



Stonewall

Elverson, Pennsylvania



Stonewall

“The founders of this private club to the west of Philadelphia wanted a quiet, walking-only course in the countryside, where they wouldn’t have to worry about a full tee sheet or encroaching development.”

Tom Doak



Stonehall. A special, intensely casual, golf destination. Elverson, Pennsylvania.



Simple

The place is simply called Stonewall. Where passion for golf is the only requirement. It is not Stonewall Country Club or Stonewall National Golf and Country Club. Just Stonewall, inspired by our handsome and sturdy Pennsylvania field-stone walls, where two of them, along with the restored farm buildings, frame a most memorable finishing hole. Stonewall was intended to be unique. Rather than another good country club, it was conceived as a golf club with excellent courses that would be available for Partners whenever they wanted to play. What Stonewall is not is perhaps just as important as what it is. The original vision was simple: a quiet, unpretentious walking-only course in the countryside where one wouldn't have to worry about a full tee sheet or encroaching development. The Partnership liked the atmosphere so much, that ten years later, they asked Tom Doak and company back to design the North Course that is stylistically different... but equally as interesting.



"One of the things I appreciate most about the courses is that they retain the character of the original property and the farms that preceded golf here."

Tom Doak golf course architect



behind the 16th, old course



Stonewall is the product of the dreams of its founders, a small group of folks quite serious about golf, but not about themselves (hence the irreverent logo), who were tired of crowded and regimented country club golf. The two leaders of the group, Jack May and Bud Fretz were members of Pine Valley and co-founders of Waynesborough Country Club, a well respected Philadelphia area club. In 1991-2 they found the quiet rolling expanse of a former dairy farm to be the site for this purist's haven. After cajoling friends, colleagues and acquaintances to invest in the dream, the group hired Tom Fazio to design the course. Fazio developed a routing plan, but was unavailable to oversee construction due to other commitments. Anxious to get started, and on the advice of a prominent local golf writer, Tom Doak was hired to complete the design, and then to build, the course. Although Doak was then young and had limited experience, and preferred a so-called unorthodox design philosophy, he committed to move to the area and devote all of his time to designing and building the course, which he did in only six months. That critical first decision, to hire Tom, Doak that is, was the best the club has made to date.



a natural landscape



INSET AT LEFT: A VIEW FROM BEHIND THE 10TH TEE BOXES, THE OAK HAS SINCE BEEN MOVED TO PUT IN A NEW CHAMPIONSHIP TEE

"I envision an excellent golf course where you can play any time, play fast, surrounded by lovely views..."

J. John May founder

Tee times not necessary



A private golf partnership located in northwestern Chester County, Pennsylvania, Stonewall was conceived in the early 1990's by golf enthusiasts who longed for golf in its purest form—without tee times or restrictions; where players are encouraged to walk the course. The facilities at Stonewall include two eighteen-hole

championship golf courses, each with a practice range, two golf houses with overnight accommodations, a golf shop and restaurant facilities. The golf courses, both designed by Tom Doak and his company, Renaissance Golf, complement each other in that each offers a different approach to the game. While the North Course allows golf carts, we point out that the carts don't help the local economy as much—and rarely do they read the very undulating greens as well as our caddies.



*"The opening nine on the Old Course at Stonewall
is one of the strongest and finest nines in American Golf..."*

Jim Finegan

world-renowned golf author



*"I'm saddened by the fact that the caddie is a dying breed."
Byron Nelson*



haven

par three, ninth hole, old course



views of the fourth hole, old course

The tilted greens of the Old Course are a throwback to Garden City Golf Club, in New York, where there is an open approach for players who want to bounce the ball into the greens, but they must take a different line of play to avail themselves of the option. The five short holes on each course are reminiscent of the many William Flynn designs around Philadelphia, such as Rolling Green, Manufacturers and Lancaster, each of which also boasts five great par threes.





eighth hole, old course

Built using the existing topography in the minimalist tradition, the variety of holes is striking, with players enjoying a sense of isolation, not only from outside the course, but between holes. Perhaps two of the most recognizable design features are the beautiful fescue rough, which turns brown in the golf season, and the bump and run style of play into most of the green complexes. The historic landscape extends well beyond Stonewall's property. One instance—the adjacent Reading Furnace Farm, built in 1736—is where General George Washington and his troops encamped in 1777 after the Battle of the Clouds, prior to that fateful winter in Valley Forge.



