



Whidbey Golf Club Fairway News

News and Happenings from Whidbey Golf Club



We “Stayed Home, and Stayed Well” But Can’t Wait to See You SOON!

By Pam Glach

April was a challenging month in so many ways. We made the difficult decision at the end of March to furlough all of the house staff. Arik worked with the team to make sure everyone was able to access unemployment benefits. He then regularly followed up to ensure that everyone was having their financial needs met. There were many offers from members to contribute to gift accounts for our team. Members’ generosity and commitment to keeping our staff and club financially afloat during this time, reinforced why we joined the club! You all are extraordinary people.

The summary status for our team is that everyone is doing fine financially and just bored and ready to come back and see you all. The Governor’s recent proclamation will make that somewhat possible. We want to proceed cautiously with reopening to ensure we follow the guidelines and also to ensure that we protect both the staff and club financially.

Continued on Page 6

Events

**May 5th:
Club Re-opening!**

**Even if you're not playing
be sure to stop by or call
for some take out - call the
Pro Shop, Ext 1, to order**

**May 22-24th:
Mountain Mist Invitational**

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 (Winter Hours):

Mondays: 10:00 am-Sunset

Tue-Sun: Sunrise - Sunset

Driving Range Closes at Sunset

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

President's Comments

by John 'Germ' Geragotelis

I am excited to be dusting off my clubs and I can sense the buzz in the air – golf is back. Not so quick! When the course re-opens, the club will not be the same. We are still operating under Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" proclamations. We can argue about whether the golfing restrictions make sense, are effective, etc. for decades (and we will). But we cannot debate the fact that the Distancing Requirements are mandated, not suggested. Please comply graciously, like the professional golfer that you always wanted to be (see article from the Pro for specifics).

WGC has been financially hurt by the shutdown. But I am incredibly happy to report that our laid-off employees are doing fine. Some received state and federal unemployment, some found other employment, some stayed home and played video games, and most are itching to return. I know that many of you have asked if you could "pitch in" to support our staff and their families. God bless you – I'll let you know when/if that time comes.

WGC as a business is not out of the woods yet. Golf clubs are not eligible for any federal relief under the CARES Act. Other than cutting operating expenses to the bone and keeping the maintenance crew at bare minimum, the only relief received was deferment on mortgage and retail taxes. At the end of March (financial data lags one month) we were exactly on budget, but only because our Superintendent was \$28K under budget (House and Board were already \$27K behind budget). For April, we estimate a \$17K underperformance, which would have been much worse if you had not paid your dues. Once again, thank you!

Under present policy - restaurant and bar closed, pro-shop limited, golf restricted to twosomes and single riders - it is anyone's guess as to whether WGC will make money, not to mention make the budgeted profit. As golf increases so will the maintenance enterprise, but revenue may be much less than normal without social and outside events, even with some modified tournaments. At the end of May, we hope to have a better picture of how being "partially open" affects finances, but we are already investigating measures to mitigate the expected budget overrun and associated cash flow issues.

