

(THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL 1905 LETTER SENT TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WHILE THE CLUBHOUSE WAS BEING BUILT IN THE SPRING OF 1905)

BELLE HARBOR YACHT CLUB

The Belle Harbor Yacht Club sprang into existence, during the Winter [1904], through the persistent efforts of a half dozen gentlemen who are interested in yacht racing and boating in Jamaica Bay.

The club derives its name from the place at which it's house is being erected -- it is on the most beautiful part of Rockaway Beach, just adjoining and west of the Rockaway Park property.

The house, which is expected to be ready for occupancy about June 1st, is 85 x 60, and the kitchen in a wing. The building is on the colonial order, three stories and attic, and a 12-foot veranda on front and sides. The main floor consists of parlor, dining and grill rooms and model rooms. The second and third floors contain 40 commodious sleeping rooms, lavatories etc. etc.

The attic contains 8 large bed rooms and 75 lockers [in the basement], but is mainly designed for storage of sails and small rigging etc. etc.

The house commands a wide range of vision, taking in both the bay and ocean and is to cost \$25,000 all of which has been subscribed by the members.

The membership is limited to 150, though the application number [is] nearly 200 at the present time.

The race course covers 8 miles, is triangular in shape, directly in front of the clubhouse, thus affording, from its spacious piazzas or from the wide stretch of beach, a full view of the yachts during the entire contest.

It is proposed to establish a school of instruction for those desirous of acquiring the fascinating art of sailing, and it is hope that this feature will develop some very capable sailor men.

Another attractive feature is the provision for the storage and care of yachts during the winter months.

The Board of Directors and those gentlemen who have brought the organization to its present success are:-

Wm. Scheer
H.F. Hewlett
F.G. Bush
W.W. Butcher
P.M. Schaffner
Walter Smith
Geo. W. Fash
R.J. James
L.M. Pearsall
W.A. Courtland

The officers for the first year are,

Commodore H. F. Hewlett
Treasurer R.J. James
Secretary G.W. Fash