

WMGA Quarterly Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2018

The Board meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were:

Bob Creager, President
David Gilbert, Tournament Chair
David Franek, Appointee
Vince Serio, Recording Secretary

Bill Ackerman, Vice President
Glenn Carey, Director
Jim Fairall, Appointee

Representing PVP were:

Sally Johnston
Joy Johnson
Ron Springer

The following issues were discussed:

Member / Guest Tournament "after action report"

- This year we had ten fewer teams than last year, 30 teams compared to 40 in 2017. It appears that the most significant reason for the drop in participation was that a number of key players from the earlier tournament who each brought multiple teams were out of town. We concluded that this was an anomaly not a trend.
- The single most problematic cost factor was the gifts because they had to be purchased ahead of time based on our best guess of tournament participants. We purchased 90 bags at roughly \$40 each for a total of \$3476 plus tax. We gave out 60 bags and have 30 left. Four options in rank order were identified for dealing with the remaining 30 bags:
 - First, use them as gifts for the member-member with an alternate gift for those who received one in the member-guest;
 - Second, offer them to the WWGA, at cost, as gifts for their golfers;
 - Third, offer them to the WMGA membership at cost plus a small profit; and
 - Finally offer them to PVP for sale through the pro shop or the sports center.
- Jim provided a history of past member-guest participation:
 - He had data from 03-06 from his time as a Board member.
 - In the 2003 - 2006 timeframe we averaged about 25 teams. As part of an analysis of the earlier tournaments, the board surveyed many WMGA members who had not participated in the tournaments. There were four basic reasons espoused:
 - The cost, which in the earlier years was \$375;

- The lack of a guest partner with an established handicap;
 - We played in August when the course is typically in the worst shape during the year
 - And a number of miscellaneous reasons which typically indicated a simple lack of interest.
- After a 6 year hiatus, the WMGA resumed the member-guest in 2012 and increased participation to an average of 40 teams by reducing the entry fee to \$300 (subsequently raised to \$315), moving the tournament to June, and easing the requirement for an established handicap. Since then the tournament has flourished.
 - This year was the exception. In our look at the low turnout this year we found that between 10 and 15 players would have played absent an anomalous series of unique personal events. In fact we had 5 members this year who never played before.
- Our conclusion is that the member guest remains, viable, robust and sustainable. Ron suggested that we begin early next year advising golfers who do not have a guest partner that he will be developing and maintaining a list of non-members who would be interested in playing as a guest.

New Member Participation

- A significant number of new WMGA members are not regularly participating in any of our tournaments. Nor are they participating in the weekend Woodsmen games. Many of these new members are however participating in the Thursday Golf league. There was some discussion, though no conclusions, as to the rationale for the lack of participation in WMGA tournaments:
 - Sally mentioned that the consistent communication by the Thursday League is likely a big reason for their significant turn-around in participation (43 paid members and a weekly total of 20 or more golfers compared to a foursome a year or two ago.)
 - Vince pointed out that there seemed to be some hesitancy among Thursday golfers about playing in the weekend Woodsmen games. The reasons for this are unclear but it may be worth pursuing further to see if we can't encourage greater participation in tournament play.
- It is noteworthy that Tournament participation is better now, percentagewise, than it was 10 years ago. There are 140 members in the WMGA, about 18% of them play on Thursday, 30% play in tournaments (there is some overlap). Nearly all who play on the weekend regularly play in the tournaments.

- *The WMGA has no authority over either the Thursday Golf group or the weekend Woodsmen. However, the following approaches could be taken to encourage greater tournament participation:*
 - *Each board member would be free to independently encourage new golfers to increase participation in the various golf opportunities at The Woods.*
 - *As an official act of the WMGA, Jim suggested, and offered to author, a letter to new WMGA members encouraging their participation in tournaments.*

Board configuration

- Bob pointed out that the Board has undergone significant changes over the past month:
 - In June, Vince Serio was appointed to replace Jim Moffitt as recording secretary and at a special meeting at the conclusion of the member-guest tournament the members voted to grant Vince voting rights.
 - Shortly thereafter Jim Fairall was appointed to replace Dan Jones whose work pressures precluded his continuances as a board member. Jim does not have voting rights until awarded by the membership
 - Finally, this month, Glen Carey advised that he would not be able to complete his term as a board member because he was moving out of town. David Franek has been appointed as Glen's replacement. David does not have voting rights until awarded by the membership

Web site

- Joy pointed out that pages for Match Play and Mixed Match Play continue to reflect "Coming Soon." It was suggested that updated ladders showing current match results be posted. Ron said he could take pictures as the matches progress and Joy can post them.
- Jim suggested that we include a page on financials that include a chart depicting budgeted and actual expenses throughout the year.
- Joy advised that she needs pictures for the new board members, David, Jim, and Vince to update the board member page.

Handicap and score posting

- Ron advised that he is hereby advising the WMGA and will soon advise the WWGA that he is adopting a local rule permitting the use of distance measuring devices. Other devices that measure elevation changes, wind speed, etc will continue to be in violation of USGA rule 14-3.

Other Business

- A question was raised about the appropriateness of single digit handicappers playing from the forward tees in tournaments. It is understood that some clubs preclude this, presumably based on a local rule. Ron explained that USGA rules are silent on this but that he will research this further with other clubs and report back.
- Vince and Bill pointed out that the WWGA had purchased a tee sign for the Charity Tournament and were challenging the WMGA to do likewise. Vince proposed that we purchase a tee box sign for \$100. All voting members voted yes.