



Women's Golf Association of Northern California

Through the Green

The Newsletter for the Women's Golf Association of Northern California

Pleasanton, California

Spring 2006

Website News

Log onto www.wganc.com for something totally NEW. You will see an updated look and moreover, lots of up-to-date information on 2006 Open Days and Tournaments.

The WGANC website has been redesigned from top to bottom. We are really excited about this new design as it is targeted to help us communicate more effectively with you, our membership. The new "Master Calendar" is a web-based calendar that you can check at your convenience whenever you have a question about when a particular Open Day is scheduled, what the letter of information includes, who to call if you need to cancel at the last minute, etc.

We've also included information about our Board members with their email addresses, so if you have a question, please don't hesitate to "call" - or better yet - EMAIL us. We would love to hear from you!

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President's Corner

Spring is here and it is time to play golf again. Golf superstars such as Paula Creamer and Michele Wie have increased viewer participation for women's golf. In reality, however, we are seeing a reduction in the numbers of women playing golf. This was a major topic of conversation at the Regional meetings among the Captains. The successful clubs take additional time to make their new members feel welcome. Some clubs have initiated a big sister program to assist the new members. The big sister is the go-to person for a year. Other clubs have the membership chair assist the new members in arranging tee times and pairings.

Realizing there is a change in the dynamics of the club membership, women's groups are now adding Saturday play days to the schedule to accommodate those women who are unable to play during the week. It is important to realize that all of the members should be made to feel as much a part of the group as possible. If your club has a lack of participation, talk with your members and find out why. A few changes could make a difference.

Another topic of discussion was how to find new members for the 18-hole women's group. Your golf professionals and your club membership committee will know who they are. You can create an interim group and help them get started in golf.



One club formed a two-hole group for new members. They invited members to play two holes, two hours once a week. Lessons were given, and women from the 18-hole group acted as mentors.

Another club has Golf 101. On a designated day of the week, the new players have a lesson for an hour and play a couple of holes. They meet in the clubhouse afterwards and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and share ideas. The two-hole group and Golf 101 have been very successful. These new women golfers are becoming hooked on golf. They were made to feel welcome at their new club.

WGANC has 73 Open Days scheduled this year. Sign up and bring a new member to an Open Day. With your help, we could reach an all time high of 5,000 members enjoying Open Days this year. See you on the course!

Lynne Gangi, President



2006 Tournament Schedule

- TEAM CHALLENGE I** March 27-28 Pajaro Valley Golf Club, Seascape Golf Club
- SASSY SIXTIES** April 3-4 Brookside Country Club, Discovery Bay Golf & Country Club
- 18-59ERS** April 26-27 Alta Sierra Country Club, Lake Wildwood Country Club
- SWINGIN' SENIORS** May 4-5 Crystal Springs, Lake Merced Country Club
- CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS** May 8-9 North Ridge Country Club

Alumnae News

WGANC would like to let our members know what our past directors (our alumnae) are doing since they have left the Board. If you have news you would like share in the newsletter, please send the information to the office or email it to wganc@wganc.com.

We regret to report that two former directors, Doris Mouren who served on the Board from 1973 through 1976 and Ellen Kieser who served on the Board from 1988 through 1991, passed away recently.

We have a correction to the Green Book. We erroneously indicated that Mary Ives-Harrison, 1992 WGANC President, was deceased. She is a member at Menlo Country Club. We apologize for this error.

The Alumnae Tournament will be held on Monday, October 16 at the Napa Valley Country Club. Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 15. Mark the date on your calendars. Detailed information will be mailed regarding the tournament.

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WGANC turns 100
Stay tuned for exciting news and events as the
WGANC moves into its second century in 2007.



2006 WGANC Board of Directors. Seated, from left: Nancy Gapinski, Pat Guzzardo, Mary Belli, Lynne Gangi, Shelly Gartman, Janice Crossman. Standing: Lynn Jansen, Dee Winn, Vicki Krattli, Kitty Dodd, Dottie Boon, Fran Wagner, Jeannie Trippel, Elvie Blanchard, Chris Jette, Linda Arens, Judy Kirker, and Cherrie Anderson



Handicap News

Reduced Scores ("R")

Recently, I have received several inquiries regarding a reduction in Handicap Index (R) imposed by the GHIN Handicap System. There appears to be some confusion about how this occurs and whether or not it is a punishment for poor play.

According to the USGA Handicap Manual, a reduction in handicap occurs when a player has tournament scores in the past 12 months that are significantly lower than their current calculated index. The system will automatically calculate a reduction in handicap in the following manner:

- A calculation of the player's actual index will be done.
- The differentials of the two lowest T-scores is determined. The second lowest T-score is subtracted from the current index. If that result is greater than three, a reduction is automatic.
- The calculation is done by averaging the two lowest T-Scores and subtracting them from the actual index. This number is then used on the chart located on page 86 of the USGA Handicap Manual along with the total number of T-Scores to get a number for the reduction.

