



Whidbey Golf Club Fairway News

News and Happenings from Whidbey Golf Club



The Times They Are A-Changin'

by John 'Germ' Geragotelis

When I read in April's Rolling Stone that Bob Dylan's original hand-written lyrics for the protest song "The Times They Are A Changin'" was being auctioned off for \$2.2 million, I thought to myself - why can't someone with oodles of expendable cash invest in a more promising or practical enterprise, perhaps a hidden gem worthy of polishing, a gem like Whidbey Golf Club. Not going to happen, but nice to dream big if only occasionally.

What will happen, however, is a lot of hard work to enhance Whidbey Golf Club. In fact, you can already see the evidence. Last month I mentioned that we were changing our mowing patterns not only to economize, but also to better frame the fantastic design of our course. Instead of seeing over-mown acreage with flags and trees, we hope to present each individual hole with fairways meandering to the aprons and greens, bounded by slices (punny) of nature and rough. The "natural" look is not customary for a city or housing development course, but so far, the feedback has been surprisingly positive.

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Events

July 11-12th

Whidbey Dental 2
Person Best Ball

July 24-26th

Melnick & Son's 5
Person Best Ball

Every Friday

Member Dinner

Whidbey Golf Club

2430 S.W. Fairway Lane,
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
www.whidbeygolfclub.com

Board of Trustees:

President – John Geragotelis
Vice President – Steve Richardson
Secretary – Dave Acton
Treasurer – Brandi Gibson

Committee Chairs:

Capital Planning – Dave Acton
Club House/Restaurant – Pam Glach
Finance/Treasurer – Brandi Gibson
Greens and Grounds – Pat Ford
Golf Activities – Jeff Waller
Membership – Steve Richardson
Special Projects – Dave Acton
Ladies Club – Linda Haslund

Managers:

Club General Manager – Arik Dahlen
arik@whidbeygolfclub.com
Head Professional – David Phay
dave@whidbeygolfclub.com
Superintendent – Trevor Thorp
360-675-6124
Chef – Kris Burns
chef@whidbeygolfclub.com

Club Hours:

Office (Tue-Fri) 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Pro Shop (Summer Hours):
Mondays: 10:00 am - 7 pm
Tue-Sun: 7 am - 7 pm
Driving Range Closes at 6 pm
Restaurant:
Wed-Sat: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sundays: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Contact Information:

Phone: 360-675-5490
Business Office: Extension 2
office@whidbeygolfclub.com
House / Reservations: Extension 4
Pro Shop: Extension 1

WGC Members and Guests,

Summer is in full swing and the course is looking great!

June was another strong month in new member signups. We welcomed 3 new Shareholders, along with many new Military members. Our efforts to attract new people to the game of golf with the casual golfer program is continuing to be successful with 8 new participants to this program this month.

If you have anyone that you have been talking to about getting started here at WGC please direct them to me. I would be more than happy to show them around and answer any questions they may have about the many benefits membership has to offer.

July is looking like it will still be a slower month as far as events go, due to ongoing restrictions, but we are slowly introducing things back as allowed and are hopeful that we will get closer to “normal” in the near future. As a reminder... We are always striving to make our club the most comfortable and safest environment possible for our members and guests. Please follow the state mask mandate when social distancing is not possible.

Please join our committee! We meet on the Wednesday prior to the board meetings at 4:30 pm in the clubhouse.

Please welcome all of our new members and guests!



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

This has been, and still is, a very strange year indeed. I consider us incredibly lucky to be playing the game we love while millions of others are restricted from participating in their favorite sports and activities. Last weekend, for the first time in months, I ventured off Whidbey Island for a WGC three day mini-event at Wine Valley Golf Club in Walla Walla, WA. Thanks to Dave Phay, our Professional, for setting up a great trip. Though the social aspect (no gathering) of golf has changed, the excitement and challenge of testing your game on different courses remains fervent.



