left to right: Mrs. J. Gibbons; Donald C. Freeman, Architect; Daniel Murphy, President of Arlington Trust Co.; Edwin E. Parker, Manager of GE Instrument Department; Warren H. Cushman, President of Thomson Club; Donald Roberts, Chairman of North

Reading Board of Selectmen; Jack Gibbons, Chairman of Thomson Building Committee; William A. Keyes, General Contractor of E.C. Blanchard Co., and Mrs. W.H. Cushman.



The new Thomson Club became very popular to it's members. The allure of this large new facility, in a country setting, was quite evident in the increasing number of members who participated in the many golf and social events held throughout the early years.

This group (from left to right: Dick Sakamoto, Alex Rotsko, saxophone; Bill Printup, drums; Jim Krecek, accordion; Joe Hearn, clarinet & Lou

Anastia, trumpet) provided music and entertainment in the Dean Smalley Room many times after Friday Night Scotches back in the late 1960's.



#### CLUBHOUSE CHANGES OVER THE YEARS

While the exterior of the clubhouse has remained basically the same, the major exterior change over the years was the enclosing of the screened porch of the dining room which overlooked the pool. This was done to increase the overall seating capacity by approximately 50 seats. The dining room was expanded and bathrooms, as well as an elevator, also were installed. The added foundation footprint also allowed for more rooms downstairs, one of which has become the very popular card room.

The ballroom originally had painted concrete block walls which presented a very Spartanlike atmosphere. However, in the 1980's, with member participation and Ben Swopes, noted interior
designer overseeing the project, the walls were sheetrocked, taped, painted and wallpapered. Other
much needed renovations were accomplished in the early 2000's. Those included enlarging the office
areas and the complete renovation of the main lobby. Also the parking lot was resurfaced and the
lounge bar was redesigned. A horseshoe-shaped bar was installed in the Dean Smalley room, aka the
Grill Room, the men's locker room was completely remodeled, the director's room was made into a
bridal room, much needed pool repairs were accomplished, a kiddies' pool was installed and the pool
bathrooms and the pool's snack bar area were modernized.



Men's Locker Room



Enclosed Porch Area



Main Lobby



Dean Smalley Room (aka The Grill Room)



## That was then....



An earlier picture of Thomson's cooks and waitstaff

## This is now....



Some members of the current Thomson staff, from left to right: Joe Cormier, Charlene Kiley, Dan Murphy (Head Chef) Joao Silva, Madeline Briand, Vladimir Genao



#### THOMSON CLUB PRESIDENTS

1910 J.C. BERGER (TEMP.)

CONE (6 MOS)