minimalist

RIGHT; THE WONDERFUL PAR FOUR, 10TH HOLE. FACING PAGE; THE 13TH GREEN'S UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS EAST TOWARD READING FURNACE AND BEYOND





old soul

eighth hole, old course



"Best golf course in the Philadelphia area, and I've played 'em all."

local club pro

A Philadelphia Inquirer article written by Joe Logan in 2007 read: "In 1994, Ron Whitten of *Golf World* and *Golf Digest*, perhaps the dean of golf course architecture writers, raved about Stonewall's purity—citing the way Doak and Hanse used the natural lay of the land, without much bulldozing, to create natural, minimalist masterpieces. But is it the 60th-best golf course in the United States? In being named so, Stonewall joins an elite few and accomplishes an incredible feat."

In a Spring 2011 Golf Inc. article written by Robert J. Vasilak regarding the world's most influential golf course architects, Tom Doak was rated third of all architects contributing the most to the game and business of golf; "Tom Doak is a traditionalist with a contemporary vibe, and a lightning rod of contemporary golf design. Passionate and meticulous about his craft, Doak is gifted and always aims for greatness."

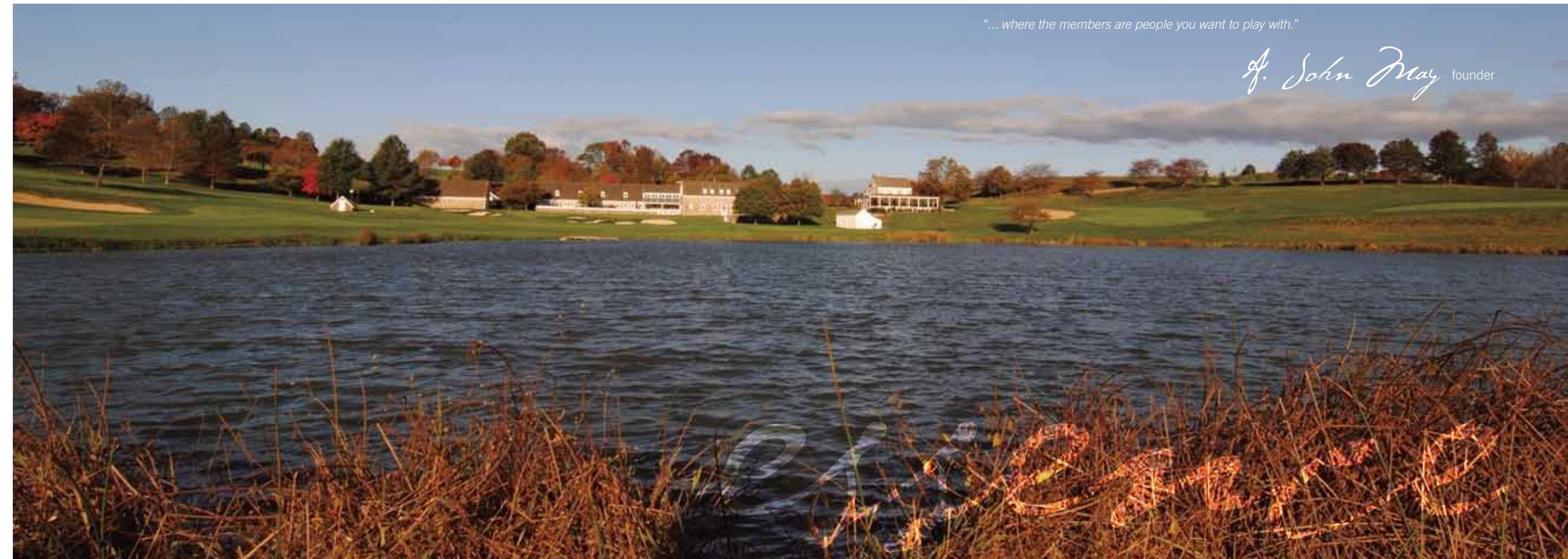


inspirational

The Old Course, and subsequently the North Course, were designed to reflect the vision of Stonewall's low-key, natural, "golf only" personality and design. As noted by *Golf World* with respect to the Old Course: "Stonewall has low-profile greens, fairways hugging side slopes and tall, tan fescue roughs. It has two of the finest par fours anywhere, the sixth and eighth, and two of the

plainest-looking par fours—the 13th (shown in part above) and 16th, that you'll ever double bogey." Plain? Perhaps. Or we may simply be a strange lot, inspired by traditional golf ideals. Many consider the creation of the Old Course part of the minimalist movement in golf, reflective of Stonewall's own identity and Doak's design philosophy. In fact, almost 300,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in construction of the Old Course, yet the design concealed such movement to a golfer's eye.