Speaking of the social aspect – Thank you for dining at our restaurant while complying with WA State Phase 2 mandates. I also see many of you stopping in for take-out. Someday we will get back to normal, but until then, we are doing our best to support our “house.” Though we have been cautiously adding dinners and events under Phase 3 guidelines, this strange year has taken its toll and will assuredly prevent the house from making any profit.

On the other hand, our golf operations have roared back to full strength. Except for cancelling the hosting of “outside tournaments” (e.g. Wildcat Scramble, Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser, etc.), we have had robust participation in our modified WGC Tournaments, as well as a high rate of guest and public tee times in general. Thanks to the Golf Shop for great customer service. Thanks to the Superintendent and his crew for presenting a fantastic course.

If you are wondering whether the uptick in golf has helped us financially, the answer is yes. We are back on track to meet our 2020 budget, but (there is always a but) there is still a lot of uncertainty as to whether the increase in tee times will compensate for the loss of house and outside tournament revenue. Moreover, many of the visitors were from our neighbor course, The Gallery, which did not re-open until late June.

Because of revenue loss during the shutdown and all the uncertainty ahead, WGC applied for and received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan from the Small Business Administration. This loan will enable us to purchase a much-needed rough mower (details in work). We are also undertaking other measures to ensure financial viability in case things take a turn for the worse. Though planning for the worst, I am extremely optimistic that with your continued support WGC will endure the economic crisis.

I am looking forward to seeing you this month at the WGC Mens Championship, and our largest event of the year, the legendary Summer 5-Person Tournament. Please follow the social distancing and mask requirements, and if you see something unsafe or something that we can do better, point it out to our Club Manager or Professional immediately. Thanks again for your support.

Hit ‘em straight, or hit ‘em often.
John ‘germ’ Geragotelis

Ladies' Club News

By Linda Haslund

Welcome back to playing golf! The course has been in great shape and the weather terrific. The turnout has been good and it is fun to see our friends at a safe distance.

Now that the restaurant is open, we can have lunch together with 5 to a table.

Diane and Roger Pierce, thank you again for a great job on the Events and Roster booklet. The two of you are a blessing to the Ladies Club. I know we all missed having the short and sweet day.

Just a reminder, the Ladies Invitational was postponed to September 10th and 11th. If you have any questions regarding it, please call Lynn Coffey, Chairperson or David Phay.

See you on the course.



Questions? Comments? Ideas?

As you may have noticed, the newsletter has been updated and reformatted for easier updates and more options for changes and special sections.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for the Whidbey Golf Club news letter, don't hesitate to contact me at wgcnewsletter@yahoo.com or Arik at arik@whidbeygolfclub.com.

"Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe."

~Bob Williams

Ladies' Guest Day Tournament

by Linda Latham

With all the exchanges cancelled this year because of Covid, our Whidbey ladies still managed to host a fantastic crowd of ladies on Thursday, June 25 for a warm, sunny round of golf and socially distant luncheon! With our invitational postponed to September 10-11, this Special Ladies Guest Day included a field of 32 happy golfers.



Golf Winners:

Paula Oldenburg, Low Net
Bobbie Johnson, Low Gross

Congratulations to the three finalists in the face mask competition:

1st Place: Annette Zimmer, Gallery
Chris Talstad, Camaloch
Linda Haslund, Whidbey Golf Club

Jerry Crabtree from Gallery won the Origami Owl jewelry. Other raffle winners included Paula Oldenburg, Monique Frissan and Ellie Wright.

"The Times They Are A-Changin'"

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We have also upgraded the cart barns providing members with more reliable and accessible charging, as well as a pull/motorized cart pad. At the same time, we constructed a proper wash station for the range balls. Besides adding a few aimpoints on the range (I nailed the red target with my five iron today), we aim to construct 8 covered practice stalls by this winter. And at some point way down the post-Coronavirus highway, I expect an automatic ball dispenser may show up.

