

WILLOWCREEK WOMEN'S 18-HOLE GOLF ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Call to Order

President Sue Brooks called the meeting to order at Marinette Recreation Center at 1:00 p.m. There were approximately 65 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Lisa Braegelmann made a motion to approve the December 2, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Terri Simpson. Motion carried.

Announcements

Sue Brooks requested that we be diligent and thoroughly read the emails we receive about tournaments and to always respond that we will either play or not play in the tournament. Sue stated that the practice of "lift, clean and place" during our league play will now automatically be in effect whenever golf carts are restricted to cart path only. Sue also requested that we be mindful of our pace of play, to keep up with the group in front of us and to be patient.

Treasurer and Membership Report

Barb Halpin reported that the ledger balance as of February 1, 2023, was \$6,538.00. The 2023 budget is \$1,635.00 and the 2022 unpaid budget is \$8.07. Forward liabilities are \$1,874.28 and the unbudgeted balance is \$3,020.65.

Barb noted that we have had one (1) hole-in-one this year and that we are still debating what to do with the bathroom improvement funds and the mixer funds.

Barb stated that as of February 7, 2023, we have 120 regular members and 4 social members.

COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

SCWGA/Umbrella

Sue Brooks explained the purpose of the Umbrella committee and noted that at the last Umbrella meeting, there was a proposal to eliminate the mandatory requirement that all tournament players must use a golf cart and instead to allow players the choice of walking or riding. Sue asked the membership for thoughts and opinions and there was a wide range of responses. Some thought walkers should always be allowed, some thought carts should be mandatory and some thought it should depend on the tournament format (for example, team or partnership events should use carts and individual events can walk or ride). Sue said she would share these opinions with the Umbrella committee.

Sue asked for input on why there was low participation for the Sun City Open tournament. This is a two-day flighted event. There were a variety of opinions: some don't like playing from combo tees; some people don't like to play with people they don't know; others said the

tournament takes too long with slow pace of play; some thought there were too many tournaments in the winter season and others thought it was a weather factor.

Sue passed on a suggestion from Chris Linam, the Pro Shop Manager, that users of the lottery program for tee times may have more success if they enter a 4-hour time span for the desired tee time. Chris also said utilizing the option to “break” your groups might be helpful. We were encouraged to attend the Member Exchange meetings where we can voice our concerns about the lottery program to the RCSC Board. These meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month at Sundial Recreation Center. It was noted that during the month of March, every course will run a straight sheet for tee times as an experiment to see if that alleviates some of the issues with tee times.

AGA/Handicap/Hole-in-One

Polly Fischette reported that Chris Barnes got a hole in one.

CAGD

Nancy Masters reported that 98 members participate in Centra Arizona Golf District (“CAGD”). The fee to join is \$8.00. The next blind draw will be on Valentine’s Day. Nancy reminded us to put our net score and what tee you played from on the CAGD score card. CAGD hosts tournaments throughout the year and more information is available on our web site.

Greens Committee/Golf Advisory

Cristi Dorsch commented that a cross-over tee sheet does eliminate a block of tee times so it will be helpful to have a straight sheet in March. On hole #12, we were encouraged to not cross over the fairway in our carts just past the tee box because doing so is causing damage to that area of the course. If we continue this practice, the course will reinstate the barrier to prevent driving in that area.

Cristi noted that we have volunteers in our league who repair divots and fix ball marks on the greens but they can’t be there every day. If a ball mark is not fixed within 24 hours, the spot will turn black. Our greens are softer than many of the other courses so we do have more ball marks. Cristi asked us to please fix our ball marks and to also fix the marks of other players whenever possible. We should assume we make a mark if we hit onto the hole so look for and repair your mark. Also please rake the bunkers properly when you are in the sand. Contact Jean Emerson if you would like to volunteer to adopt a hole to repair divots and ball marks.

It was noted that some players leave their golf cart parked in front of the green when they are putting instead of moving the cart to the cart path beside the green. Polly Fischette said that she would ask the Men’s league to also address this issue with their members.

Beautification

Laura Horvatich reported that she is working with Chris Linam, Brian Duthu and other course committees to adopt a uniform protocol to replace the memorial pavers on the course.

Historian

Sue Brooks noted that this position is vacant and she asked that anyone who would like to volunteer to fill this role contact her. The Historian takes photos of our events.

Member Guest

Jean Emerson said that the flyers to sign up for this event are on the back table of today's meeting.

