

February 5, 2017

Dear TMGC Members,

I write this letter with a heavy heart as I officially announce my resignation from my position as Head Golf Professional at Topstone Golf Course. While I won't necessarily be leaving the golf industry entirely at this time, my career in my role as a club professional has come to an end. With the support of my wonderful wife Lauren, we have decided to move to Jacksonville, Florida where I will partner with my brother to grow a new business together. As an employee and friend I'm as loyal as it gets, so this decision was an extremely difficult one to make as I found myself leaving a wonderful job with exceptional relationships that I'll miss terribly.

My relationship with Topstone started in 1998 when I was working as the Assistant Golf Professional at Blackledge Country Club. During that time, the interclub relationship began and I soon experienced the Topstone dominance from the wrong side as we never beat the Topstone team in 8 tries. I had the great pleasure of working directly with board members setting up pairings for the interclub events. During those meetings, I always remember the Topstone board members telling me that I would be a perfect fit at Topstone someday. While it was a very nice compliment I never actually anticipated that I would ever be in the position to take that job. Boy was I ever wrong!

Things changed for me as I finished my 2005 season at BCC. I was at a point in my career where I was contemplating different career paths. I loved the game of golf and helping players grow their skills and as I do now, enjoyed the relationships the most. I headed down to Florida that winter as I normally do to visit my brother and didn't realize I was in for a big change.

Within the first day or two of arrival, I received a phone call from Bill Anderson, my boss and owner at BCC. Of course, as one would naturally react after being on vacation for less than 48 hours, I thought "what could have possibly gone wrong, I've only been gone 2 days in the middle of winter!?" The conversation that ensued had me shocked and gasping for air. Bill told me that he just got off the phone with Joe Kelley with the news that his pro at the time, Jim McGrath, was leaving to pursue a new career. Joe asked Bill if he had any recommendations for replacing his Head Pro and Bill told him "I have your guy right here working for me." I spent the next few days talking to Joe over the phone as he was away for the winter. Without a single meeting in person, Joe followed the advice of his colleague and hired me on the spot. I couldn't be more grateful to Bill for making that recommendation and allowing me to make that next big step in my career. I also am forever grateful to Joe for betting the house on a 28 year old assistant to run his golf operations. 11 years later, I find myself looking back on some of the best years of my life. As I now make my way into a new chapter in life myself and leaving Topstone, I thought it might be fitting to tell the story of how I arrived.

I remember my first day at Topstone like it was yesterday. I'm sure some of you might remember the great Jim Owens. On a cold March day, he was the first person to greet me as I

pulled in to check out my new surroundings. In his thick Irish accent, he simply said "Welcome to Topstone young man, you are going to do great here." Jim Owens was the perfect person to welcome me to Topstone and his welcome made me feel at home. From that day on, I knew I wanted every person that walked through my shop to feel the same way I did on day one.

Thank you to current president Phil Richards and every past president and board member that I had the pleasure of working with over the years. You all made it a point to go out of your way to support me and my pro shop. We worked so well together creating new and exciting ways for men's club members to be proud to call Topstone home. Thank you to Erik Ritchie, my assistant since 2008, on his dedication to standing by my side and being someone I could rely on day in and day out. You and the rest of my staff were instrumental in our continued efforts to make Topstone a wonderful place. To Dave Ziter, Aaron Morrison and Gary Devaux, I thank you for making my job easy over the years. I never had to worry about course conditions and everyone that walked through my shop always had amazing things to say about the golf course. Keep up the great work as I know you will. The same goes for everyone at Three Seasons Cafe. Steve, Mike and Ashley will continue to do great things going forward and I sincerely enjoyed working with you, knowing full well that every outing or event we hosted would be well received in our exceptional restaurant. To Tracy Gray, thank you for always putting a smile on my face and I hope you continue to do great things in your role at Hop Meadow.

I leave Topstone proud of what we accomplished together and grateful for your support over the years. I made great decisions along the way and probably a few lousy ones as well but you always stood by my side either way. I feel that the true measure of wealth isn't necessarily the size of one's bank account but rather the number of people you can call a friend. If that is statement is true, then I consider myself an extremely wealthy person. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me personally if you'd like, I'd love to hear from you and I am looking forward to seeing you all one last time at the Spring Banquet in March.

See you in the fairways,
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