

***CUMMINGS COVE GOLF &  
COUNTRY CLUB***

**ADVISORY BOARD OF GOVERNORS (ABOG)**

**ANNUAL MEETING – OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**ETOWAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – 7 PM**

## **Cummings Cove Advisory Board of Governors (ABOG)**

The Advisory Board of Governors is one of two formal Cummings Cove (CC) Committees, with the other being Cummings Cove Community Association (CCCA).

ABOG's primary responsibility is to represent the interests of the current and future residents with respect to CC recreational facilities and activities. These activities include golf, pickleball, tennis, swimming pool and hot tub, bocce, fitness center and social events offered by the Events Committee. As a subset of the Events Committee, welcome baskets are distributed to all new residents.

It is important to note that ABOG is not a policy making board and does not have a set budget. Any funds available are generated by the five ABOG sub-committees which include:

Men's Member Golf, Ladies' Member Golf, Greens, Events for social activities, and Fitness, which includes the Fitness Center, pool, pickleball and tennis courts, and bocce ball.

Each activity has membership specific fees for joining and use of the above facilities. Current fee structures can be obtained at the Information Office. They are also listed under Memberships Available on [www.cummingscove.com/owners](http://www.cummingscove.com/owners) website.

ABOG does provide feedback and suggestions to the Director of Operations, currently, Harry Grymes, who then provides input directly to the Cummings Cove Company Developer. The Developer manages and maintains all the facilities and has sole responsibility and oversight of the Club House and Restaurant. The Card Room and Library at the Clubhouse are primarily for residents' use.

ABOG membership consists of resident volunteers, who serve a three-year term. In addition, Harry Grymes, and membership staff support, Nancy Trahan, also attend the ABOG monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. E-blasts provide a summary of the meetings to the community following each monthly meeting. A community-wide ABOG annual meeting is typically held in October. New members begin their term in November of each calendar year.

ABOG welcomes you to the Cummings Cove Community. We know you will find CC very friendly, with a multitude of physical and social activities, where there is something for everyone!

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact the appropriate ABOG member, whose contact information can also be found under Owners Login on the [www.cummingscove.com/directory](http://www.cummingscove.com/directory).

Revised 9.4.2024 M. Hern, Past President

## **ABOG MEMBERS**

### **CURRENT 2024 Board Members**

Term Ending November 1, 2024

Marcia Hern, President

Robin Virbickis and Terry Buonomo, Events Committee Co-Chairs

Lyn Blake and Jane Young, Ladies Golf Co-Chairs

Mike Howenstine, Fitness Center Chair

Three-year Term Continuation until November 1, 2026

Keith Stewart, Men's Golf Chair and Vice President

Mike Herrick, Greens Chair

Debbie Scott, Secretary

### **New 2024-2027 Board Members**

Mike Silvius, President

Nancy Ciolek, Ladies Golf Chair

Steve Dolan, Events Committee Chair

Rob Radcliff, Fitness Center Chair

Each of these members expend numerous hours as volunteers to promote very positive recreational activities for the enjoyment of each resident.

Their individual reports will follow.

As President of ABOG for the last three years, I strongly applaud all the residents for their outstanding efforts and time given to Cummings Cove through ABOG activities. ***Marcia Hern***

**President's Report, 2024 Year-End Summary**

President – Marcia Hern

This past 2023-2024 year, ABOG achieved two\* of its prior recommendations:

1. \*We recognized that there are currently 129 individual golf members or 82 family members as reported by Nancy Trahan. However, public players constitute about 66% of the current 14,000 rounds of golf this year, with the remaining 34% from members' league, tournaments and individual play.
2. \*Adopt-a-hole was reinstated wherein numerous golf members and residents weeded and cleaned up each of the 18-hole areas around the tee boxes. Thanks to the leadership of Mike Silvius who led this charge with financial support from Harry Grymes.
3. We continue to encourage all golf players to fill their divots with sand and to pick up broken or discarded tees.
4. No staff were added to the Information office to help with recruitment of new golf members.
5. Welcome baskets will continue to be distributed to new residents.



Co-Chairs: Robin Virbickis and Terry Buonomo

### **2024 Year-End Summary Report**

We enjoyed another successful year, hosting eight distinct events. Attendance remained strong at all events, averaging 80-120 guests. We chose to host as many outdoor events as possible, given the expanding number of residents and the space confines of using indoor spaces.

