

A New Start

Kudos to the author of our last series of newsletters, Craig Larsen. Your work is missed. After a lapse, your hallowed Board Of Directors has tagged me to take a swing at resurrecting our WMGC newsletter for the sharing of information within our club. I hope to be able to bring a smile to your face, and keep you up to date about the golf we all enjoy at Windsor GC.

2023 Board of Directors/Positions

President – Vic Sallee
 VP – Alex Perez
 Treasurer – Larry Plinski
 Secreatry – Craig Delles
 Tournamant – David Hunter and Adam Lewis
 Membership – Andy Bordessa
 Promotion – Luis Gonzales
 Handicap – Hunter/Lewis
 Sweeps – Hunter/Lewis
 Saturday League – Alex Perez
 Newsletter – Craig Delles
 Website – Alex Perez



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2022 Highlights and Results

Another great golfing year has passed with a bevy of great experiances and results. With prior apologies here are some of the highlights:

Our new club champion is.....what, you mean we still don't have a 2022 club champion? Come on Adam Lewis and Luis Diaz, we know it's a little redundant for you two, but.....

Our Saturday League Team made it into the playoffs as a wild card team, progressed through the lose one and done playoffs, and made it all the way to the finals at Poppy Hills. Placed second in Saturday League, I think, Sunday was a little blurry.

In our first two tournaments of 2022, the Chapman and the ABCD, the first flight of both were won by Tony Coscia led teams. Hunter/Plinski won the second flight of the Chapman. Hunter/Plinski took the first flight of our third tournament, the 4-Ball, with Salle/Mcnight taking the second flight. The

Shamble winners were Lewis/Myers F1, Coddington/Sonilla F2 (Hunter/Plinski second, pattern?), and Murrin/Von F3. Our NetAm winners were Ridge Etchell F1, Craig Larsen F2 (second Hunter, third Plinski), and Ron Farino F3. In our two day Presidents Cup, the stars started to shine with Adam Lewis taking the Gross Championship, and Vic Sallee taking the Net Championship (Patrick Minnifield won F2). Our mid-year Member-Guest was apparently lacking guests with two member-member teams winning, Morgan/Zanoni F1, Delles/Petersen F2. The NCGA Zone qualifier was won by the team of Rhodes/Ruonavaara/Vanvrancen/Osipovich (good luck in 2023). In the Purrugannan, guess who, Hunter/Plinski F1, and Persons/Persons F2. In the Ryder Cup it was again Lewis/Myer F1, and Dorn/Pena F2. Good playing all.

As we head into 2023 the greens are back to normal, the fourth is back in play, and hopefully, Sweeps scores will be posted and paid the following week. Adam and Luis, you guys done yet?

From Bob Hope

"Golf is a funny game, It's done much for health, and at the same time has ruined people by robbing them of their peace of mind. Look at me, I'm the healthiest idiot in the world."

"If I'm on the course and lightning starts, I get inside fast. If God wants to play through, let him."

We have 51 golf courses in Palm Springs. Gerald Ford (President) never decides which course he will play until after his first tee shot."

"Drugs are very much a part of professional sports today, but when you think about it, golf is the only sport where the players aren't penalized for being on grass."

"Golf is a game that needlessly prolongs the lives of some of our most useless citizens."



Thoughts On... Putting Mirrors

Musings on various aspects of golf.

I am not an expert in any aspect of golf, but I really caution you about asking me any thing about putting. You know the drill, you are out on the course having some problems with your putting that day, and in a moment of weakness you turn to one of your playing partners and ask if they see anything you might correct. If your group happens to include me, I suggest you resist that impulse.

During a recent round with Gary Emerson, who was forced to watch my repeated failures, Gary suggested I try out a golf mirror. Hey, why not? While my respect for training aids is somewhat tempered by the vision of Kevin Costner walking out of his trailer in Tin Cup with various implements hanging off his body, I decided to buy one. A golf mirror is a simple rectangular piece of plastic with a sheet of reflective mylar pasted on one side. It has a few holes and lines on it to assist you in securing it to the ground

and aligning your putting stroke. There is a little knock out on one side where you place your ball. I'm sure it costs about three cents to make, which may raise the question of its effectiveness, but when it comes to golf, I am willing to make any sacrifice.

"Nearly half the shots played, even by an expert golfer, are on the putting surface."

The primary idea behind this training aid is that by looking down at your mirrored reflection you can place your eyes directly over the ball, which may help in getting the ball started on the proper line, assuming of course, that your putting stroke is functional to start with. The problem with the mirror is it tends to contribute to a common affliction where golfers look down at that stationary white ball.... and lock up. Many of us grew up playing sports with moving balls, pucks,

Frisbees, and such, that when combined with moving quickly in the proximity of other humans, train us athletes to be great at reacting to movement. Unfortunately, that is not how golf works. Instead of reacting, you have to get yourself started, to then get the ball moving too.