1911 J.C. BERGER (6 MOS)

R. E. PLIMPTON

1912 R.S. GILCREST (6 MOS)

1923 REGINALD G. STANDERWICK

1924 C. S. Goggershall

1925 REGINALD G. STANDERWICK

1926 EDWARD V. POLLARD

1927 A. J. BENJAMIN

1928 J. L. KERR

1929 GEORGE W. CANN

1930 No record

1931 PAUL D. ROBINSON

1932 PAUL D. ROBINSON

1933 FRED B. HOMSBY

1934 ROBERT E. ARNOLD

1935 JOHN J. O'ROURKE

1936 P.J. ROBINSON

1937 EDWIN R. GARDNER

1938 D.E. IRONS

1939 CARL H. ANDERSON

1940 FRED S. KOHL

1941 WILLIAM A. SMITH

1942 MARSHALL ANDERSON

1943 HOWARD C. DICKERSON

1944 CHARLES F. BUCKLAND

1945 WILLIAM F. SLINE

1946 FRED G. JUNKER

1947 RUSSELL E. FRANCK

1948 JAMES K. NEWHALL JR.

1949 CHALTON P. HALL

1950 MAURICE W. HOFFMAN

1951 JOHN J. SMIOLER

1952 ROBERT E. LYON

1953 JOHN R. MACINTYRE

1954 Jesse E. Neese

1955 Joseph K. Sidebottom

1956 CLIFFORD G. HANSON

1957 Joseph V. Lemmond

1958 CHARLES A. WOODMAN

1959 THOMAS E. GREEN

1960-61 J. Ralph Huggett

1962-63 WARREN CUSHMAN

1964-65 J. INGELSON

1966-67 J. HEARN

1968-69 R. RICHMAN

1970-71 R. JAMES

1972-73 R. HENNESSEY

1974-75 R. HENNESSEY

1976-77 F. TOBIN

1978-79 F. TOBIN

1980-81 F. Tobin

1900-01 F. TOBEN

1982-83 W. STICKNEY

1984-85 W. STICKNEY

1986-87 W. STICKNEY

1988-89 G. Bedrosian

1990-91 G. BEDROSIAN

1992-93 B. SUTLIFFE

1994-95 B. SUTLIFFE

1996-97 J. REGAN

1998-99 A. REGAN

2000-01 L. FAY

2002-03 W. WEBB

2004-05 J. McHale - W. Webb

2006-07 F. BISOGNANO

2008-09 J. McCarthy



2010-11 Joe McCarthy

\*In 1962 the term of office was extended from a one year term to a two year term.

No records listing officers from 1912-1923.









#### 40+ YEAR CLUB MEMBERS

1961 A. ROTSKO

1962 G. & V. Essery

1963 B. KNIGHT

S. MAGLIN

J. OLIPHANT

J. & K. REGAN

B. & H. STICKNEY

1964 R. IRVING

P. LANNON

B. & B. LOCKE

1966 B. & P. COHEN

1968 H. TANNER

1969 D. SABOL

1970 N. & F. LEONE

E. SHERMAN

1971 C. & H. DALEY

F. & A. GUARINO

D. & L. SMITH

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

Clover, L. E. Schenectady

Dunn, J. B. Pittsfield

Kinnaed, I. F. Boston

Newhell, J. K. Louisville

Savage, C. J. Scarsdale

Smalley, D. F. Lynn

Stevens, G. M. Marblehead

Trudinger, J. New Hampshire

Whyte, T.G. Florida

Bill Flynn Danvers

Ray Hennessey Swampscott

George Wemyss Wakefield

Ann MarieTobin Lynnfield

#### 2010 BOARD MEMBERS

#### Officers

Joe McCarthy President

Bob Gorton Vice Present

Pat Furnari Secretary

Joe Connolly Treasurer
Ken Connell Membership

Secretary

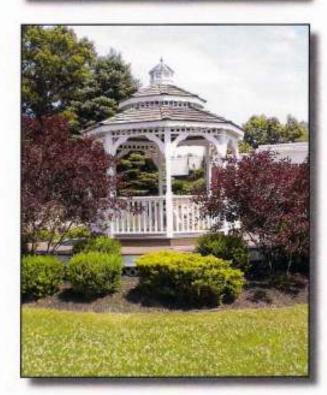
#### Directors

Art Dunford Tom Finocchio

Anthony Consoles James Pearl

Bill Gagne Charlie Hannon

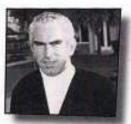
Mike Kelly Dominic Maitino





#### GOLF COURSE CHANGES OVER THE YEARS

The golf course was designed by the noted golf course designer, Geoffrey Cornish, and the works were supervised by Frank Marchel, the first greens superintendent. The first nine holes (presently the back nine) open on May 30th 1963. The first foursome to play a round of golf was comprised of Bill Flynn (Golf Professional), Warren Cushman (Club President), Herb Chase (Greens Committee Chairman) and Harold Eisenhower (Committee Chairman). The second nine holes were complete for the 1964 golf season and thus, with the completion of all 18 holes, membership was offered to non G.E. personnel as "associate members".