Whidbey Golf Club has 25 new rental power carts. We are planning to refurbish the foot and cart cleaning station, to stage an actual ball drop in the parking lot, and to establish electric-car charging spaces. These upgrades are in addition to planned capital expenditures and repairs (e.g. equipment and cart path upgrades). We are also planning long overdue enhancements to the house - furniture, sound system, bar, etc. - and perhaps even an outdoor bar/snack area to go along with some corn hole or bocce ball.

While some may think Dylan's mantra apropos today:

The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'

I think Whidbey Golf Club will remain a hidden gem, permanently and thankfully out of earshot from the big city static. And I know Whidbey Golf Club is "a-changin'", it is improving, but via steady and sensible means, no "ragin'" required.

GOLF NEWS - JULY, 2020

Since June was almost all but wiped out of its normal events due to the COVID-19 issues, I decided to put together a trip for those who wanted to get away. I chose Wine Valley Golf Club as our destination because it is one of my favorite golf courses, and it's about as far away from everything else as you can get. There is no safer place than the great outdoors.

Our first day was a little on the hot side, reaching a temperature of just under 100 degrees. Saturday and Sunday were pleasant at 80 and 70 degrees. Some players played the three rounds that were planned for them and others added a second round on Saturday to make it 4. There was even a group that went on a social distancing wine tasting tour. Those who knew our Head Golf Professional from the 90's, Chris Isaacson, were able to catch up with him and revisit the good old days of the barn as he is now the Director of Golf there. The golf course was in perfect shape as usual and I can't wait to go back. This was our first weekend trip as a club and I am entertaining the possibility of doing another in August if anyone is interested. It will depend on future developments with respect to COVID-19 issues but look for it on the horizon.



5 Person Best Ball

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MELNICK & SONS PAINTING

July 25-26

Our Annual 5-Person Best Ball is the last weekend of July and may be the most anticipated major of the year. This tournament, sponsored by MELNICK & SONS, is open to both genders with the format being the best 1 gross and 2 net of the five players on each hole. I hope to see all of you out having a good time with your teams. As I am writing this article it is almost full so don't wait until it is too late to get in!



Men's Club Championship

July 11-12

Our annual Men's Club Championship is upon us. Make sure you get yourself signed up in the Pro Shop. There are 3 different flights with net prizes as well as gross so there should be no reason not to play.

Championship Flight Open to all male members

Black/Blue Tees

Senior Flight Open to all male members 50+

Blue Tees

Super Senior Flight Open to all male members 65+

White Tees

This year the men will be paired by flight on Saturday morning instead of making your own group. The final round will also be paired by flight but will use your first round gross scores. After the final round on Sunday everyone will gather for the champion's dinner that will include your choice of prime rib or salmon.

Presidents Cup Points Race Coming to an End

For those of you who have not noticed, there has been a point's race going on all year to qualify you to make the Presidents Cup teams in September. The link to the leaderboard is below or you can always find it on the website under GOLF. The top 16 GOLFING MEMBERS, after the 5-Person Best Ball is over, will be asked to represent either the president's team or the vice presidents team in the 5th annual Presidents Cup. This is a prestigious event with everything being hosted for the players and captains. Clothing, competition and meals will all be complimentary! This will be a Ryder Cup style event played over 2 days (September 12-13). If you are lucky enough to make the team, you won't want to miss it.

<https://wgc-2020presidentialcuppoints.golfgenius.com/pages/4769332404768774131>

2019 WGC Presidential Cup

Captains: President—John Geragotelis Vice President—David Acton
Assistant—Arik Dahlen Assistant—David Phay

President's Team (Bottom)

John Geragotelis, John Matzen, Pat Ford, Tim Wyer, Ryan Elvebak, Jerin Applegarth, Glen Smith, Corey Glach, Arik Dahlen

Vice President's Team (Top)

David Phay, Mike Lacey, David Smith, Gary Boonstra, Steve Richardson, Tracy Vass, James Phay, Michael Prewitt, David Acton



Vice President's Team 10 - President's Team 6