WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Just one generation after the incorporation of Park Ridge as a village in 1873, some of its leading citizens decided that the town needed more recreational opportunities than those offered by a group of five tennis courts located at Northwest Highway and Summit Avenue. Taking note of the rapid rise in popularity of the sport of golf, first introduced into the United States in the late 19th century, these local sportsmen chartered the Park Ridge Country Club in 1906, specifying that the Club would be devoted to “good fellowship, and the promotion of golf, lawn tennis, field games, athletic sports, and social features.” Today, in its second century of existence, the Club continues to emphasize both the fellowship and sportsmanship goals envisioned by its founders.

And while today’s dynamic city of Park Ridge is no longer country by any stretch of the imagination, Park Ridge Country Club remains a symbol of its memorable past, an example of its vibrant present, and a harbinger of its bright future. It’s a place where men and women meet in the friendly competition of a round of golf played over lush fairways and immaculate greens; where fathers, mothers, and children work on their tennis skills; where families spend many a hot summer day cooling off at the swimming pool; and where families, friends, and business acquaintances come to enjoy a cool beverage in the Heritage Lounge, a delicious lunch served al fresco on the clubhouse porch, dinner on one of Chef Glenn’s culinary delights in the Grill Room, or a wedding reception hosted in the Main Dining Room. In short, it’s a place where old friends meet and new friends are made.

The membership and staff take great pride in the Club and relish sharing its facilities with their friends. A frequent reaction of first-time guests is summed up by the comment, “I can’t believe how friendly this place is.” The newest member is made to feel at home from their very first day and guests are invariably treated with impressive cordiality. It’s not uncommon for a guest who has been to the Club just a couple of times to know many of the staff by name, just as it is typical for the staff to recognize returning guests and to greet them like one of the family.

Come with us, then, as the following pages tell you more about the Club we love and the many activities, both social and sporting, enjoyed by the members and their families.
Upon its founding in 1906, the Club settled on a parcel of land known as Robb’s Farm, or Robb’s Park, after the colorful and well-liked owner, Colonel Thomas P. Robb, inspector general of the Union Army in 1864, and later a State of Illinois health commissioner. In 1891, the Robb farm was sold to a Mrs. Eliza Bell, and in 1906 the Club’s founders took a five-year lease on the eighty-five acres of Robb’s original holdings west of Prospect Avenue at a cost of $500 a year, then arranged for the construction of a nine-hole golf course. In 1911, the Club exercised a purchase option in the lease and acquired the land for a total cost of $25,500, and also undertook construction of nine more holes to get to today’s total of eighteen. Later, in 1915, the Club purchased twenty adjoining acres and reconfigured its eighteen holes to fit the larger acreage. Initially, the clubhouse was the Robb farmhouse and the locker room the Robb barn. In 1912, architect Frank Lloyd Wright was engaged to upgrade the facilities, which he did by designing a connecting structure between the farmhouse and barn, and remodeling both buildings. The Wright design, while aesthetically pleasing, was limited and somewhat impractical for its purpose, so in 1925, a new two story clubhouse was built and the old clubhouse demolished. It is this classic red brick Georgian building, with several enlargements and improvements, which remains the clubhouse to this day.
KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

Over the years the Club has evolved to meet the needs and expectations of the membership. The facilities have been upgraded on a consistent basis and new amenities added as their desirability became apparent. Major revisions included a swimming pool in 1958, clubhouse renovations and enlargement in 1969, and a complete building refurbishment in 1987, which included construction of a new stylish exterior porte cochere and a completely upgraded locker room featuring new double door oak lockers, along with an ambitious retrofitting of all the basic elements of the building.

