

# HERON LAKES WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB



## Your 2015 Oregon Women's Interclub Play Champions

(Top Row L to R) Pamela Bartlett, Betty Schram, Darci Trimmer, Luan Penner, Julie Gish (Front Row L to R) Marsha Cutter, Denise Aldridge, Janet Elliot (Others not pictured) Joan Heeter, April Lewis, Cheryl Ford

## 2016 Board Members and Committee Chairs

**President**  
Julie Gish  
360 921 7352

**President Elect**  
Marlane Tostenrude  
360 772 0263

**Treasurer**  
Wendy Weddle  
971 678 7765

**Secretary/  
Membership**  
Janet Elliot  
360 695 2768

**Saturday Captain/VP**  
Hollis Brown  
360 607 9116

**Tuesday Captain/VP**  
**Vacant**

**Handicap Chairs**  
Tues Luan Penner  
Sat Valerie Spirit  
**Rules Chair**  
Tues Marsha Cutter  
Sat Hollis Brown  
**Tournament Chairs**  
Pam Smith  
Suann Jordan  
**Newsletter**  
Editor  
Val Holzer  
503 997 6934  
Tech/Design  
Cheryl Ford

## A Note from the President



Greetings,

It's hard to believe but the golf season is on our door step and although we have had a wet winter, temperatures are mild and the course is coming around. It has been a busy winter getting our organization ready for this season. We have hit an unexpected hurdle in filling the VP position for Tuesdays' play. Although Nikki was elected as the Tuesday VP at our annual meeting, she has declined the position and will be playing most of her golf at Riverside. Nikki still has plans to play occasionally at Heron Lakes and we certainly hope she will join us.

The Golf Committee met on early January and mid-February to plan the golf season and to address the vacancy on the Board. Although Janet Elliott has reached out to many of our Tuesday members, we have no takers for the VP Tuesday position. We are hoping that someone will step forward to organize the Tuesday's day play but until that happens, Janet will organize the tee times for the month of March and Luan will organize for the month of April. We really need someone to fill this spot. Most of the work is organizing the pairings/tee times and this can be done from your home computer.

Again this year we will have the game called Hit Your Target. At the start of your season you will select a goal or target from a list on the bulletin board. Every time you Hit Your Target, you put a gold star with your name under the goal. It should be interesting and fun to see how many of us hit the target we set for ourselves by the end of the season. I am hoping to have the Hit Your Target bulletin board as well as our other bulletin boards updated by mid-March.

HLWGC Board met in early January to review the responsibilities of the President, Pres-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Vic-Presidents and to set the budget for the year. I reported at our 2015 annual meeting that the club would have significant funds in excess of our required carry-over reserves going into 2016 and we were considering a membership rebate. In fact our final 2015 statement showed the club had \$1178 in excess funds beyond our \$700 reserve going into the 2016 golf season. Although the OGA increased the handicapping fee from \$32 to \$35, the Board approved a rebate of \$12 to each member as a means to distribute the excess funds. Each member has an additional \$12 on the Heron Lakes pro shop books that can be used for merchandise or green fees, so don't forget to use your rebate!

Finally I want to update everyone on the status of the By-Laws revisions. If you remember at the end of last season the overwhelming consensus was to discontinue separate tournaments for Tuesday and Saturday. During the winter a committee consisting of myself, Luan Penner and Hollis Brown met to re-write the By-Laws to accommodate this change. We have met several times and now the next step is to present the new By-Laws to the current membership for their approval. In April you will receive a draft of the By-Laws with an explanation of changes. After the document has been distributed and everyone has had time to read/comment, a meeting will be called to vote on approval. Plans are to hold meetings before days play on both a Saturday and Tuesday to discuss the changes and to vote.

Hot Off The Press – 2016 Standing Rules and Schedule are now posted on our web site. Be sure to download and review. They have a lot of good information concerning our club and season.

Julie Gish – 2016 President

**“The most important shot in golf is the next one.”**

— BEN HOGAN

## A NOTE FROM LUAN PENNER, HANDICAP CHAIR

### *Score while playing alone no longer acceptable for posting to your Handicap Index*

We all know that enjoying a round of golf when playing alone can be a lot of fun and can even help your game. The decision by the USGA to disallow a round while playing alone to be posted does not discourage playing alone, but is in response to better supporting the reliability of a Handicap Index. The USGA also made this decision to further enhance the integrity and credibility of the USGA Handicap System around the world.

The concept of "Peer Review" is an essential element of the USGA Handicap System. It simply means that your friends, club mates, fellow competitors, and anyone with whom you play, can learn a player's potential ability and form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted. Any concern can be raised directly with the player or with the Handicap Committee. When those with whom you play can attest to your ability, it only adds to the integrity and credibility of the system. Without Peer Review, a USGA Handicap Index loses its inherent value.

The USGA made the decision to enhance "Peer Review" and the integrity and credibility of the USGA Handicap System and in doing so, considered the following:

- *Golfers base their good-faith acceptance of the Handicap System on the reasonable assumption that fellow players have posted all acceptable scores accurately and have played in accordance with the Rules of Golf. Peer Review helps support that good-faith acceptance.*
- *Playing alone, a player loses the advantage of someone alongside who can remind the player of a Rule or verify that they made a 6, and not a 5 or a 7.*
- *Playing golf with others affords the benefit of having someone who can testify to your ability and acknowledge the accuracy of your Handicap when you play that once-in-a-lifetime round to win the member-guest.*

While researching this issue and gathering myriad opinions, many golfers told the USGA that when playing alone, they will often practice and play multiple golf balls and shots, carry extra clubs, take more risks and try shots that they otherwise might never attempt, and experiment with their swing and overall game. These actions may not yield a true measure of their potential in a round played under the Rules of Golf.

As well, the USGA Handicap System Manual states that in order to gain an understanding of a player's potential ability and to form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted, a player needs to have played in a group with others and not alone.

For years, many golfers have raised questions about whether scores played alone are as reliable as other scores. This change will help everyone have greater confidence in the Handicap Index of players. Additionally, this will assist the Handicap Chairman in his/her responsibilities by not having to monitor rounds played alone at the club level.

Most golfers just want to do the right thing – integrity and the reliability of the system is important to them. That's why this new rule is ultimately good for the game