BELOW, A VIEW FROM THE STONE WALL, ABOVE THE 8TH GREEN, WITH THE POND AND PAR THREE NINTH HOLE, BEYOND.



"...where the members are people you want to play with."

A. John May founder

LOOKING WEST FROM 10TH WHITE TEE BOX, TOWARD CLUBHOUSE COMPLEX, EIGHTH, NINTH AND 18TH HOLES



eightth hole, old course



LIFE (AND LUNCH) IS GOOD AT "HARRY'S"



THE GAME OF GOLF FACES TWO DIFFICULT ISSUES AFFECTING EVERY COURSE IN THE COUNTRY – ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY – AND BOTH REQUIRE ATTENTION. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPACTED BY WATER AND WILDLIFE ISSUES. ECONOMICALLY, THE COST OF MAINTENANCE AND SHRINKING FREE TIME FOR GOLFERS PRESENTS CHALLENGES. A COMMON OBSTACLE IS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT COURSE CONDITIONING. FORTUNATELY, THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM TO ADJUST EXPECTATIONS WITHOUT DAMAGING THE INTEGRITY OF THE GAME.



Stonewall is a member of the National Audubon Society and has been practicing their guidelines for the last 15 years or so. We try to employ the most natural methods in respecting our local ecosystem. We maintain bird boxes around the Old Course for insect control and have algae eating fish in the ponds to keep them clear. These are just

two examples of how we naturally keep the place beautiful while not polluting our environment. It comes as second-nature to be good stewards of this special place because the beauty we see is not man-made like many other golf courses. God, nature and some good fortune on our behalf produced the beauty here. Our raison d'être is to be one of the greatest guardians of the game while greatly respecting the surroundings we are blessed to be around.

REDWINGED BLACKBIRD
NEAR HOLE 16, NORTH COURSE



"The Old Course is more traditional in form, with very small greens, dramatic flashed bunkering, and views to the east across the old Pew estate."

Tom Doak golf course architect

13th, old course



14th green, old course



16th green, old course

The Old Course has appeared in *Golf Magazine's* list of the top 100 courses in the U.S., and the top 100 modern U.S. courses in *Golf Week*. In its short history, the Old Course has already been the site of many amateur golf tournaments, including the Pennsylvania Open, the Pennsylvania Amateur Match and Stroke Play Championships, the Philadelphia Open, the Philadelphia Amateur and the Pennsylvania Better Ball Championship, and has served as a qualifying course for the U.S. Open. The Old Course has also hosted the Ladies Trans National Tournament and the United States Amateur regional qualifier. The even younger North Course has hosted the Pennsylvania Amateur Match Play Championship, served as a qualifying course for the U.S. Open, and has been recognized by *The Golfer* as one of the 10 best new private courses in the world. It was ranked 13th on *Golf Week's* list of the 40 best new courses when it opened in 2003–2004.



18th green, old course



"On the Old Course, having the chance to build the first tee and 18th green right up against the stone barns which would become the clubhouse was a unique opportunity to connect clubhouse and course."

Tom Doak golf course architect

Pictured are various shots of the Old Course's practice and warm-up facilities. The right-hand photo below is a view from behind the recently expanded just-under-an-acre practice tee. At right is the courtyard within the clubhouse building complex, which is nestled between the stone wall framing the 18th green, and the outside dining patio—grab a refreshment and practice putting. Lucky are those who spend time here working on their... quality of life. Other by-products might be lower blood pressure and massive strokes off your game.



"The more I practice, the luckier I get."

Ben Hogan



Practice Life



The "long barn" main dining room



moon over the proshop



Stonewall has two golf houses. The fieldstone buildings located on both courses have all been respectfully restored. The Old Course has six overnight rooms, each with private bath. Available are meeting rooms, a full-service restaurant and two bars. The North Course has two overnight rooms, each with a private bath. The North Course also has a bar and outing banquet facility. Overnight and meeting rooms must be reserved in advance. There is no food, beverage or other minimum charge for Partners. Partners and house members desiring alcoholic beverages for themselves or their guests can make arrangements through participating in the Stonewall Reserve.