Most recently, with the advent of the 21st century, membership approved a complete modernization of Park Ridge Country Club to make it competitive with the best clubs in the area. The Board moved forward with a five million dollar program devoted to the following improvements: (1) in the clubhouse, an entirely new kitchen, and a completely refurbished Grill, Library, and porch; (2) a new and larger swimming pool, with refurbished locker rooms and a new patio and snack shop; (3) removal of the tennis courts built in 1940 near the Club entrance, and construction of four new state-of-the-art clay courts and a tennis house in a more protected area to the south; (4) building of an enlarged barn for the carts, plus a new cart route and staging area, and a reconfigured parking lot that yielded much needed additional parking; (5) finally, a thoroughly re-imagined, renewed, rebuilt, and re-planted golf course, designed by David Esler. Course renovation occurred between August 2001 and the re-opening of the course in June 2002. Later, a new casual lounge was built adjacent to the Library, with this beautiful pine-paneled room becoming known as the Heritage Lounge. In 2006, to help celebrate our 100th anniversary, the Club added a remodeled stairway flowing down from the porch to a new Centennial Commons area featuring a large pedestal clock and wrought iron benches sitting on inlaid pavers. Additional improvements in 2007 and 2008 include a tiled terrace outside the Main Dining Room and all new fascia trim around the building. The Main Dining Room itself was given a raised ceiling and new enlarged windows offering an enhanced view of the golf course. The result of these renovations is a more member friendly and attractive Club, one which members can enjoy to the fullest and to which they can take pride in inviting their friends.
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY IMPROVEMENTS

The three top photographs on this page are credited to Bruce Van Ingen Photography.
The Clubhouse
In Pictures

The North Lounge

The Grill

The Library

The Private Dining Room

The Porch

The Men’s 19th Hole
A LITTLE GEM HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF TOWN

The Park Ridge Country Club course is a classic parklands design that is not at all long by today’s standards, but yet offers an interesting challenge to golfers of all skill levels. The course requires a variety of shots and a thoughtful plan for scoring, with varying degrees of risk and reward, depending on the player’s willingness to confront hazards, or avoid them. Despite limitations of land area and topography, the holes are individually distinctive and visually appealing, with steeply faced sand bunkers and grassy mounds, along with numerous trees which have grown up over the years and line most fairways. Fast, well-maintained greens, some with steep slopes and others with subtle breaks, require the player’s complete attention through the last shot played. A par 70 layout with five par 3 holes and just three par 5s, the course yardage varies depending on the tees played: championship, 6,524; regular, 6,345; intermediate, 5,897; and forward, 5,454. The course is truly a glorious green gem located just a few blocks from the center of town.
COMBINING VARIETY AND CHALLENGE

Giving each hole its own character and personality was one of the high priorities in the 2001 redesign and the two holes described below are indicative of the successful result of that mandate.

Hole #12, Par 3, 172/151/122/103 yards

The 12th hole is the course’s signature hole, with a large pond situated between the tee and the green. Three deep and steeply faced bunkers frame the hole left and right, adding to its visual impact and increasing its difficulty. The green’s front third is so steeply sloped back to front that tee shots hitting there will usually roll back to the green’s front edge. When the hole is tucked back and behind the left bunker, both the tee shot and subsequent putts are very treacherous owing to a ridge line running along the top portion of the green.

Hole #15, Par 4, 457/451/442/427 yards

In the original course layout, the 15th hole was a 460-yard par 5. In the 1950s it was changed to become the course’s longest par 4. The hole often plays into a prevailing wind and it demands a well-placed drive to the right side of the fairway, either left of or flying the right-hand sand bunkers situated some two hundred yards off the tee. The approach shot with a long iron or fairway wood is difficult because the green is relatively small and protected both right and short-left with steeply faced bunkers. The hole is sometimes played as a right hand dogleg from an alternate teeing area about thirty-five yards to the right of the tee normally used.
The friendly faces you see as you walk into the Club’s Golf Shop include Head Professional Rick Groessl and his staff, including Assistants Jim Rafferty and Jerry Calvacca. Besides the typical professional responsibilities of teaching and equipment fitting, the staff makes it a special point to foster the sense of belonging which pervades the Club’s friendly atmosphere. They are quick to greet old members and introduce themselves and the Club’s golf facilities to new members and their families. There are plenty of opportunities for individual play on the course, with members arranging their own games or hosting guests on both weekdays and weekends. And, thanks to the Club traditions and convivial atmosphere, it’s easy for a member to get a game just by turning up and letting one of the pros know that, “I’m looking.” Additionally, there are planned golf activities designed for the enjoyment of all types of players offered throughout the year. The following schedule on this page and the next shows the number and variety of interesting events planned for the season.