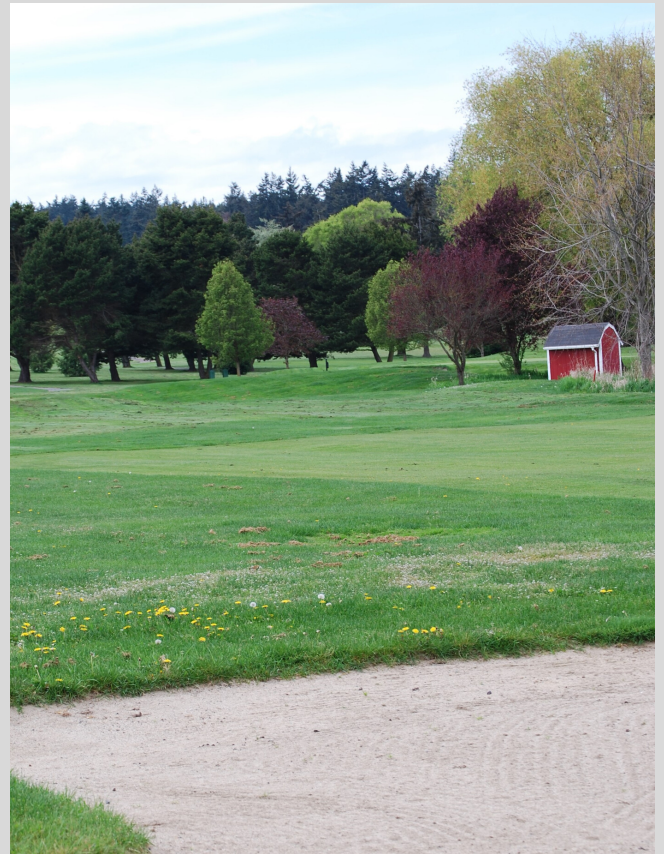
That was way too much business talk ... the best way out of this mess is to get out and golf, often. While golfing, pick up some food and beverages to-go at the turn, and after the round. Let's keep everyone safe and still have a good time playing the game we love.

Hit 'em straight, or hit 'em often.

GREENS REPORT

BY PAT FORD

I am writing this update instead of the Super because Trevor and his crew are busy preparing the golf course for you. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on May 5th. Trevor and his minimum crew have been able to maintain the course since the shutdown. The greens and approaches have been punched and sanded. They have filled in nicely. He will have them ready for play on Tuesday. They look outstanding. In fact, the whole course looks beautiful. This was the nicest April I can remember, and we were not able to play golf. The crew cannot cut the grass fast enough this time of year. The harsh winter created many challenges for Whidbey Golf Club. The flood, wind, and non-stop rain did a lot of damage to the course. Trevor and his crew have done a superb job in overcoming all of them. When you see them on the course, please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.



When the Governor lets us play golf on Tuesday, (I can't believe I just said that) there will be restrictions that the Pro will address in his update. I can guarantee you that the board is not happy being dictated to on how we can enjoy our private golf course. Please comply, and enjoy playing golf. We are hoping the Governor will set us free within a week or two.



I hope this letter finds you and your families in good health and coping well during these difficult times. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for your continued support of Whidbey Golf Club.

New (Temporary) Course Guidelines

By David Phay

As we head into May with everyone excited to get back to golfing I want to remind everyone of the stipulations set forth by the Governor. It is important that we do our best to follow them so we can continue to enjoy the game we all love.

Here are the Governors stipulations to follow in order to keep golf going in Washington:

1. Only twosomes will be allowed.
 - a. If players are found combining into larger groups on the course, all players in those groups will be restricted from booking back to back tee times.
2. Please keep social distancing practices at all times.
3. Carts will be restricted to 1 rider per cart unless both riders reside in the same household. This includes private carts.
4. The flagstick must remain untouched and left in the hole. There will be a foam insert in the cup that you will be able to lift with a flick of your putter head. This should allow for no contact.
5. The practice green cups will be upside-down. This allows you to putt to a target that gives good feedback and eliminates the need to touch the cup.
6. Club rentals are discontinued until further notice.
7. The practice area is restricted to those with tee times within 30 minutes. There will only be 9 stalls on the practice range instead of 13 to maintain 10 foot spacing.
8. Bunker rakes have been removed. Please do your best to foot rake the area from which you hit.
9. Ball washers will be covered and not used.
10. We will marshal the course to ensure physical distancing.

Golfers will be asked to leave the golf course immediately after playing to eliminate congestion/gathering on the property or in the parking lot.

News from the Professional continued on page 7



Membership News

WRITTEN BY ARIK DAHLEN

What a spring it has been.... I know most of you already heard the news, but we are back golfing on May 5th!!! There will be some adjustments to get used to based off the restrictions being placed on courses, but we will make the best of it, and enjoy some amazing weather (fingers crossed) on our beautiful course.

I, along with the board and membership committee, would really like to thank you all again for showing such loyalty to your club during these strange times. We truly would not have been able to make it without your support.



