



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## Women's Golf Association of Northern California

*Celebrating 100 years of golf tradition*

# Through The Green

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA FALL 2007

## President's Corner

I hope all of you have enjoyed a wonderful summer of golf and vacation time. Things sort of slow down for us at WGANC during the summer as we don't normally schedule tournaments. Open Days have kept the Directors busy however. I hope you have been able to attend one or more of the great Open Day courses that have been offered this summer.

We have been preparing a great fall season for all of you to conclude our Centennial Celebration year. As you are reading this, we are probably working at, and you are hopefully playing in the inaugural Northern California Women's 4-Ball Championship at Poppy Ridge Golf Course. This is the first year of a collaboration between NCGA, PWGA and WGANC to present a tournament for the members of all three organizations. I know it will be a great success, and know it will continue as one of our most popular annual tournaments. Look for results on our website.

The Area Meetings follow the tournament during the month of September. The program will be changed from other Area Meetings you may have attended in the past. We will introduce the Ambassador Program at each club and will be distributing our new "Discover" brochure to your Captain and Ambassador. The brochure looks wonderful, thanks to the efforts of Sharon Bradford and Cherrie Anderson, and should be a great tool to use to get the word out about the advantages and



opportunities of belonging to your 18-hole women's group.

The Classic Tournament follows at the end of September on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Mace Meadow Golf and Country Club up in the Sierras. Our members who have handicaps from 18-40 will enjoy two days of golf and camaraderie at this great course.

October 15 and 16 brings us our most popular Team Challenge II Tournament at Fountaingrove and Santa Rosa Country Clubs. Entries opened September 3 and close September 17, so I hope you got your entry in! We look forward to seeing you there!

The last tournament of the year will be the Match Play Championship at Valley Hi Country Club. I urge any of you who like to play in a match play format to enter. We will have five flights, so you will be matched against players with similar handicaps. It is a great tournament at a wonderful golf course,

and the last chance to win a Centennial Celebration medallion. So, come join us ... we know you will have a good time!

That takes us down to the Annual Meeting at Castlewood Country Club on Monday, December 3. It seems so far away, and yet, will be here before we know it. Time has a way of speeding up when you are having a ball! And, this year has gone by so fast! I sometimes feel I am on a speeding train, and I just have to hold on! My cheeks hurt from smiling so much ... I love this organization and especially enjoy meeting all of you. Life is good!

*Mary Belli,*  
*WGANC President*

## What's Inside ...

Tournament Schedule .....	2
Your Board of Directors .....	2
Tournament News .....	3
The "Pitch" Could Be	
A Hidden Opportunity	
An Article by Linda Estep ....	3
Handicap .....	4
Area Meetings Scheduled .....	4
The 2007 U.S. Girls'	
Junior Golf .....	5
The Spirit of Giving .....	6
NCGA Women's Champion ....	6



## 2007 Tournament Schedule

- Classic** – September 26-27 – Mace Meadow  
**Team Challenge II** – October 15-16 – Fountaingrove  
 and Santa Rosa  
**Match Play Championship** – October 22-25 –  
 Valley Hi

Make plans now to participate in next year's tournaments - the schedules are in the back of your green book. These events are well-run, fun, and a great opportunity to meet golfers from other clubs, as well as play some fabulous golf courses for a reasonable price - and the best is the opportunity to win fabulous jewelry.

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### 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Open Days

As the golfing season comes to a close so does the opportunity to participate in a perk that ONLY members of WGANC have - Open Days!

If you are a new WGANC member you may not realize how special this is. If you have been a member for a while, maybe you have forgotten how much fun these events can be. Maybe you think you have visited every club you have any interest in - let me assure you several clubs have made changes to their course and it is like playing it for the first time. For all members, let me say that this is something we should all be taking advantage of!

I know that gas prices are up, traffic makes commuting time longer but these opportunities are a perfect excuse for a "girl trip." Good golf, good friends, good food - what more can we ask for.

Check your Green Book for the Open Days that are remaining and make plans to attend one or more! There isn't a better deal anywhere and if you can make it to a back-to-back - well all the better.

