

A number of members have noted with fully justified alarm several recent departures from acceptable behavior at the golf club, including an evening swim in the pond and an all-night golf party on the course and in the clubhouse. In both incidents, I myself was not only a participant but also an instigator. Both caused distress to other members (and, in the case of the overnight, to various neighbors), and both went far beyond the limit of even the broadest possible definition of civility. Both seemed like good ideas in advance, questionable ideas in execution, and very bad ideas in retrospect. I am ashamed of my involvement in both, and I can promise that neither will be repeated.

A number of members have also felt increasingly annoyed by the apparent institutionalization of what began, five or six years ago, as a very informal gathering of male golfers on Sunday mornings: the so-called Sunday Morning Group. Once again, I have been an enthusiastic participant — a common thread that is beginning to seem sinister even to me. I remain a believer in the idea of the Sunday Morning Group — that of a loose association of golfers, open to all comers, who randomly divide into teams, and follow a friendly competition with a cookout. But I am also now painfully aware that we have repeatedly allowed our enthusiasm to mar the enjoyment of other members, especially during the long and often boisterous hour or two following the competition. Restoring decorum and an appropriately high degree of respect for the rights of others will require more than my own resolve, but I can promise you that it, too, will be done.