GOLF AT PARK RIDGE CC

Member’s Events

- Sundowners (9-hole team play on Tuesdays)
- Opening Day (Saturday, early May)
- PRCC Team Classic (Memorial Day Weekend)
- President’s Trophy (match play through season)
- Park Ridge Classic (two day team member-guest)
- Father-Son Tournament (Father’s Day weekend)
- Independence Day Open (two day member teams)
- Father-Daughter Event
- PRCC Team Championship (Team match play through season)
- North Shore Seniors League (one day inter-club)
- North Shore Golf League (one day inter-club)
- Plae Dae (one day special member-guest, Men only)
- Ken Weiler Derby Days (two day member teams)
- Senior Championship (one day member event)
- Shoot Out (one day hole by hole elimination)
- John Porazin Invitational (one day member-guest)
- Labor Day events (team and individual, 2 day)
- Club Championship (54 holes, final 18 on Labor Day Sunday)
- End of Season Tournament (2 day closing event)

Junior Golf

- Little Linkers (ages 6-7)
- Junior Inter-Club
- Junior Golf Program
- Teen Golf Program
- Junior Championship (2 day)
Women’s Events

Lady 18 Holers (season long competition)
Lady 9 Holers (season long competition)
9 Holers Guest Day
18 Holers Guest Day
Mother-Daughter Tournament (one day)
Lady 18 Holers Derby Days (2 day event)
Mother-Son Tournament (one day)
Lady 18 Holers Championship (3 days)
Lady 9 Holers Championship (2 days)
18 Holers Closing Event
9 Holers Closing Event

Mixed Events

Tennessee Dog Fight (Scramble Format)
Lads vs. Lassies (Men vs. Women)
Fall Mixed Event

Calling all PRCC Golfers,

Please join us for an
Evening of Cocktails, Golf and Hors d'oeuvres
Friday, July 17th
4:30pm Enjoy Cocktails
5:30pm 9 Hole Shergun
7:30pm Hors d'oeuvres galore and more Cocktails
Everyone Welcome!

Calling all Golfers,

Join us for the First Ever
Battle of the Sexes Tournament
“Lads vs. Lassies”

Format: Pair of men vs. Pair of women
Four balls, one tee, one pin for the first nine, one pin for the next nine, one pin for the last six holes.
Three points possible in each match.
Fourballs will be arranged by the Pro Shop according to handicap. (For matches with a tie)
3 All players with an 18 hole handicap are encouraged to attend.

Saturday, September 12, 2009
1:30pm Shotgun Start

Followed by
Bragging Rights, Cocktails at 6pm
All American Dinner at 7:00pm
(Winners Eat Steak, Losers Eat Hot Dogs)
Special Musical Performance by Ireland Native, Aidan O’Toole & his
Gaelic Band, Anish

Please Reserve at the Pro Shop
847/823-0410

This 9 Hole Mixed Event is Sponsored by the Lady 9 Holers
FAMILY FISHING DERBY
AND FUN

KIDS CAMP

FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT

FAMILY POOL PARTY

THE CHILDREN’S MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
Remaining true to its roots, Park Ridge Country Club features a vibrant tennis program designed for the enjoyment of all ages and skill levels. The Club has four superb clay courts situated at the southeast end of the property. Nestled in the complex is the Tennis House with a small pro shop and lounge. Long-time Head Tennis Professional, Ed Thompson, whose credentials include former number one ranking in singles and doubles at the University of Illinois in the late 1960s, has developed an extensive playing and teaching program for adults and children. Assisting him is a staff of 12 from our local high school and college ranks, each with a sound tennis background. The Club enjoys a very active tennis playing membership. Over 180 adults are identified as tennis players and most play regularly. Junior players at all levels and ages are in abundance. As a proud Ed Thompson says, “If you enjoy the game of tennis played on the ultimate in court surfaces, then Park Ridge Country Club Tennis is for you.”