EACH OF THE TWO LARGE CHANDELIERS IN THE LONG BARN ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND. "ONE-OF-A-KIND" WARREN MULLER IS THE ARTIST, AND SELF-DESCRIBED "LUMINARY."





Like pouring cream into coffee, the North Course has enriched the entire experience at Stonewall. She was built 10 years after the Old, and was also crafted by Tom Doak, based on a handshake contract made right after his previous work. Thus ends the similarity between the two courses, as the North Course was intended to have its own character yet complement its predecessor.

Whereas the Old Course is more challenging tee to green, the North Course green complexes are more difficult than those on the Old Course. As noted by Tom Doak, *“On the first golf course, most of the greens are tilted, and if you miss to the high side, you’re in trouble. On the new course, the greens are more intricately contoured, and depending on where the hole is from one day to the next, there might be a different side you’d want to miss on in order to have a chance to get up and down.”*



The North Course

“He was the cream and I was his coffee, and when you poured us together, it was something” Josephine Baker



18th green, north course



The generous fairways, and the absence of long carries from tee to fairway, make the North Course enjoyable for the average player yet offers the stronger player an opportunity to be aggressive and to take chances off the tee to set up an easier approach shot to the green. For it is exactly the approach shot that will make the difference between a good round and a bad round. Hit properly, the approach shot will give the player an opportunity to make a putt, while a weak or errant shot will provide the player with the real potential for a three-putt experience!





EXCERPT FROM
THE MINIMALIST MANIFESTO,
BY TOM DOAK:

"Those running for President would have us believe that the spirit of golf is the American ideal, that we all have to negotiate the same course, and we get what we hit. It all sounds very good. But American golfers are suckers for unrealistic promises, just as voters are. We'll buy any new piece of equipment that promises another 20 yards. Our country clubs spend gratuitously to keep their courses in near-perfect condition. And in recent years, our architects spend millions to enclose and define every shot with mounds, while smoothing down every bump in the fairways, attempting to eliminate blind shots and bad bounces from the game. The result? Instead of building character, we're raising a generation of coddled champions who can't shrug off a bad lie and dig themselves out of a divot."



replay
second hole, north course



seventh hole, north course



fourth hole, north course



LEFT, ONE OF THE TWO WALLS
TO NEGOTIATE ON THE PAR FIVE, EIGHTH



EXCERPT FROM
THE MINIMALIST MANIFESTO,
BY TOM DOAK:

"... there are now a handful of American designers who see things differently. We've been called minimalists, but the essence of the movement is not in the limited use of earthmoving, so much as a return to golf's original values. These are: One of golf's primary appeals is that it's a natural game, and it's more enjoyable when we are playing against natural hazards. A variety of stances in the fairway is a key challenge of golf, and Nature is much better at providing this variety than the hand of man. Shotmaking—the ability to control the flight of the ball—is the ultimate expression of golfing ability, and soft, flat greens reduce shotmaking to artillery practice. Judgment of the shot is as important as execution, and defining the target areas with artificial mounding reduces the value of judgment. Except for visual barriers to eyesores off-site, earthmoving should be confined to features which come into play in the golf holes."



eighth green, north course



BUNKER COMPLEX ON 10TH HOLE,
LOOKING NORTH FROM THE 18TH FAIRWAY



par three ninth hole, north course



ABOVE, THE RESTORED BARN ACCOMMODATES CASUAL
EVENTS. AT LEFT, THE PAR THREE NINTH HOLE, WHICH IS
LISTED BY TOM DOAK AS ONE OF THE BEST PAR THREE'S
HE HAS DESIGNED.

THE OLD FARMHOUSE HAS BEEN
RENOVATED INTO A SIMPLE CLUBHOUSE
WITH A SMALL PROSHOP, AN OUTDOOR
BAR, AND TWO OVERNIGHT ROOMS







12th, north course



early fall

13th, north course



bunkers breeding up a storm on the 14th, north course

EXCERPT FROM
THE MINIMALIST MANIFESTO,
BY TOM DOAK:

*"It's actually Rule 13-1, but it's the most fundamental tenet of golf—we play the ball as it lies.
It's also the reason many see golf as a game which builds character, for it's good practice in life
to have to accept responsibility for one's previous actions. You can blame anything you want for
your errors—a bird chirping in your backswing, bad karma from a previous life, or just a bad lie—
but then you have to go play the next shot from wherever you hit it."*



*"Sometimes a stretch of ground will remind me of a golf hole I saw in Britain twenty years ago,
but the best designs of all are organic, evolving from the subtleties of the ground they inhabit."*

Tom Doak golf course architect



ON THESE TWO PAGES: PHOTOS OF THE 17TH GREEN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST. THE PAR THREE 17TH IS A RENDITION OF THE CLASSIC REDAN FROM NORTH BERWICK IN SCOTLAND.



step beyond the familiar

Electric carts are available on the North Course.