#### **Our 2024 Events Included:**

**Cupid's Couples Collide, 2/20:** Patterned after the Newlywed Game, this fun night had five resident couples play and share how much they know (or don't know) about their partner. As always, lots of laughs ensued. Approximately 89 guests. Food by Palmers II

**Music Bingo, 4/16:** A repeat of a wonderfully successful and high-energy night from 2023. Several rounds were played, and prizes were awarded for each. Approximately 82 guests. Food by Palmers II

**Memorial Day Weekend, 5/25 and 5/27:** A two-part event, we began on Saturday with a community BBQ at the fitness center. The Events Committee supplied the meal of traditional summer favorites at a small cost to guests. Almost 200 guests attended. The evening featured a performance by The Gin Mill Pickers. On Monday, we honored those who gave their lives in service by hosting a veteran's event. Inclement weather made us move indoors, but there was a short service, display of some resident's photos, and the adding of new squares to the Veterans Quilt on display in the clubhouse

**First Day of Summer Dance Party (6/19):** Steve Dolan DJed an evening of music at the Triple Fairways Pavilion. The Cummings Cove line dancers led the audience in several numbers.

**Independence Day, 7/5:** The traditional festivities took place on Friday this year. We began with the kid's games at the Sales Center. Lots of new faces this year and the kids always have fun. In the evening, we held the Golf Cart Decorating Contest and

Parade. The weather held this year for us! Then we supported the Fireworks Crew as needed with road closures and a music program.

**Cummings Cove's Got Talent, Act II, 8/20:** Another repeat event for us. Numerous residents got up on our "stage" to showcase their talents. There were many musical acts. Over 100 in attendance. Food and drink by Palmers II.

**Still to Come:** Murder Mystery planned for October 22 and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights on December 7/8.

### **Welcome Baskets:**

The Welcome Basket Committee delivered 17 baskets this year. We deliver the baskets in person and visit for a short while. Terry Buonomo heads up the group.

### **Community Gifts:**

The Cummings Cove community is unwavering in the support of the Events Committee. As the Committee is self-funded, fundraising provides the revenue needed to present our events. Generous support of the community combined with careful fiscal management enabled the treasury to remain healthy this year. As the Committee's thank you, we made two significant gifts to Cummings Cove:

- 1- We purchased and will maintain a TV in the clubhouse lobby which informs residents via the master calendar, promotional information about our Events, and restaurant information as given to us by the restaurant management. It is frequently updated to remain current.
- 2- We recently purchased and installed a projector/screen combination in the dining room. This will allow the Events Committee to incorporate A/V into future events. It will also be available for resident use (golf groups, HOA groups, etc.) and for the restaurant if they wish to bring in entertainment. Please contact the Events Committee for access to and training on the equipment.

### **Looking ahead to 2025:**

As is our custom, members of the Events Committee rotate on and off for three-year terms. This year, we thank our outgoing members (Mary Gise, Marcia Hern, Arlen Wall, Bob Yancey, and Kathie Yancey) for their energy, creativity, and hard work. We welcome our incoming members (Bernadette Bond, Desirae McGee, Pat Montgomery, Darcel Pearsall, Pete Ramsay, and Leigh Stewart). This year also ends

the leadership term for co-chairs Robin Virbickis and Terry Buonomo who served a five-year term on the committee. Steve Dolan will assume the lead role starting in November 2024.

We thank the community for its unwavering support of the Events Committee. We also acknowledge and thank the support of the office staff.



Chair: Mike Howenstein

**2024 Year-End Summary**

The Cummings Cove Fitness Complex, comprising the Fitness Center, pool, hot tub, and the tennis, pickleball, and bocce courts, continue to attract broad use by residents looking for convenient recreational, social, and exercise opportunities. The weight and exercise rooms both saw lots of use, with Candy Price's strength, flexibility, and water aerobics classes frequently attracting capacity crowds. We had to do some fairly significant maintenance on the pool and hot tub this year, replumbing the equipment room, replacing the heater and pump for the hot tub, and installing a new chlorinator for the pool. Tim Dixon thanks residents for their patience as he dealt with those issues.

The Cummings Cove Pickleball Committee organized another tremendously successful season of events and play. The Committee held the annual court clean-up on April 5th, and resident volunteers gathered to repaint chairs, and clean nets, wind screens, and mulch beds in preparation for the season. Volunteer instructors led popular weekly clinics for beginner/novice, intermediate, and advanced players that continue to raise the level of play in the community. The committee held 5 themed socials through the season, monthly round-robin competitions, and an inter-club competition with Kenmure. To provide an opportunity for Cove players to improve their skills further, the committee used money donated by players to purchase a ball machine. Finally, under the leadership of Robin and Tom Virbickis, Cummings Cove hosted the third annual charity pickleball tournament in June. The tournament attracted 150 players and raised \$11,500 for the WNC Down Syndrome Alliance.