Bill Flynn

In the beginning, construction priority was given to greens and tees. A watering system that serviced just these areas resulted in some of the best greens and tees in the area. However, the fairways would burn out in the hot summer sun, becoming very dry and dusty. To correct this situation wells were drilled but failed to provide enough water. It was not until the club installed a pump at the Ipswich River that the fairway conditions improved. The well drilled next to the Ipswich river provided the course with unlimited amounts of water. However, the amount of water that can be drawn from this well is now under control of the Ipswich River Commission and, in times of drought, is often restricted. The pond to the right of the first fairway was deepened to increase water storage capacity. The material that was dredged from the pond was used to raise the fairway on the third hole.



Golf trips to warmer locations during the winter months were very popular to many of Thomsons' members. Here is a picture of Bill Flynn, Thomson's Head Golf Professional, from 1961 - 1986, on a golf trip in Bermuda with Ray Hennessey, club President 1974 - 1975, and Frank Tobin, first non G.E. President from 1976 - 1981.



The golf course, since it's initial design, has always been very narrow, with very heavily wooded areas bounding the fairways. In the early 1980's, financial conditions prompted the sale of the golf course land for the development of The Greens, a condo development. The sale enabled the club to regain financial stability. With the construction of The Greens, the wooded areas needed to be defined by out of bounds stakes. Some of the other changes to accommodate The Greens housing development were:



- The first fairway, which originally ran down what is now Mid Iron Drive for approximately 200
  yards, was moved to what was the practice fairway.
- The tee on the second hole was moved up 20-30 yards.
- The eighth tee was originally located on a hill adjacent to the seventh green. Moving the tee resulted in a loss of 60-70 yards.
- · The eleventh tee was also shorten slightly.
- The original fourteenth blue tee has been abandoned for safety reasons.



The very narrow par 3 seventh hole.



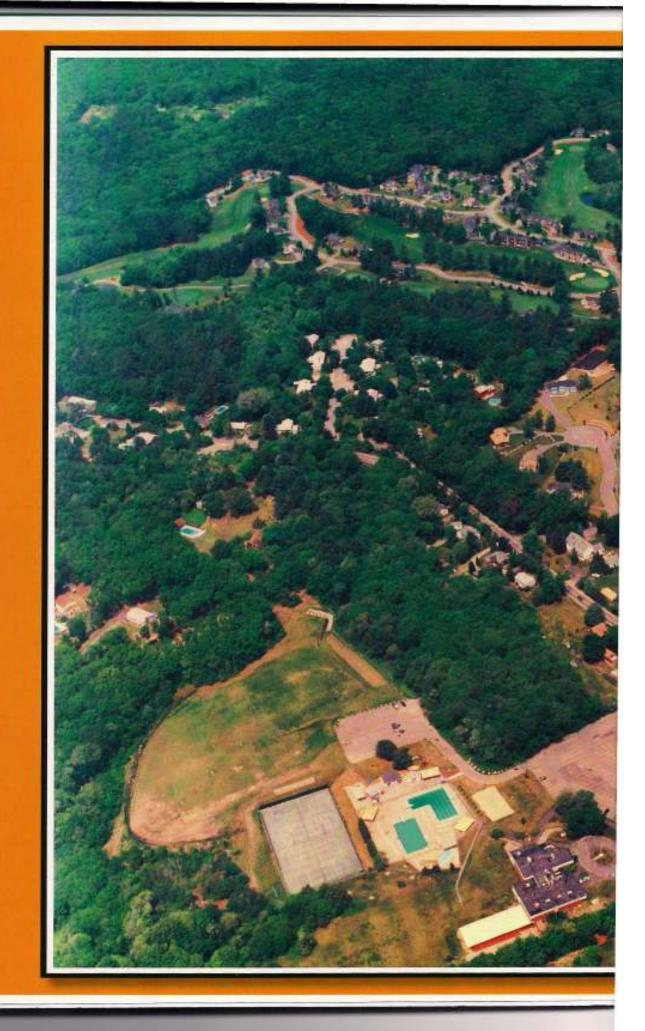
View from the seventh tee overlooking the fourth and sixth green.

