When the concept on the Fairway Club was introduced to me it seemed to be a natural consequence of several golfing buddies kicking around the idea of a way to enjoy the better courses in the Philadelphia area. Perhaps, this was the main force behind the effort to create another golf society, it was not the first in the area.

It would be nice to know more about those efforts and the gentlemen involved in the beginning. Of greater interest, I would like to understand their impression of the resulting history of their efforts.

Once involved with the club, gradually, I became aware the specialness of membership. At the time, 18 years ago, we played the best courses. We met for lunch, played a terrific golf venue and, at the end of the day, honored the tradition of changing into a jacket and tie and gathered for a fine meal in the club’s dining room. After a few liquid refreshments, the joking and needling of fellow members started. It was a pleasant experience.

Over the past few years, faces have changed, retirees have been replaced by new, younger faces. This year we lost one of our classiest members, Skip Carroll. Great guy, always eager to enthusiastically share one of his Irish stories at dinner, not always funny but well presented , Irish brogue to boot.

Recently, the club has added several first class golf venues, Lancaster, Wilmington, Lookaway, Bent Creek, Riverton. The winter tour has evolved into a popular event in Naples, Florida. A new event started this year for the many residents of south Jersey, ‘The War at the Shore’.

Our members have organized golf treks to Ireland, Scotland , Bermuda and a couple of outstanding courses in New England.

The activities and travel opportunities have changed and added diversity but the culture has remained constant, the best part of the Fairway Club is the individual members.

Membership in the Fairway Club has provided me with the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of many men in a most pleasant environment. Each summer we come together several times to enjoy a day of friendly competition and camaraderie. I am grateful for the membership opportunity, thank the gentlemen who started the Fairway Club and to those who have carried the banner for the last 100 years.

I have always felt privileged to be a member and share the cordial fellowship of so many men of goodwill.

George Connell

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