Co-Chairs: Jane Young & Lyn Blake

### 2024 Year-End Summary

This year was a busy year as always for women's golf. Our members played in both the 9 & 18 hole leagues, participated in member events and played on traveling teams. As golf chairs Jane Young and Lyn Blake managed many things for our overall membership including:

- Help with the ladies' leagues
- Finding volunteers to manage our member tournaments
- Management of the Member-Guest and Summer Solstice Tournament
- Financial Management of tournament and hole in one funds
- Membership Roster Management
- New Member Welcome letters
- Restaurant liaison for all member events
- Development of 2024-member calendar

### The highlights of the 2024 season were as follows:

- Jane Young Won the Ladies Club Championship
- The 9-hole ladies led by Allison Violette and Michelle Chenard had a busy league season with play averaging between 12-15 players on any given league day. They have 30 members. The women played on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Play on Mondays continued to accommodate the large number of 18-hole men players and outside play by starting on #1 and #9. The ladies had a well-attended season opening and closing scrambles. Thank you, Allison and Michelle, for all your hard work as the league coordinators this year.
- The 18-hole ladies led by Cheryl Kent also had a busy season with many women playing in the league, in Carolina Ladies and in Blue Ridge Ladies. They have 29 members. League play averaged 8 to 12 ladies on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cheryl thank you for coordinating the league for the past two years. The league is restructuring, and we have established the role of

Women's 18 Hole Golf Ambassador. This role will be shared by Julie Christianson and Jean Thomson.

- The Ladies Cove Cup had a tough day of competition between the Fairway Foxes led by Dorothy Donelson and the Cove Cougars led by Mindy Schult. The two teams competed in a format that includes a two-person scramble and a two-person best ball. This year's match resulted in a tie.
- Our Member-Guest & Summer Solstice Tournaments were held again in June.
  - 19 teams registered for MG
  - 12 teams registered for SS
  - We had 2 days of golf, one ice-breaker cocktail party and a champions dinner. Net winners were awarded from each flight.
  - We'd also like to thank our members who volunteered their time to make this tournament a success.
  - A big thank you to all of our local businesses for supporting our event, community and club as hole sponsors for this event. We had a total of 21 businesses sponsoring 27 holes.
- 2024 Adopt-a-Hole Program
  - Both the 9 and 18 leagues actively participated and maintained their respective areas.
- Special Thanks goes out to our members who managed the following tournaments for our membership:
  - Keith Stewart for the 18-hole scramble in April where we had 48 members participate.
  - Lyn and Baird Blake along with Meg Stadtler and Dirk Cummings for the Crazy 3's tournament in May where we had 36 members participate.
  - Carol and Roy Cox for managing the Flag Day Tournament in July with 60 members participating.
  - Lyn Blake for organizing and running the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Member Scramble.
  - Chad Bell for organizing and running the Member Closing Scramble Oct 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - We would also like to thank Chad Bell & the golf shop for their help during season.
  - Special thanks to Jane Dupont for managing all the member eblasts.
  - Next season we will be looking for member volunteers to help manage the member events with our golf shop personnel.

Carolina Ladies had 13 ladies proudly representing Cummings Cove over 6 tournaments this year. Unfortunately, we will not retain the cup this year, but we tried hard. We thank everyone who participated as well as those who helped us in hosting here at Cummings Cove on July 9<sup>th</sup> this year. We are planning to host our Carolina Ladies event here next year as well, the planned date is July 8th. Thank you, Tami Valentine, for managing our Carolina Ladies Team this season.

Blue Ridge Women's Golf Association had 8 Cummings Cove Ladies join this year. These events are flighted with gross and net prizes on an individual basis. The Association had 5 scheduled tournaments and will end the season with a two-day tournament at Etowah Valley in October. Cummings Cove hosted the June tournament with a great turn out. Next year Cummings Cove will be hosting a Blue Ridge event, the date is yet to be determined. Our Cummings Cove representative is Sally Gauntlett with Julie Christianson as her assistant.

White Squirrel Challenge 2024!! The Cummings Cove ladies were not able to retain the White Squirrel trophy this year, but we had a great time and a friendly competition. We are setting our sights on 2025 to bring the trophy back home. Thank you, Sally Gauntlett, for your leadership!

#### In Other Business

Nancy Ciolek will be taking on a role with the Golf group. Given the upcoming sale and unknown nature of what our relationship will be with the golf shop management, this golf group will likely continue to evolve into something that doesn't have to be represented by "Men's" and "Women's" golf chairs, but by a group of golf members.



Chair – Keith Stewart

### 2024 Year-End Summary

This year was a learning experience as I came to realize how important “volunteers” are to our golf course community. For whatever reasons, the community and ABOG members have become leaders/organizers/administrators of all golf events for our CC members over the last decade.