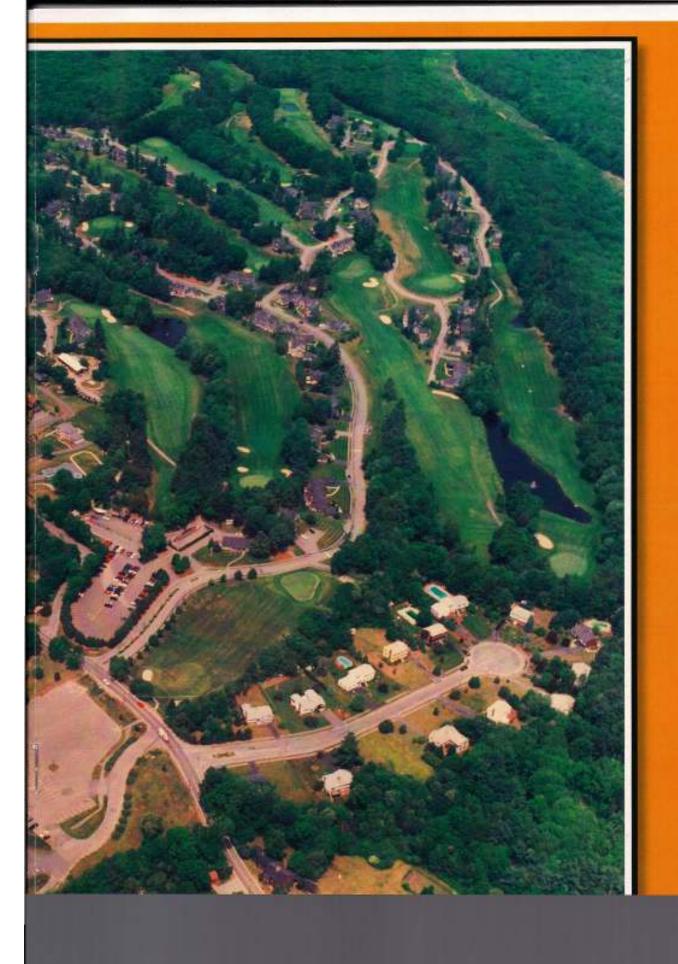


The second hole is not that much wider.



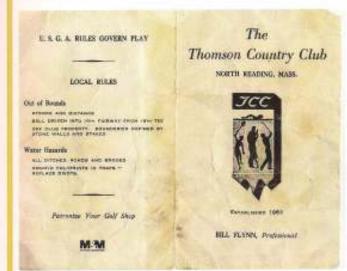
The Greens street map





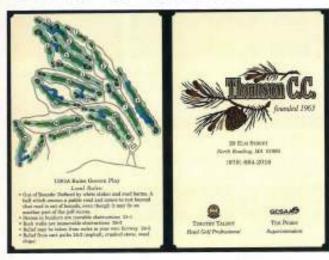


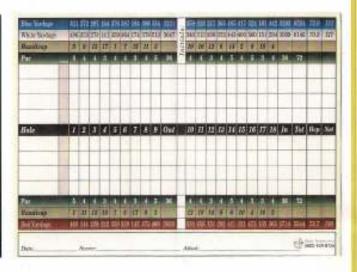
## That was then .....



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### This is now....





The top scorecard is an original scorecard printed before The Greens condo development. The overall length of the course was decreased by about 200 yards.



The original pro shop, also know as the Francis J. Tobin building, was constructed with a very large fireplace designed to provide a warming area for those participating in winter sports. However, in 1981 it was destroyed by fire. The present pro shop was rebuilt by the condo developers. The fireplace was eliminated and the original cathedral ceiling was lowered to provide for a partial second floor for storage.



Thomson Country Club Pro Shop

Some other free-standing structures also have been recently added. One is the scoreboard shed which was put in place in 2003. In 2007, a Turn House, also known as the Snack Shed, also was put in place across from the pro shop, offering a variety of foods and cold beverages.



Turn House / Snack Shed



Scoreboard Shed

In 2010, the Thomson Country Club went green by replacing it's gas-powered golf carts with newer, more ecofriendly electric carts. The reduction in pollution and noise was well received by all, especially the residents of The Greens.



