

Schuylkill Country Club

1921-2021

100 Years of History

In 1905, the club was formed in Pottsville as the “Outdoor Club of Pottsville,” located at 18th Street and Oak Road. The club's original charter and by-laws were created at this time, and the basic outline and structure of these documents still exist today. On November 22, 1919, the board of directors and bondholders of the Outdoor Club decided that Pottsville should have a country club. They purchased four pieces of land totaling 113 acres outside of Orwigsburg for \$11,850 from Franklin P. Seltzer, Milton D. Reber, Henry B. Genslinger, and Susan Katyuch. Francis X. Reilly was hired as architect of the clubhouse and Gordon Nagle as contractor. Together they built a beautiful clubhouse at a cost of \$32,875. The view atop a hill allowed for all to see for miles in all directions. The club became known as the Schuylkill Country Club.

The original 9-holes of the golf course were designed in 1921 by world-renowned golf course architect Willie Park, Jr. and built by Frank James at a cost of \$20,700. The formal opening of the Schuylkill Country Club was celebrated with a dinner dance on May 10, 1921. Thereafter the club house was used for many formals, wedding receptions, teas and luncheons including the annual Christmas, Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Halloween dances.

In the early days, no children were allowed in the club house nor on the club house porch on Sunday afternoons. Thus, a playground was made available. Nor was card playing of any sort allowed on a Sunday. The 2nd floor of the club house was the original ladies' locker room. There were showers, bathrooms, lockers, and a sitting area. The 2nd floor also had rooms that were used for different employees as living quarters throughout the years. These rooms have since become unlivable and are now used for storage.

Some years after the opening of the club a caddy house and a new wing to the men's locker room were added. In 1930 a special meeting was held at the club to discuss building a swimming pool, and the original pool and bath house opened soon after.

The most important addition to the club facilities came in 1945 when the board and members considered a bid for the addition of nine holes to the golf course. The course was redesigned to 18 holes by another world-renowned golf course architect, Donald Ross. Ross was involved in designing or redesigning roughly 400 courses from 1900-1948, laying the foundation for America's golf industry. His challenging layout continues to be known for its fabulously maintained playing conditions in a peaceful, quiet atmosphere.

The remodeling of the tap room was completed in 1951, the men's locker room renovation was completed in 1953, and in April of 1958 the porch area behind the fireplace was enclosed and the Schuylkill Haven room, coat room and bathrooms were designed. Other items completed in the 1950's and 60's included construction of a new bath house at the swimming pool, enlargement of the pro shop, addition of a golf cart building and the completion in 1965 of a ladies' lounge and rest room adjacent to the pro shop.

In the early 1990's a separate building was added behind the clubhouse to serve as the grounds maintenance building. July 1996 brought the demolition of the original pro shop and ladies' locker room and the expansion of the main building to include a new ladies' locker room, ladies' lounge and pro shop. In 1999-2000, the club added a state-of-the-art irrigation system to the golf course and in the early 2000's the club redesigned numerous bunkers and greens including #4, #9, #13, and #16. In 2016 the patio roof was added and in 2017 the bathrooms located at #5 was put in place. In 2019 the original pool was demolished and a new recreation complex including a new pool and pickle ball courts were built. Our Centennial year saw major upgrades to the club parking lot, new roofs on all the buildings and the commencement of construction of the long-overdue maintenance building along Greenview Road near holes 8 and 12.

Over the years the club has grown into more than just a place for golf. With a variety of memberships available, Schuylkill is now an ideal place for family and friends to meet and enjoy the many social activities that are held throughout the years!