The first 7 months of this job I served as the official concern department for the men’s golf course community. However, some progress has been made.

#### **Events**

The opening Member Scramble was successful. We had 48 players and 55 people for buffet dinner. Everyone seemed to have a good time with no complaints.

Other events like Member/Guest were run successfully by Women’s coordinators Jane/Lyn.

Member/Member was a success with three divisions for men and two for women.

Club championship was successful with Club Champ Mike Herrick and, Senior Champ Keith Johnson, and Woman’s Champ Jane Young.

In the case of our last 2 tournaments, better attendance than in the past 5 years.

In looking at the calendar for the future we should examine a different timeline to get more of our seasonal members involved.

We will finalize the golf calendar in early October.

#### **League Updates**

All Men’s leagues and other associated men’s groups have reverted to their “normal” start time for the summer season and will revert to “winter” schedule starting November 5. The MGL was at an all-time high often having 40 players on Monday/Wednesday events.

Baird Blake did a great job in organizing and running the Men's Interclub matches.

**Other information:**

Working with Mike Herrick on minimum golf course "improvements." Met with Tim, Chad, Harry several times to go over possible improvements and timelines. So far, we are seeing some progress on the course that will help our membership. We will continue to meet on an ongoing basis. A lot of questions and concerns on the course are a question of resources (as in not enough, or employed in other areas)

On a note from some observations that need to be improved:

- Better communication between pro shop and all the groups that play on a regular basis
- Our pricing structure needs a strong review by management
- Continuing issue with "trunk slammers" or Fitness Center members that enjoy reduced rates on our course
- Improved communications from pro shop to members including email on course closures, etc.
- Our membership is slowly growing but the downside is more use and concern with interference by public play.

Our course had over 27,000 rounds in 2023. This course was never designed to have that many rounds which led to heavy wear and tear. A course that was designed for 18,000 or approximately rounds a year cannot keep having that many rounds without serious consequences to the playability of the course.



Chair: Mike Herrick

### 2024 Year-End Summary

#### **Handicap:**

- Made golf members aware of the new World Handicap System (WHS) changes for 2024 (treatment of nine-hole scores, etc).
- Revised and reissued the Local Rules (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WwWkDncjVixTqzNtFRmp7e9XOs7wxA1A2pt9CvmO4/edit?usp=sharing>).
- Held a well-attended presentation on Local Rules and Course Markings ([https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1USg4-vcB2HKeL\\_Dr\\_6CBXP\\_qfu47tnfrBoB7RodNRiU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1USg4-vcB2HKeL_Dr_6CBXP_qfu47tnfrBoB7RodNRiU/edit?usp=sharing)).
- Monitored the posting of scores on an ad-hoc basis, sending reminders to those who had neglected to post scores in a timely fashion.

#### **Greens:**

- Re-marked the penalty areas and out-of-bounds areas of the course, including adding three new dropping zones (on holes 3, 4, 17). See <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gBqo0vOGduex0YYYCEUOJlbs45cyfgFPgQ5bGRrNVYY/edit?usp=sharing>.
- Under the leadership of Mike Silvius, reinstated the Adopt-a-Hole program this spring after a multi-year hiatus.

#### **Course:**

- Worked with Tim Wemple to try and prioritize course improvements and maintenance.

- Tees were particularly hard hit over the winter with the grass on many of the tees dying. For the most part many of these recovered with the application of fertilizer and, in some cases, rest.
- Kept one of the nets on the practice range installed over the winter.
- Specific course improvements/maintenance:
  - Replacement of the bridge near the 10th tee.
  - Removal of several large trees on the white/blue/gold 7th teeing area (which has succeeded in allowing grass to grow on the tee box).
  - Fixed several “cave-ins” on the front nine on holes 1, 3, 7, and 9, including a major replacement project on the 6th hole.
  - Originally sprigged, and then re-sodded the red 15th tee box.
  - Removed the bunkers on 12 and 13 with the 13th being sodded and the bunker on 12 (and surrounding area) being sprigged.
  - Re-graded and sodded the white/blue/gold tee area on the 4th.
  - Sodded the worn area near the bunker on the 7th.
  - Sodded the gold tee on 13.
  - Sodded patches of the silver tees on 2 and the blue/gold tees on 17.
  - Cup-plugged the silver tee on 8.
  - Expanded the width of the white and blue tee boxes on 13.
  - Major stone work on the creek just over the road on the 1st hole to prevent further erosion and cart path collapse.
  - Reworked the foot bridge on the 1st hole after storm and tree damage.