*Cherrie Anderson,  
 Open Day Chair*

## 2007 Board of Directors



### FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

- 1st Row: Linda Arens, Fran Weber, Mary Belli, Pat Guzzardo, Dee Winn, Jeannie Trippel  
 2nd Row: Debbie Stowe, Shirley Gahm, Elvie Blanchard, Sharon Bradford, Kitty Dodd, Vicki Krattli, Dottie Boone, Judy Kirker, Janice Crossman, Karen Tanaka, Cherrie Anderson*



## Tournament News

### 2007 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CUP MATCHES

The 2007 Northern California Women's Cup Matches were held on Monday, August 13, 2007 at Alta Sierra Country Club in Grass Valley. Six team members were chosen from WGANC based on points accumulated during the previous year, and six team members were chosen from PWGA. These twelve team members competed against twelve PGA teaching professionals. The teaching professionals had to qualify for a spot on the team.

The format of the matches (professional 2-women team vs. amateur 2-women team) was Holes 1-9 best ball of partners,

Holes 10-18 scramble with two drives from each player and Holes 19-27 alternate shot. Yes, 27 holes were played. One point was earned for the most holes won for 24 points overall. Twelve points were needed for the amateurs to retain the cup.

The WGANC team this year included Lynne Cowan, Juvy Timan, Stacey Camara, Lisa Winsten, Helen Liu and Pat Cornett. Carl Cowan provided sunset and white striped golf shirts for the amateur team worn with white shorts/slacks. The matches were very exciting. The professionals tied one match and lost the other five matches. At the end of the day the amateurs had trounced the professionals soundly by a score of 17 to 6. These Cup Matches have been played 11 times and the amateurs have won 8 to 3.

The event started with a buffet breakfast and team pictures. WGANC provided water, energy bars, a banana, raisins and of course chocolate. An awards dinner followed the completion of the matches.

*Linda Arens,  
Northern Team Director*

## The "Pitch" Could Be A Hidden Opportunity

*by Linda A. Estep*

It was a phone call that was neither expected nor solicited. But it was enticing. Mary Belli, president of the Women's Golf Association of Northern California, wondered if I would be interested in interviewing for a director position representing this region. Me? I'd only met her once and then it was a brief encounter. Someone must've tossed my name into the pool of possibilities.

Flattered, I declined. Unconvinced, she persisted. Oh, what the heck, I said, I'll be happy to interview with the clear understanding that my interest was in gathering information for a Clublites column. Besides I reckoned, it was the polite thing to do.

For more than an hour I sat in conversation with Mary, a thoughtful woman who believed in what she was doing, promoting women's golf through the organized mechanism that makes our outside golf experiences impressive and leaves no doubt that this is one well-oiled machine. These are the folks who put on Open Days and other Northern California events. Headquartered in Pleasanton, there is a full time executive director and part time support staff. Directors are volunteers who

love the game and have a knack for organization. Their commitment is for a two-year term with strong urging from the top to stay aboard for a second two-year term.

Directors shoulder hefty responsibility and all dress alike. That is, they wear a smartly tailored uniform of blazer, polo shirt and slacks at all WGANC events and meetings, paid for by the organization. I had attended two of those meetings earlier in the year and mischievously dubbed those directors "the green coats."

With Mary's invitation, I had a chance to find out what exactly those directors do. At the end of our meeting I walked with more wisdom and fewer wisecracks, and genuinely impressed at the dedication so many women have in ensuring quality golf programs and events for WGANC members.

No matter how she framed it, Mary Belli could not convince me that being a director didn't take an enormous amount of time, yet I could also see that if the opportunity arises at the right time in a woman's life, the experience could be enriching, invigorating and highly educational. It also looked like fun.

*NOTE: We are looking for members willing to join the Board of Directors for WGANC. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please call the WGANC Office, or contact any Director and give us the name. This organization cannot exist without member volunteers and all that is needed is a commitment of two years. We would like longer, but we understand how busy everyone's lives can be.*



# Handicap

## EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL (ESC)

### 3-6/1. Player in Match Uses Established Handicap but Handicap is Too High Due to Player's Failure to Observe Provision of the USGA Handicap System.