The tennis season runs from approximately May 1 to October 31, give or take some days depending on the weather. The courts are open every day of the week, with early birds sometimes arriving just after sunrise and others concluding play shortly before dark. The Tennis House is open at all times except the Monday daytime hours. Only members or their guests may use the courts, and guests are always made very welcome. Players may just drop in or they can reserve times on the day of play.

There are many opportunities for members to enjoy their tennis - in a social setting, instructionally, and competitively. Mixed doubles parties with dinners following are offered monthly. The evening Team Tennis program is both a social and competitive experience, giving participants the convenience and scheduling predictability of playing on the same night each week. There are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night groups, each at different skill levels. For students of the game there are lessons for beginners and novice players, drill groups for more advanced players, and private lessons for anyone wishing to polish their skills. For competitive play there is the Spring League program, the summer-long Club Tournament, and the Fall League program.
Beginning at age 4, members’ children can discover the fun and challenge of playing tennis. The once a week Tot and Junior Camp programs provide basic instruction through age 10. More advanced juniors by age 9 get introduced to competitive tennis through one of three Davis Cup programs which get the players out twice a week with a 3rd day private lesson option as well. The newest program for our most advanced players is Junior Team Tennis – a competitive experience much like the adult version. “Teen Tennis,” a strictly social time for the teenagers, is a weekly highlight. Juniors can also look forward to single day special events which include the Kids’ Carnival, the Junior Triathlon, 4th of July Parent/Child Doubles Tournament, and the Annual Junior Club Tournament.

To sum up, tennis is not only alive at Park Ridge Country Club, but thriving, and it gives every indication of being even better and more entertaining in the years to come.
The new Club swimming pool, one of the key features of the 21st century improvement program, is a great place for members and their guests to enjoy a nice summer day or evening. Pool Manager Peter Przekota has designed multiple programs and events that are available to members and their families, regardless of age or swimming ability. When he is not overseeing the Club pool in the summer, Peter is a high school science teacher as well as a water polo and swimming coach during the school year.

Sunday afternoons are family nights, including games for all and a pool-side buffet. Fridays are guest nights, with each member allowed to bring up to 4 free guests for an evening of friendly fun at the pool. Aqua Aerobics are available Monday and Wednesday afternoon and are open to all. Generally, the pool is open all days and evenings except Monday from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend; and, from Independence Day weekend through Labor Day, it’s even open Mondays for daytime swimming.
The Park Ridge Country Club Swim Team includes over 70 children between the ages of 5 and 12. Its programs introduce swimmers to the four competitive swim strokes and develop skills in each. Moreover, meets held with neighboring clubs build team spirit and competitiveness. The team practices each weekday morning, with two optional afternoon practices.

Swim Lessons are also available to members of any age. Lessons are a great way for individuals to get one on one attention to perfect their strokes or to enjoy a comfortable introduction to swimming itself. All the instructors have swum competitively and understand different drills and techniques that help swimmers of all ages to improve their skills.
Park Ridge Country Club Membership Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Craig Petersen  
Phone: (847) 312-7969  
e-mail: cpetersen@millmarking.com

Committee Members

Mr. John Burke  
Mr. Christopher Clark  
Dr. Loren Dardi  
Mr. Kevin Garvey  
Mr. Douglas Johnson  
Mr. Timothy Mauery  
Mr. Robert Smith  
Mr. Thomas Villano  
Mr. Gordon Williams  
Ms. Kim Williams