Our tradition is to use caddies at Stonewall. We require them on the Old Course unless a Partner has difficulty walking and is older than 67 years of age. Playing without a caddie (Old Course) or a caddie or cart (North Course) is allowed after 3 p.m. Customarily, the Old Course is closed on Monday. The North Course is open every day except on those Mondays when a member-sponsored golf outing of over 40 players is scheduled to play.



“Stonewall gives me an opportunity to express myself fully as a golfer. It calls forth creativity, focus, patience, commitment and the occasional gamble. After a round at Stonewall, I feel that we—the course and I—have been engaged in a conspiracy to excel. I have stepped beyond the familiar into something new in my game, and I am left with a sense of renewal.”

Fred Shoemaker coach, author, and founder of Extraordinary Golf



Partnership and Membership

STONEWALL MAINTAINS A LIST OF RETIRING PARTNERS SEEKING TO SELL THEIR UNITS AND ASSISTS THEM AND PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS IN THE TRANSFER OF THEIR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS. STONEWALL DOES NOT SET THE PRICE FOR THESE EQUITY INTERESTS, PRICES ARE INSTEAD SET BY MARKET CONDITIONS. STONEWALL ALSO OFFERS NON-EQUITY MEMBERSHIPS FOR JUNIOR AND NON-RESIDENT GOLFERS, AS WELL AS A DINING MEMBERSHIP.



EQUITY	<i>Resident:</i>	<i>Partner with a residence located within 75 miles of Stonewall</i>
	<i>Senior:</i>	<i>Resident Partners who are 70 and older</i>
	<i>Super Senior:</i>	<i>Resident Partners who are 75 and older</i>
	<i>Non-Resident:</i>	<i>Partner with no residence (whether primary or otherwise) located within 75 miles of Stonewall</i>
		<i>May bring guests to play at normal greens fees</i>
		<i>Not eligible for Senior or Super Senior status</i>
NON-EQUITY	<i>National:</i>	<i>No residence located (whether primary or otherwise) within 75 miles from Stonewall</i>
		<i>Must be a member or partner of another private golf club</i>
		<i>Eligible to play a maximum of 12 rounds of golf at Stonewall in any calendar year; rounds played as a paying overnight guest do not count towards total of 12</i>
		<i>May bring guests to play at normal greens fees</i>
		<i>No requirement for Unit ownership</i>
		<i>No requirement to pay Partner assessments</i>
		<i>Entitled to use of overnight accommodations in the North Course Farmhouse at no charge for up to 6 nights annually for the National member, and up to 3 guests who are then playing Stonewall (subject to availability)</i>
	<i>Junior:</i>	<i>Younger than 35 years old on January 1</i>
		<i>No limitations on play</i>
		<i>No requirement for Unit ownership</i>
		<i>Dues are a percentage of regular dues</i>
		<i>Credit against payments due to Partnership in any future Unit purchase</i>
	<i>Partner Adult Children:</i>	<i>Younger than 30 years old on January 1</i>
		<i>No limitations on play</i>
		<i>No requirement for Unit ownership</i>
	<i>Dining:</i>	<i>Right to dine at Stonewall without restriction</i>
		<i>May bring guests without restriction</i>
		<i>Participation in Stonewall Reserve is required to enjoy adult beverages</i>



Visit us

Stonewall

375 Bulltown Road

Elverson, Pennsylvania 19520

610-286-3030

www.stonewalllinks.com

A final note

For eighteen years, Stonewall has been a second home.

We were a young family when I built the Old Course back in 1992, and many of the club's staff are still on board, nineteen years later. From the beginning, Stonewall has been a place to relax, where good manners and an appreciation for the game of golf trump any need for rules and dress codes. It is a retreat from the everyday world, and just far enough from the city that it is a special trip each time you choose to go.

Tom Doak