**Q:** Sally and Sissy compete in a match and have Course Handicaps of 23 and 31, respectively. Based on the handicap allowance from Section 9-4(i), Sissy receives 8 strokes (the difference between 31 and 23). Sissy wins the match, 1 up. Sally questions Sissy's handicap and Sissy admits to not adjusting hole scores under the Equitable Stroke Control provision of the USGA Handicap System. It is determined that if Sissy had adjusted hole scores using ESC, her handicap would be 29 strokes, not 31. The committee disqualifies Sissy under Rule 6-2a. Was the committee correct?

**A:** As provided in Rule 6-2a of *The Rules of Golf*, it states: "Before starting a match in a handicap competition, the players should determine from one another their respective handicaps. If a player begins the match having declared a higher handicap which would affect the number of strokes given or received, the player is disqualified; otherwise, the player plays off the declared handicap."

Sissy's Course Handicap, although incorrect due to her failure to apply Equitable stroke Control, was 31. Accordingly, Sissy was not in breach of Rule 6-2a and the match should have stood as played.

As it is impracticable for a committee conducting a competition to determine whether a player has correctly recorded each score, turned in all scores, etc., for handicap

purposes, *The Rules of Golf* assume that the player has done so. The solution to a situation such as this is for the Handicap Committee to take appropriate action against Sissy under Section 8-4c of the USGA Handicap System manual because of her failure to apply Equitable Stroke Control to the scores she returned for handicap purposes. **(NEW)**

**NOTE:** The game of golf is based on the premise that a player will play as well as the player can play. Under the USGA Handicap System, each player is required to record a hole score for a hole not finished, not played, or not played under *The Rules of Golf*, and to reduce any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under *Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)*.

A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the players' Equitable Stroke Control limit. This most likely score should be preceded by an "X", with no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round, provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

A handicap determined from scores to which ESC has not been applied may not be termed a Handicap Index. ESC is used when a player's actual or most likely score exceeds a maximum number for the player's Course Handicap from the tees played.

If a player has a Course Handicap of 9 or less, then the ESC is double bogey; 10 through 19, ESC is 7; 20 through 29, ESC is 8; 30 through 39, ESC is 9; 40 or more, ESC is 10.

## Area Meetings Scheduled

**River Valley Area Meeting** – September 5, Wednesday at Granite Bay

**Monterey/South Bay Area Meeting** – September 5, Wednesday at Corral de Tierra

**San Francisco/Mid-Peninsula Area Meeting** – September 5, Wednesday at Silver Creek Valley

**North Bay Area Meeting** – September 10, Monday at Chardonnay

**Central Valley Area Meeting** – September 14, Friday at Woodbridge

**East Bay Area Meeting** – September 19, Wednesday at Blackhawk

**North Valley Area Meeting** – September 21, Friday at Auburn Country Club

**South Valley Area Meeting** – September 21, Friday at Visalia



## The 2007 U.S. Girls' Junior Championships Held July 23-28 at Tacoma Country Club

Eight Northern California Junior Girls qualified to attend the 2007 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship Tournament held July 23-28 at the Tacoma Country Club. A portion of your WGANC dues go toward helping offset the costs of getting to these tournaments and, as you will see from the following "thank you" notes, our help is greatly appreciated.

We received many thank you notes and each one expressed their appreciation for the support they received through our organization. The transportation fund not only provides help with getting the player to the tournament, but also helps with other expenses that enables them to participate.

We know that many clubs are doing additional fundraising for the Junior Girls Golf program - so be proud of these future WGANC members - they are our future!

*"... Thank you for your support. I hope WGANC keeps supporting NORCAL girls!"*



TOP: Alexandra Groetsema, Joy Kim, Sally Tomlinson (advisor), Tessa The, Katrina Deler-Briores, Samantha Esquerro. BOTTOM: Jennifer Hirano, Emily Childs, Ashley Edwards, Diane Kwon. Wearing the "Nor Cal" shirts that Ashley Edwards provided. The back says ... "You're playing with the best!"