2006 Regional Meetings Recap

WGANC is always happy to share information at the February Regional meetings. This is a special kick-off for all of the clubs and their new Board members. We have found that sharing ideas in the breakout sessions helps WGANC as well as the member clubs.

Sheri Erskine, WGANC course Rating Chair and USGA Handicap Chair, gave a demonstration on posting handicaps and peer review. Many of the women were heard to say, "Now, I get it." Our USGA regional committee representatives, Nancy Gapinski, Gail Rogers and Ron Read, spoke on the advantages of USGA and what they do for golf. USGA has given every member of WGANC a membership for the year 2006. Also, a rule has been changed to allow us to win a car and still be considered an amateur golfer.

Many of the clubs are facing a declining enrollment. Women are returning to the work force and only able to play on Saturdays. Clubs were able to share ideas on how they are adapting to the ever-changing dynamics of women's golf. It is wonderful to meet your counterpart at a session and open those doors of communication. WGANC will be sending e-mails to the Captains, Tournament and Open Day chairs. We encourage individual clubs to send us questions, problems or solutions

Computing an "R" Score

Suppose your index is 14.4 and you have two tournament scores whose differentials are 4.4 and 8.7 respectively. We subtract the second lowest, or $14.4 - 8.7$ to get 7.7. This number is greater than 3 so an automatic reduction is invoked.

An average of the two T scores is subtracted from the current index ($14.4 - (8.7+4.4)/2$) to get 7.9.

Looking this up on page 86 of the USGA manual, assuming 19 T scores, give us a reduction of 3.9.

The player's reduced index will be $(14.4 - 3.9)$ or 10.5(R).

The reduction is recalculated at every revision period and will stay in effect until the actual handicap comes down or the T-scores rotate off. This is not a punishment for playing poorly but actually a reduction based on how well the player has played in a few tournaments. If there are extenuating circumstances that have resulted in a player's handicap rising rapidly, such as illness or injury, the player can petition her Club Handicap Committee to override the reduction. The more T-scores a player has the less likely that one or two low ones will affect her handicap index.

I hope this explains the process of a handicap reduction and motivates us all to play better and sign up for more tournaments.

Vicki Krattli, Handicap Director



Open Day News

Let's Hear it for Open Days

WGANC is the only association in the country to offer its members a chance to play at 107 clubs for the cost of lunch and a cart—how lucky we are! I hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and sign up often. If you've never tried an Open Day, it's a great way to improve your game by taking on the challenge of different courses and to make new friends. You can team up with a member of your own club for the drive and share a room if you live a distance away, then play with new people so you get to expand your circle of golfing buddies.

We kicked off the 2006 Open Day season on February 28 with an exciting event at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. There were 91 players from 36 clubs braving the elements—we had rain, hail, wind and sun—typical of our February weather — but the ladies persevered and had a great day.

Remember, as players you have responsibilities when you sign up for an Open Day. If you are accepted, and your plans change so you must cancel, you should call your Open Day chair if it is before the last cancellation date. You will not have to pay any fees. If you must cancel after the last cancellation date, call the Director in Charge. Her name and phone number are on both the Letter of Invitation, the Pre-entry Form, and now even on the internet at www.wganc.com. If a substitute can be found, you will not have to pay; otherwise, you will need to mail the

Director a check, payable to WGANC, for the cost of the lunch and the cart. If you have to cancel on the morning of the Open Day, you may call the pro shop at the host club. You will still have to pay, but you will not be penalized.

DON'T BE A NO-SHOW

If you don't cancel or show up to play an Open Day, then you go on the "NO SHOW" list!! You don't want this to happen, because it prevents you from playing in any Open Days for one year from the date the Director in Charge receives your check for the cost of lunch and cart.

When you are canceling, you always need to talk to the Open Day chair or Director in Charge personally. No phone messages, emails or fax are allowed.

So, get out your calendars and plan to play in some Open Days this year. All the dates are listed in the Green Book and on our web site at www.wganc.com.

Happy golfing and I hope to see you out on the course.

Cherrie Anderson, Open Day Director

Log onto www.wganc.com to see everything you need to know about upcoming Open Days.

Rules News

Well ladies, the "Rules" year has begun. At the four Regional meetings held in February this year we had Rules Breakout sessions for all new and continuing Rules Chairs. All four groups were eager and jovial about their job and asked wonderful questions. Throughout our 107 Clubs there are many unique problems that need to be addressed. It was exciting to watch the give and take from the participants regarding some very interesting club rules questions. One fact that I hope was learned in all of these sessions is that whenever ANY member of our clubs has a rules-related question they should open their Green Book to page 20 and call a member of the Rules Committee for assistance. These women are wonderful! They will get an answer for you as soon as possible. They will also come to your club to give rules demonstrations to your membership. Please call on these highly qualified women whenever you need help.

I have found that too many people view the rules of golf as a punitive part of the game. The rules, as with handicaps, have been devised to help the player enjoy the game of golf in its purest form. Knowing the rules clearly can also be to your advantage. Learn them and you will truly feel more confident and have more fun.

Lynn Jansen, Rules Director

Want to receive this newsletter online? Email your request to cjette@caltel.com.