

**WMGA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 4, 2020**

The first meeting of the WMGA Board was called to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance:

Bob Creager, President  
BJ Bjornaas, Director  
David Franek, Handicap Chair  
Joe Smith, Treasurer

Bill Ackerman, Vice President  
Marty Johnson, Director  
Jim Fairall, Director  
Vince Serio, Recording Secretary

Representing The Woods Club:

Joy Johnson

Ron Springer

Representing Thursday Men's Golf

Mike Harbin

**Thursday Men's Golf (TMG)**

The TMG had 47 members for the 2019 season with total dues collected of \$1,860 and sponsorship contributions of \$1,560. Cash prizes of \$1,320 were distributed throughout the season and end of year prizes, including trophies, of \$896 were awarded. After food and catering costs of \$350, a balance of \$865 will be carried over to next season. For 2020 there will be 24 games scheduled between April and September with a variety of formats, including 4 games on Stony Lick. The TMG is a self-sustaining affiliate of the WMGA that required no financial support from the WMGA treasury.

**WMGA Web Site**

The web site subscription for 2019 has expired and Joy was given approval to renew for 2020. The web site has been updated to include the 2020 tournament schedule, the 2019 tournament winners, prior years Board meeting minutes back to 2011, the WMGA Net Income Chart, and the WMGA Resource Guide (which may need updating). The 2019 membership list will be used to send out the annual letter announcing the WMGA schedule. The WMGA web site could be updated to include Thursday Men's Golf as a line item rather than a link. Mike and BJ will explore the pros and cons of doing so. Early April is the target for updates to the web site.

**WMGA Net Income Chart**

The chart shows that we began the 2019 budget with about \$1,200. Income from membership was \$550 less than budgeted due to a 20% reduction in membership. That loss of income was partially offset by lower than budgeted miscellaneous expenses. The actual tournament expenses tracked very closely with but generally lower than budgeted amounts, leaving us with a balance of \$1,800, \$800 more than had been budgeted.

**World Handicap System**

The new World Handicap System is going into effect in January and will have an impact on us. The details of the changes are not completely clear yet, but the WV Golf Association will visit The Woods in early April to explain the new handicap system.

A few things that are known include:

- The equitable stroke rule will be replaced with a *double net bogie*, which means that the highest score a player can enter for given hole would be par +2 (double bogie) + the handicap for that hole. For example, an 18 handicap golfer on a par 4 should enter no higher a score than 7 (par of 4 + 2 for double bogie + 1 for the handicap on that hole).
- The handicap calculation will be based on the best 8 (rather than 10) of the last 20 scores.
- The system will automatically adjust scores based on abnormal course or weather conditions on a given day.
- The new handicap system will be updated every day rather than twice a month under the current system, which requires the player to submit scores on the day played.
- The new handicap calculation incorporates the course rating minus the course par and will generally result in a lower handicap than the current system. Though individual handicaps may be lower, the differential between golfers of different skill levels remains essentially the same. Because the course rating is used in the calculation, this will eliminate the need for the 3 stroke adjustment for competitions from the different tees.
- Because this handicap calculation results in lower handicaps, this will affect the WMGA's 85 rule to qualify for play from the forward tees.

### **Course Condition**

A question was raised about the condition of the collars around the greens that were in such bad shape this past year. It was mentioned that the collars were so bad that this could have had a bearing on some of the membership decline. Ron advised that he had discussed this with the Gary, the greens keeper, who reseeded the areas around the greens. He further advised that no one wants conditions like this around the greens and that he will continue to work with Gary to see that the problem is corrected. On the positive side, it was pointed out that the greens are and have been in pristine conditions and the fairways are healing extremely well after last years drought conditions.

### **Closing Comments**

The next Board meeting will be in April at which time we will address the 2020 budget and the World Handicap System, specifically how it impacts the 85 rule.

The Board was advised that there will be changes in board membership at the end of this year and members should begin considering replacement Board members who will continue to take the WMGA on a positive path forward.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Prepared by:

Vince Serio, Recording Secretary