With this damn mirror, I am no longer just looking down at the ball, but also my growing nosehairs and blood shot eyes. On top of that, you are supposed to remain still and aligned, which after succumbing to the cause of those bloodshot eyes, is virtually impossible. So now, with all of that additional unaccustomed visual input in mind, I am supposed to start my smooth takeaway. Like silk, right?

The next time you see me hesitating over a putt just a little to long, you will know that I have been training diligently with my putting mirror. Give one a try.



Some 2023 Rule Changes

Rule 3.3b (4) – Player not Responsible for Showing Handicap on Scorecard or Adding up Scores: The rule has been amended so that a player is no longer required to show their handicap on their scorecard, or calculate their net score. Now the responsibility of the Committee.

Rule 9.3 – Ball Moved By Natural Forces: New Exception 2 provides that a

ball must be replaced if it moves to another area of the course after being dropped, placed or replaced. This also applies if the ball comes to rest out of bounds. (Think Ricky Fowler drop that rolled back into lake)

Rule 11.1b – Ball in Motion Accidentally Hits Person or Outside Influence: Place from Where Ball Must Be Played: Rule has been amended to provide that if a ball played from the putting green hits an insect, the player, or the

club used to make the stroke, the ball is played as it lies – the stroke is not replayed.

Back-on-the-Line Relief Procedures – The back-on-the-line procedure is amended to provide that the player is required to drop on the line. The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one club-length in any direction from that point. (So not directly on line anymore)

RULES QUIZ

Question - A player may not ask to have another player's ball, which lies on the putting green, to be lifted under what circumstance per Rule 15.3 (Ball or Ball-Marker Helping or Interfering with Play)?

Answer – The ball is in position to interfere with the play of a third player.

Question – In stroke play, a player's tee shot carries 170 yards over a narrow red penalty area into some trees. The ball is

not found within three minutes and it could not be determined whether the ball bounced back into the penalty area, or came to rest in the trees and rough beyond it. The player dropped a ball under Rule 17.1d(3) and completed play of the hole. What is the ruling?

Answer – The player gets three penalty strokes under Rules 18.2a and 14.7 and must correct the error under Rule 14.7, or be disqualified.

NCGA INFO

Last fall, the NCGA terminated their score entry app, so if you haven't entered a score in a while, you now need to download the USGA app to do so. If you enter your score the same day as play, it contributes to the new daily course handicap adjustment (yes, you can get more or less strokes based on the scores entered on a given day).

BEST ROUND LATELY

Our November tournament, the Modified Ryder Cup, is played with three formats, Scramble, Aggregate Score, and Best Ball. The six holes played with the Aggregate Score format is usually the most daunting, and has dashed many hopes. Par for those holes is 48. The second flight team of Brian Dorn and Abraham Pena (how is Dorn ever in a second flight?) shot a combined score of 38, ten under par on holes seven through twelve. That's an average of 1.67 under on every hole. Next best score in the entire field on those holes was 45 (Alex Perez/Luis Garcia). Incredible play guys.



Membership Involvement

On behalf of your Board of Directors, I encourage you to share your thoughts, suggestions, and comments with us. Members are invited to attend our monthly meetings (6:00 p.m. each Monday before tournaments). Help grow the club, and make it better.

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

(Times, etc., subject to change, please check with pro shop)

- **Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 am: WMGC Five-Club Tournament**

CANCELLED DUE TO FLOODING AND COURSE CONDITION

A new format for our first event of the year. Pick your five best, and lighten up your bag so the walk is a little easier. Looking a little like the course is going to be underwater, keep your fingers crossed.

- **Sunday, February 12th, 8:00 am Shotgun: WMGC ABCD Blind Draw Scramble**

Hoping Covid and the weather allow us to get back to our traditional format of drawing names out of a hat to form teams the morning of. One of the best liked tournaments of the year. Come out and play with someone new.

- **Sunday, March 12th, 11:00 am: WMGC NCGA 4-Ball Qualifier**

Two man teams compete to qualify for NCGA tournament, usually played at Poppy Hills. Our low qualifying score in 2022 was -10 (Sallee/Mcknight).

- **Tuesday, March 14th: SF City Championship**

Registration opens January 15th and closes February 15th for this famous match play tournament typically played on two historical courses. Various divisions, for Seniors you need to be 55 and have a 9.4 index to play in the qualifier.

- **Wednesday, March 15th, 4:00 pm: Sweeps Start**

Usually the first Wednesday after daylight savings time changes. Open tee times between 4-5, come and create/join a group. Nine holes, max 18 stroke handicap, WMGC event so scores entered by club and combined towards official handicap.

- **Thursday, May 11th: NCGA Public Links Qualifier**

Paradise Valley date, other locations and dates available. Registration opens January 16th. Individuals compete to qualify for final at Poppy Hills. Tom Osipovich is a perennial qualifier. Number of qualifiers depends on size of field, usually 12-20.

- **Friday, May 26th: NCGA Senior Net Qualifier**

Haggin Oaks date, other locations and dates available. Registration opens January 16th. Individuals compete to qualify for final at Poppy Hills. Number of qualifiers depends on size of field.