Electric Golf Cart





Golfers gathered around the scoreboard shed during the 2010 Thomson 3-Day Invitational



Pictured above are some of the amazing women volunteers who help make the Thomson 3-Day a huge success. Left to right; Brenda Lane, Ginger Barrett, Debbie Proper & Jan Fee.

Today, one of the more popular tournaments held at the Thomson Country club is it's 3-Day Member-Guest Golf Invitational. Vacations, weddings and many other social engagements are planned around this highly anticipated tournament.



Dennis Leone & Joe Supino checking and posting scores inside the scoreboard shed.



Some of Thomsons' members, Stephen Miscowski and Paul Dobie, with their guests during the 2010 Thomson 3-Day Invitational.





2010 Men's Club Champion Sean Andrews.



2010 Women's Club Champion Joy Santoro



Margie Segel 2010 Women's 9-hole Champion

Lisa Stone Runner-up



Sean Andrews, with his caddie Bob Gorton, surveys his lie during his 36hole Club Championship finals match against Brian O'Hanley.



Club Professional Tim Talbot explaining a ruling during the 2010 Club Championship semi-finals to Brian O'Hanley, while his opponent, Kristen MacDonald, looks on.



#### WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONS

1964 Mary Silvers	1987 Mary Locke
1965 Mary Silvers	1988 Madeline Alford
1966 Sally Hammerbeck	1989
1967 Patrice Hartzell	1990 Cynthia Clearly
1968 Lillian Thompson	1991 Cynthia Clearly
1969 Patrice Hartzell	1992 Paula Bdiwi
1970 Phyllis Gonet	1993 Mary Locke Snow
1971 Patrice Hartzell	1994 Brenda Lane
1972 Jackie Reeves	1995 Sandy Radochia
1973 Sally Hammerbeck	
1974 Mary Silvers	1997
1975 Ann Marie Locke	1998
1976 Madeline Alford	2000 Janice lamb
1977 Ann Marie Locke	2001 Brenda Lane
1978 Ann Marie Locke	2002 Sandy Radochia
1979 Ann Marie Locke	2003 Sandy Radochia
1980 Madeline Alford	2004 Michelle Feld
1981 Mary Locke	2005 Janice Lamb
1982 Mary Locke	2006 K. MacDonald
1983 Mary Locke	2007 Michelle Feld
1984 Madeline Alford	2008
1985 Madeline Alford	2009 K. MacDonald
1986 Madeline Alford	2010 Joy Santoro

#### MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONS

1963 A. Sullivan	1987 R. Dyer
1964 C. Thyberg	1988 J. Rocha
1965 G. Regan	1989 B. Seabury
1966 C. Thyberg	1990 B. Webb
1967 A. Sullivan	1991 N. Frazer
1968 A. Sullivan	1992 M. McKenna
1969 A. Sullivan	1993 S. Guild Jr.
1970 J. Dieckelman	1994 S. Guild Jr.
1971 A. Sullivan	1995 F. Atherton
1972 J. Tobin	1996 J. McHale
1973 N. Frazer	1997 N. Frazer
1974 N. Leone	1998 K. Daly
1975 P. Twomey	1999 K. Daly
1976 N. Frazer	2000 M. Kuzara
1977 T. McDonald	2001 K. Daly
1978 N. Frazer	2002 K. Daly
1979 R. Pacquet	2003 K. Daly
1980 R. Pacquet	2004 D. Petruzzelli
1981 T. Frazer	2005 K. Daly
1982 N. Frazer	2006 D. Petruzzelli
1983 T. McDonald	2007 K. Daly
1984 J. Hart	2008 T. Finocchio
1985 B Seabury	2009 M. Bisognano
1986 N. Frazer	2010 S. Andrews

#### Women's Nine-Hole Champions

2006 Kathy Connelly 2007 Kathy Connelly 2008 Kathy Connelly 2009 Joann Supino 2010 Margie Segel





Tim Talbot

#### GOLF PROFESSIONALS

1961-1986 Bill Flynn 1987-1999 C. Frithsen 2000-2006 W. Heintzelman 2007-Present Tim Talbot



Tedd Perry

#### GREENS SUPERINTENDENTS

Frank Marshell Leo Brown Ray Woodbury Al Singer Karl Heintzelman Tedd Perry



Pro Shop Staff, from left to right, Trevor Fuller, Assistant Professional; Chris Young Assistant Professional and Sean Maxwell, Hospitality Manager.



