

WMGA Board Meeting

May 31, 2014

The board meeting was called to order at 3:00. Board members in attendance were:

Dick Durand
George Goodman Ron Speer
Jim Bona
Dave Brown

Representing PVP was Sally Johnson and Ron Springer

- **Pro Shop Report:** No report
- **PVP Report:** No Report
- **Committee Reports**
 - Handicap Committee has continued the handicap monitoring, concentrating principally on the winter scores that have not been posted. Dick reported that this has been going well despite some uncomfortable phone calls.
 - Tournament Chair reported that we have finalized all our catering and beverage needs. The shootout will be on the 18th hole and we will make arraignments for any golfers playing behind the tournament. Spotters will be volunteers from the WWGA. CASA has been chosen as the recipient of our Charity Tournament. Dick, Dave, George and Ron will start looking for hole sponsorships from the local Businesses as part of our fundraising. We will also continue to solicit hole signage from within the community.
 - The membership chair reported that 142 members have paid. This is down from 165 last year. It was agreed that a reminder be sent to those who have not paid but were members last year.
- The 95 rule was addressed and after an enthusiastic discussion it was decided to inform the membership and get their comments before a vote to change would be by the Board.
- The next meeting is scheduled June 21st
- Discussion of Rule of 95:
 - Several members of the WMGA, including board members, have raised questions about the reasonableness of rule of 95 (green tee play available for those whose age + handicap = 95). Several reasons for eliminating the rule and permit members to play whatever tees they wish include, among others, reduction of tournament play among WMGA members, USGA's encouragement to "play forward tees," and an aging WMGA population.
 - The rule of 95 is a local rule, used by many clubs, and was implemented at the Woods approximately 10 years ago by the WMGA board/president. Our membership has not grown appreciable over this time period so the same folks who were 60+ when this rule was

implemented are now 70+. In short, we have an aging group of golfers (this statement pains us all to admit) who may not hit the ball like they did 10 years ago.

- Recently we conducted a handicap analysis of WMGA members (129 at the time). The median handicap for white tees (approximately equal to one's index given the course rating and slope at the Woods) is 21 (approximate mean 22.1, standard deviation of 8.2). The distribution of handicaps are:
 - 0-9 : 6 players
 - 12-19: 52 players
 - 20-29: 49 players
 - 30-36: 14 players
 - 37+ (limited to 36 for tournament play): 8.
- As a point of comparison, the USGA median index for men with active handicaps is 13.5 with 48% having indices between 10-19. While we don't know the distribution of handicaps for different age groupings, we can certainly surmise that older golfers have higher handicaps in general than younger ones.
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- The Board has not decided whether to keep the rule of 95, modify it (e.g., change to rule of 90) or eliminate it altogether. If it is eliminated, then the standard adjustments required by USGA will be implemented. Hence, if there are players from white and green tees in an outing, the green tee player will use his green tee handicap and either his handicap will be adjusted downward by three strokes (difference in rating between white and green tees) or those playing from white handicaps will have three strokes added. Adjustments at the Woods are typically 4 strokes.
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- Before making a final decision, we will implement a "trial" period where the rule of 95 is suspended. For the better ball Scotch and the mixed derby tournaments, participants may select any of the tees, other than gold. Between now and October 11th when the Board will make a decision for the 2015 season, WMGA members will be asked to provide input to Board members on what they would like to see in terms of play from the tees. It would be useful if members (e.g., Saturday and Sunday group) would play the green tees over the next several weeks so that their views are based on experience
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- David Gilbert has agreed to serve as Handicap Chair for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. I would like to hear whether we should formally announce this when we send out the minutes. Do we want to begin the process of soliciting board members? George, will you manage this process again this year???
- Also, if David will serve as Handicap Chair, we will need two men for the handicap committee. After three years I do not wish to do it again. It would be helpful for a

member of the board to serve and then we can seek out another person. The good news is that we have made progress on the handicap front. The bad news is that we still have to monitor to make sure that scores are posted. The pro shop is now posting all tournament scores which does help with time.

- We don't want to put ourselves in a situation where we make a decision in 2014 and find that we must reverse ourselves for the following season. Hence, a trial period will hopefully provide WMGA members with the information necessary to make a reasonable decision. We will not be putting the issue to a vote of the membership so please let Board members know of your views. It is certainly not an easy decision as there are multiple views and implications. Our goal is to make a final decision and announce it at the October 18th final meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled July 5th
The meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.