

WMGA Board Meeting Minutes **April 11, 2020**

The second quarterly meeting of the WMGA Board was called to order via Zoom at 3:00 p.m. In attendance:

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

Bill Ackerman, Vice President
George Goodman, Tournament Chair
Jim Fairall, Director
Vince Serio, Recording Secretary

Representing The Woods Club:

Joy Johnson
Ron Springer

Sally Johnson

Representing Thursday Men's Golf

Mike Harbin

Current Tournament Schedule

- **Frostbite**

We will be holding our opening tournament, the Frostbite, as scheduled on April 18. But, there will be no breakfast, no closest to the pin competition, and no 50-50 raffle. Ron will send out an e-mail announcing the game and asking that golfers respond to the e-mail if they intend to participate. Their cart fee and entry fee will be collected by the pro shop via member charge or credit card. The format will be a scramble and tee times will be assigned with 15 minute intervals in between. Golfers will be asked to show up no earlier than 15 minutes before their tee time and will be reminded to maintain safe social distancing throughout the day. Scorecards will be dropped into a drop box outside the pro shop. Results of the tournament will be announced via e-mail. Prize monies will be credited to the winners' member charge accounts. The WMGA will receive a check for its share of the tournament proceeds.

- **Member-Guest**

There is significant concern about holding the premier tournament because it requires significant travel and shared accommodations for guests to participate. But the tournament is not scheduled until the June 26 and 27 which gives us some time to decide whether to hold the tournament or not. It was decided to table this discussion and re-open it for discussion in 30 days or so, at which time we should have a better feel for the current Covid-19 conditions.

- **Men's Derby**

With the current limitations on social gathering, the format for the Derby will need to change. We will not be able to hold the drawing with pizza and beer as we typically do. The tournament date will remain for May 17, but a new format will be developed.

- **Season Long Match Play**

Though we believe the format for match play can easily be conducted in the current Covid-19 environment, it was decided that we should survey the membership about their interest in participating. If there is sufficient interest, Ron will work up a match competition tree. Because we will be getting a later start for this seasonal competition, we will be asking golfers to complete their scheduled match within a 2 week period.

World Handicap System

The World Handicap System makes the old 3 stroke adjustment, if playing from different tees, unnecessary. This begs the question about whether it is now necessary to retain the 85 rule (age + handicap = 85 or more) for playing from the forward tees. After some discussion, it was decided that the 85 rule is no longer relevant and is hereby discarded.

Budget

We currently have 67 golfers enrolled for the 2020 season and \$4,167.89 in the bank. Since we will not be incurring our most costly expenses for food and beverages for the frostbite or the Men's Derby, we should be on a very sound financial basis for the entire year. If it turns out that our income far exceeds our expenses, we can do something special for the members in the closing member-member tournament.

Thursday Men's Golf

The TMG held its opening game this past Thursday, April 9. Participation was very good with 30 golfers despite the very breezy game conditions. Using the new Covid-19 process of assigned tee times, the game went off well and everyone appeared to be appropriately practicing social distancing.

Woodsmen Golf

It was mentioned that some members logging onto the Woodsmen sign up sheet using different devices were being taken to a prior week's registration page. Joy advised that refreshing the browser will correct this and take the user to the correct registration page. Joy further advised that clicking on the link in the weekly e-mail invitation would take the user to the correct page on the WMGA web site.

Other Business

Social Distancing in the Covid-19 environment

Sally pointed out that two golf clubs in Jefferson County had been closed by the Sheriff's office because golfers were not practicing appropriate social distancing. That action was taken based on complaints with pictures of golfers congregating too closely on the golf course. The courses have since reopened but should be a lesson that, if we want our course to remain open, we must continue to maintain appropriate social distancing (six feet) at the clubhouse and throughout the course of play.

Walking on the Golf Course & Golfer access to adjoining properties

Several members pointed out that there have been increasing incidences of people walking on the golf course while golf is in progress. In one notable instance a family was walking down the cart path between holes 5 and 10 with infants in a stroller and a carriage. Not only are these people interfering with golfers play on the course, the walkers are putting their own lives at risk. It was further pointed out some residents have been erecting fences with no access for golfers to retrieve errant shots or with signs warning people to stay off their property. The WHOA covenants that every property owner receives specifically includes Golf Course Easements granting golfers access to properties adjoining the golf course to recover golf balls. It was pointed out that there have been reminders in WHOA newsletters cautioning residents about walking on the golf course, apparently to no avail, either because people aren't reading them or choose to ignore them.

Board Membership

Four of our current board members' three year terms will be expiring at the end of this year. Board members should begin canvassing the membership for anyone interested in serving on the board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Vince Serio, Recording Secretary