John Wiley Clubhouse Manager



Dee Tibbetts, Kristina Aloisi & Christine Danas, Office Manager



Bill Gagne, Controller & Kenton Benloss, Assistant Clubhouse Manager



#### POOL AND TENNIS AT THE THOMSON CLUB





In November, 1961, as part of the clubhouse complex, work was started on the pool and tennis courts and was completed in 1963. There were three pools, one L shaped, one rectangular, both Olympic sized, with depths from 3 feet to 12 feet, and a smaller kiddies' pool. At the time of construction it was considered to be the largest pool complex in New England. The two larger pools were heated. The L-shaped pool had two diving boards, one 10 feet high and the lower one approximately five feet high. The original bath houses and utility buildings were temporary structures, shaped as geodesic dones placed on octagon shaped concrete pad. Within a few years they were replaced with the three structures in use today. The cost of heating the pools proved to be too high and soon the heating equipment was removed. The use of the diving boards also fell victim to the high cost of insurance and were removed. In the early 2000's major renovations and repairs were made to the two larger pools and a newly designed kiddies' pool was built. The exteriors of both bath houses and the utility shed were done over with vinyl siding, the interiors painted and some new fixtures installed. A section of the utility shed was also converted to a snack bar. To provide relief from the hot sun temporary shelters were erected. These have since been replaced with other structures and tents.



Thomson's Kiddie Pool







While in Nahant, the Thomson Club had four clay surfaced, night-lighted tennis courts. It was the most popular sport at the club at that time. But it wasn't the only sport. Back in the early 1950's, the Thomson sponsored teams in basketball, skiing, softball, bowling, volley ball, touch football, swimming, ping-pong and even mountain climbing.

Originally, four tennis courts were built next to the pool and clubhouse at the North Reading site. Of the four, two were clay surfaced and one was lighted for evening play. The other two were asphalt covered. In 1972, when tennis was quite popular, the two asphalt courts were replaced with clay surfaces and four additional courts were added. However, when interest waned and maintenance costs increased the additional courts were removed.



Stephanie Salisbury Pool Director



Pool Staff Front; P. Burdett, B. O'Neil, K. Phelan Rear; S. Sutherland, C. Garlow



# Thank You

Special thanks to Alec Rotsko and Richard Gerardi for their contribution of historical data and pictures. Kristina Aliosi for her help with typing, Ed Doherty for his help in proofing, Charlie Daley for his research on the 40+ member club, Christine Danas for her help in putting all the pieces together and Steve Imbriano for designing and printing this book. The committee would also like to thank all of those individuals who contributed newspaper articles, postcards & pictures. Much of the material in this booklet was researched, filmed and compiled by Bill Locke.



#### 100™ YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

JOE MCCARTHY - PRESIDENT CO-CHAIRMAN - BILL LOCKE CO-CHAIRMAN - JOE SUPINO JAN FEE DIANE HINCKLEY NATALIE SALADINO JOHN WILEY - CLUBHOUSE
TIM TALBOT - GOLF
CHARLES HANNON - POOL & TENNIS

Note: Historical material for the first fifty years has been taken, verbatim, from the commemorative issue entitled "The Thomson Talker", published in 1960. Newspaper clippings and photos furnished by Dick Gerardi form the basis for "How the Club Came to North Reading". Descriptions of the club's history from 1963 to the present time come mainly from conversations with long-time club members. Facts and figures presented in this book have been checked to the extent permitted by existing records. In many instances the records were non existant and we had to rely upon the memory of knowledgeable individuals. If we made errors, well, we apologize.