Pairings

Kathy Hutchinson could not attend today's meeting. Sue Brooks reminded us that when we have a guest player, we must note that they are a guest on the sign-up sheet.

Julie Woods noted that people continue to sign up multiple groups instead of just signing up their own foursome. Julie also noted that many members continue to play in the same grouping each week which makes it difficult to meet and play with others. Julie wondered if there was a better way to do the sign-up sheets to encourage more mixing. It was noted that some clubs do a once-a-month mixer where names are put in a hat and randomly selected to create a foursome. Sue Brooks said she would review options with Kathy Hutchinson and Carol Harrington volunteered to help.

Play-of-Day/Publicity

There was nothing to report.

Ringers and Birdies

Kryssy Brown welcomed and thanked the new members who joined Ringers and Birdies. Kryssy again requested that the score card show first and last names and good penmanship. She also stated that eagles, birdies and holes-in-one should be circled on the card but play of day holes should not be circled.

Rules

Carol Arend talked about the 5 key changes for the Rules of Golf for 2023.

- 1: modifications for players with disabilities are now part of the Rules and are in effect for all players who fall under the categories covered in new Rule 25.
- 2: when your ball is at rest after taking relief and then rolls into another area of the course due to natural causes, there is no penalty and you must replace the ball.
3. when using "back-on-the-line" relief, you are required to drop your ball on the line and it may roll up to one club length in any direction.
4. if your club is damaged during a round (except in cases of abuse), you may replace it, repair it or continue to use it.
5. for stroke play only, you are not required to put your handicap on your scorecard and there is no penalty if you return your scorecard in a competition with an incorrect handicap. It is the committee's responsibility.

Team Play

Mary Engert reported that the first half of the series has been completed. Willow Creek is in first place for both net and gross but the next teams back are not far behind. Sign up sheets for the 18th are available at today's meeting.

Fun Day will be Saturday, March 18, 2023 and it will be played at South golf course. You must sign up with your team captain and the cost of \$25.00 must be paid by check. The cost includes lunch and Mary will find out if there are options for those with dietary restrictions.

It was noted there has been difficulty getting enough players for C team. Also, the maximum handicap that can be used is 36. Those with higher handicaps can still play but they would be given a maximum cap of 36.

There are still some Team Play shirts available and anyone interested should contact Nancy Masters.

Tournaments

Marcia Grenier reported that she organizes three Willow Creek tournaments: President's Cup, Memorial and Club Championship/Eclectic. The President's Cup is a 3-week event and you must participate in all three events to qualify. The Memorial is a one-day event. This year, the Memorial was postponed one week due to weather. On the actual event date, 29 people cancelled due to cold weather which resulted in a disappointing turnout. Marcia encouraged players to pay attention to their tee time because later times may not encounter the cold weather. Some who wanted to play did not get the chance because all others in their grouping had cancelled. Marcia said this could have been avoided by requesting the starter to place you in another group if the remainder of your group had cancelled. Marcia noted that when weather is a possible factor, she will send out an email by 7:00 a.m. the morning of the tournament so it is important to check your email the morning of the event.

The Club Championship/Eclectic is also a 3-week event. For the Club Championship, you must play in all three events to qualify but for the Eclectic, you can win event if you only play on 1 or 2 of the dates. Invitations for the Club Championship will be emailed on February 12, 2023 and the entry deadline is February 19, 2023. Members must respond to the email invitation and click the appropriate button indicating whether they intend to play or not play. It is important to respond even if you are not going to play. Marcia will assign all players to appropriate flights and will assign pairings and tee times. Players cannot request special pairings.

Marcia also noted that walkers are always allowed at Willow Creek tournaments.

Welcoming Committee

Kathy Cea introduced new member Katie Benedetti.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

Barb Halpin reported that beginning in 2024, membership dues can be paid online through the Arizona Golf Association. The payment process can include our league dues plus the costs for hole-in-one, CAGD, and ringers and birdies. The AGA is encouraging all leagues and members to utilize this new format. The option for manual payment as is currently done will still be available but AGA is offering a discount to those who use the online program. Registration for 2024 will be available online in October 2023.

Carol Arend noted that the Octogenarian Tournament is approaching and the application will be available on the bulletin board at the course.

Pat Garrett touched back on the issue of the lottery program and strongly encouraged attendance at the Member Exchange meetings or sending an email to Bill Cook with your thoughts and concerns.

Motion to Adjourn

Kathy Cea made a motion to adjourn at 2:25 p.m. which was seconded by Susan Petersen. Motion carried.

Submitted by Tricia Affleck
Secretary