

First Class, Multi-Faceted Membership Opportunities Await At **Basking Ridge Country Club**

By, JOHN TORSIELLO

Basking Ridge Country Club, set amid the rolling hills of Somerset Hills in the town from which it takes name, is the ideal place to explore private membership.

“Says Lauren Treich, the club’s Director of Marketing and Memberships, “The club provides the most value in private membership opportunities, offering a unique, affordable and all-inclusive experience. With flexible membership packages, and a superb restaurant that overlooks the club’s pristine 18th green and the Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge Country Club is truly a dynamic environment for all to enjoy without monthly dues or food and beverage minimums.”

Treich explains that BRCC offers a variety of annual membership packages to best fit a person’s budget and lifestyle. “We take great pride in being voted as one of New Jersey’s top family-friendly clubs. BRCC is proud of how warm and

welcoming the club is to all who visit, and we strive to make it feel like a second home to members and their guests. Whether your interest in membership is intended to afford you leisure time with friends, encourage your children to develop their golf skills at an early age, or to provide an impressive setting for entertaining business associates and clients, you will find the environment at Basking Ridge Country Club to be both friendly and flexible enough to satisfy all your needs.”

Basking Ridge is a very active club, whether it is league play, foursomes, members heading out for a nine-hole

round after work, or kids going out with their parents there is always motion at Basking Ridge. Says Treich, “Our members try to get in as many rounds as possible throughout the season. They are here whether it is 75 and sunny or 45 and raining. With that, this year has been something for the books with the amount of rain we’ve gotten. Let’s hope for an Indian Summer so our members can make up the missed time when the course was just too saturated to play.”

Says Treich, “When the weather is nice people are here, our members try to get in as many rounds as possible throughout the season. This year has been something for the books with the amount of rain we’ve gotten. Basking Ridge Country Club in Basking Ridge, N.J. has been in existence and a significant player in the New Jersey golf scene for over 90 years.

The club began as Pennbrook Golf Club in the summer of 1926, opening during the 1920’s. After the onset of



World War II forced the course back into a cow pasture and cornfield, Edward V. Murray brought Pennbrook back to life in 1953. It remained open to the general public until 1977, when a group of businessmen purchased the property and took it semi-private. The club was purchased by the Mahan family in 1986 and it became a fully private golf and swim club.

The new owners made the club a first class private facility, spending millions to upgrade the facilities and golf course with additional bunkers, trees and drainage improvements, and began offering annual memberships. About 300 yards has been added to the course's overall distance, bringing it to around 6,906 yards from the back markers and 6,423 from the members' tees. The course was originally designed by Alexander H. Findlay, a Scot who came to the United States in the 1880's and had a hand in designing more than 500 courses throughout the country.

From the very first hole, you discover, there's something special about playing on holes that are framed by majestic trees. The Mahan Family spent millions to upgrade the facilities and golf course with additional bunkers, trees and drainage improvements and began offering annual memberships. At Basking Ridge Country Club, you'll immediately commune with nature on the 257-acre property." Treich said Basking Ridge has added an after school clinic geared toward students looking to play the sport in high school, or take the sport to the next level in college.

The club is offering a fall membership promotion, whereby if individuals join for the 2019 season they receive the



remainder of the 2018 free of charge. As always, the club has many membership categories to choose from based upon age and how often one will play, with something for everyone, from beginner to avid golfer.

The Golf Academy at Basking Ridge is open to the public and offers junior and adult clinics, junior summer camp programs, and private lessons from a PGA professional staff.

The restaurant, called "Delicious Heights", is also open to the public as well, serving lunch and dinner seven days a week. It has spectacular views and patio dining overlooking the golf course.

A little more about the golf course. Water comes into play on a number of holes and some of the par-fours are among the toughest you will find in the Garden State. The course places a firm demand not only on accuracy but

also a bit of brawn, as the distance from the back markers is all even the best payers will want to bite off.

One of the best holes on the front side is the 184-yard, par-three third. Water borders the left and back of the green with a nasty bunker short of the putting surface. The fourth is a demanding, 464-yard par-four that has out of bounds on the left side. The green welcomes run up shots.

The sixth hole plays 533 yards from the tips and is a strong par-five that can reward big hitters who dare approach the green with their second shots after a strong drive, but it also can punish a wayward shot. There is water to the right side of the putting surface and a miss too far in that direction can lead to a double bogey or worse.

The seventh hole is a challenging par-four, playing around 450 yards from the championship tees. There are fairway bunkers left and right and the hole calls for two smartly placed and well hit shots to find the green in regulation.

Big hitters can cut the corner on the 350-yard, dogleg left par-four 11th and go for the green. Again, the smart play is a fairway wood or long iron off the tee because a stream dissects the fairway about 220 yards from the tee. The 16th is a very cool par-three, playing a bit over 180 yards from the tips. The tee shot must carry a waste area and stay away from several bunkers that guard the green. Basking Ridge's 18th is a par-three that plays almost 200 yards from the back tees, with a massive green protected by five bunkers.

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