All dressed up for the Players' Dinner: TOP: Joy Kim, Katrina Deler-Briores, Samantha Esquerro. SEATED: Diane Kwon, Emily Childs, Ashley Edwards, Jennifer Hirano.

*"... I wanted to say a huge THANK YOU for helping fund my transportation and caddie fees at the USGA girls! ... The US girls is my favorite tournament and I always meet new people and learn so much about my game. Thanks to people like you, junior golfers are able to grow into fabulous players."*

*"... Thanks for your help at Qualifying and for the support of WGANC with the Junior Girls."*

*"... The contributions by your organization are truly appreciated. ... I shall always remember your support and hope to follow in your footsteps. Our coordinator for the Northern California U.S. Girls, Ms. Sally Tomlinson is my inspiration. I have learned the true meaning of appreciation and respect. I may have the skill to play golf at this level, but without all of your support, volunteer, and hard work, USGA junior participants would not have the privilege to play at the beautiful golf courses, enjoy the dinners and meals, and extravagant tee prizes."*



# The Spirit of Giving

by Mary Belli, WGANC President

**W**GANC members have a social conscience. In fact, we have a long history of giving back to our communities.

Records indicate that in 1941, "Red Cross Days" were held at certain tournaments, and the proceeds turned over to an American Red Cross Chapter.

In 1944, the membership fee for WGANC was \$1.50. One dollar of that fee went to purchase a seeing-eye dog for Guide Dogs for the Blind. We don't know how many members there were, so we don't know how much was spent to purchase the dog, but in 1945, \$600 was donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

For the next 46 years, from 1952 until 1997, Guide Dogs for the Blind was the WGANC designated charity. In that time, \$1,151,026.20 was donated to this wonderful cause (more was actually given, but records for the years 1993-1996 are missing).

In 1998, it was determined that all clubs could instead donate to the charities of their choice. No records have been kept in the intervening years on amounts contributed, but we know it has been substantial.

The data has been gathered for 2006, however. With 20% of the clubs not yet reporting, the total funds donated to various charities is over **\$390,000** ... just for 2006 alone.

A large portion of the funds is donated to various breast cancer research and patient care organizations. Women's shelters, underprivileged children's organizations and hospice are favorite charities. Many of the women's golf groups support junior golf in their communities.

One of the WGANC women's clubs holds a dog-themed tournament, called The Bow Wow, to benefit the SPCA in

their County and raised over \$11,000 last year. Never mind, they also host an annual tournament to benefit The Susan B. Koman Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Community businesses sponsor tees, along with silent and live auctions. Another \$22,000 was raised last year at this event.

The women's 18-hole group at another of our clubs has adopted "The House of Hope" as their charity. It is a shelter for women and children that also provides job training and recovery from substance abuse. In two years, the golf group has raised nearly \$20,000 to donate to this charity. Because of their generosity, the shelter has been able to purchase new washers and dryers, buy new mattresses, and repair bathrooms. They were even able to buy a used van needed to transport women to work and childcare. The House of Hope was so grateful that they had printed on the side of the van "This Vehicle Made Possible by the Women Golfers of The Country Club." Now, that's a win-win! This fundraiser is conducted as part of their invitational each year.

The stories go on and on...I could give you 109 examples of great fundraisers. Every donation is significant in their various communities.

I am so proud of the giving spirit of the women club members of WGANC. I thank all of you for the contributions you make to help others in your communities. We all applaud your generosity and know that the organizations which benefit from your contributions are very grateful. You all deserve a standing ovation!

*(NOTE: This article will be published in the NCGA Magazine.)*

## NCGA Women's Champion

**L**ynne Cowan, El Macero, successfully defended her title in the NCGA Women's Championship at Poppy Hills with a clutch birdie putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole for a one-stroke victory two-day total 146 beating out last years runner-up. And, in the inaugural Senior Women's Championship flight Marianne Towersey, Corral de Tierra, defeated Sandy Woodruff, Pasatiempo, also on the closing green with a two-day total of 154. The course played difficult and it was great competition.