The silver lining in all this is that Golf is one of the only “games in town” and I expect to see some new faces in the afternoons during our open play times. I would ask very specifically that we all, as members, show these guests what it is like to be part of our club. We have a rare opportunity to showcase our course, and hopefully grow our membership for the future.

We will be holding off on any spring “trial” membership this year until we really see what our tee sheet looks like with these new restrictions. The goal will be to show interested parties the value of a Shareholder membership, or one of the other categories that best fits their needs.

House update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If you are still interested in helping the girls and club staff, the best thing you can do is start buying things in May! The food and drink revenue will help us keep them employed.

Keep an eye out for signage to help everyone maintain a safe distance to continue keeping us all healthy. We will be increasing cleaning procedures, and wearing masks. If any staff do not feel well or have household members who feel unwell they will stay home. There will not be chairs around the drink and food service area. Please do not bring your own chairs or congregate in these areas. We want to follow the guidelines to ensure we can remain open.

We are bringing back the to-go food menu and will have drink service available on the course on busy days. Arik is working to get an online ordering system in place to improve the efficiency of that process and further minimize cash handling. One option comes with free 5 mile delivery. We are still working out those details, so be on the lookout for more information when that is in place. If you don't use a smartphone, don't worry, calling in will always be an option.

I do realize some of you will need to continue to stay home to protect your health. If there is anything we can do to help you feel connected during this time, please let Arik know. We have all upped our Zoom and live stream proficiencies and are happy to arrange a zoom call if you want to watch some golf or chat with the girls between customers.

I look forward to seeing you and waving from a safe distance!

*I've always made
a total effort,
even when the
odds seemed
entirely against
me. I never quit
trying; I never
felt that I didn't
have a chance to
win.*

--Arnold Palmer



Mountain Mist Invitational - May 22-24th

With the opportunity to golf comes the opportunity to compete. We have had to cancel or reschedule a few of our tournaments but luckily we are going to have a chance to play our Men's Invitational at the end of this month. With that being said, we are going to have to make some changes in order to follow the governors guidelines and stay as safe as possible. Here are the changes you will see:

- Twosomes (Just like the weekend at a tour event!)
 - Saturday: Paired with a member of your flight (randomly)
 - Requests to be paired near a player will be fielded
 - Requests to play with a player will not
 - Sunday: Paired by Saturday gross score regardless of flight
 - High Gross off first, Low Gross off last
- Sit down hosted food will no longer be part of the tournament but food will be offered throughout the day for take-out.
- No Friday Horse Race
- We are working on some fun side games for all to enjoy

[Click Here to Enter the Mountain Mist Men's Invitational](#)



We have rescheduled the 2020 Whidbey Dental 2 Person Best Ball to June 13. The only difference you will see in that tournament is that the twosomes will play on their own.

[Click Here to Enter the Whidbey Dental 2-Person Best Ball](#)

Both tournaments will be changed to foursomes if restrictions are lifted.

2020 MOUNTAIN MIST MEN'S INVITATIONAL

MAY 23, 24

36 HOLE STROKE PLAY EVENT

Shareholder - \$135, Member - \$150, Guest - \$175



3 Days of Golf (1 practice rd. 2 tourn. Rds.)

Saturday: Twosomes Paired by Flight

Sunday: Paired by Saturday Gross Scores





Whidbey Dental Associates

Invites You To The

2020 Two Person Best Ball

Team Tee Times

Saturday, June 13, 2020



Shareholders \$75

Members \$80

Guests \$90



Entry fee includes golf, range balls, lunch and prizes

\$1,000 Added to the Prize Fund

Tournament is open to all amateurs age 18 and over with a verifiable USGA handicap. Field will be divided into 2 divisions (by handicap). There will be the option, for men who qualify, to play from the white tees (to qualify for white tees your handicap and age combined must be 80+). Gross and net prizes will be awarded in each division. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason.



Whidbey Dental Associates



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HOUSE RENOVATIONS!**

Email inquiries to Arik Dahlen at
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Krista at wgcnewsletter@yahoo.com