



Whidbey Golf Club Fairway News

News and Happenings from Whidbey Golf Club



TEAM WHIDBEY RALLIES TO VICTORY! RETAINS WRIDER CUP AT BANDON DUNES

Team Whidbey journeyed to Bandon, Oregon in February to defend the WRIDER (Whidbey - Reno Invitational Dunes Excursion and Retreat) Cup . The WRIDER Cup is an annual match-play tournament between 20 players from Whidbey Golf Club and 20 players associated with Reno, NV golf courses. The pride-match has been in existence for the past 13 years; Team Whidbey has now won two years in a row.

For those of you that have not yet ventured to Bandon Dunes, the number 1 golf destination in the world, add this trip to your bucket list immediately! * Believe it or not, the mid-coastal Oregon weather in February is very golf- accommodating, averaging 50-55 degrees with some wind and occasional showers. And I must mention that the Resort did an excellent job maintaining Covid-19 Prevention protocols - social-distancing at all facilities, restaurant and bars closed (meals delivered directly to rooms), all caddies wearing masks - to name a few.



**WRIDER CUP Trophy Rests
Safely for Another Year with
Team Whidbey**

Whidbey Golf Club

2430 S.W. Fairway Lane,

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

www.whidbeygolfclub.com

Board of Trustees:

President - John Geragotelis

Vice President - Pat Ford

Secretary - Dave Acton

Treasurer - Mike Prewitt

Committee Chairs:

Club House/Restaurant - Pam Glach

Finance/Treasurer - Mike Prewitt

Greens and Grounds - Pat Ford

Golf Activities - Jeff Waller

Membership - Jeff Waller

Water Mitigation - Ross Geller

Ladies Club - Lynn Coffey

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 - sunset

Tue-Sun: 7 am - sunset

Driving Range Closes at 4pm

Restaurant:

Please call to confirm the
current restaurant hours

Contact Information:

Phone: 360-675-5490

Business Office: Extension 2

office@whidbeygolfclub.com

House / Reservations: Extension 4

Pro Shop: Extension 1

President's Comments

After my two months of "snow birding" in Tucson then Los Angeles, I am finally home . I returned via Bandon Dunes to participate in WGC's annual WRIDER (Whidbey Reno Invitational Dunes Excursion and Retreat) Cup in which Team Whidbey squeaked out a tightly contested victory to retain the precious yet inimitable-looking cup. I want to thank Dave Phay and Bruce Miller of Reno for arranging this awesome annual experience. I also want to thank Mike Lacey for playing the role as head cheerleader for Team Whidbey (plus he pays me every time his name appears in the newsletter).

The biggest news I have to share is that WGC is bidding farewell and good luck to our Chef Kris and our cook Lexi. We wish them the best as they venture east to start a new life chapter. I thank both for their dedicated service, especially in dealing with the weird times of COVID. If any of you, especially our social members, have any ideas or recommendations for our restaurant, now is the perfect time to contact House Manager Pam Glach or Club Manager Arik Dahlen.

As I waded down hole number 12 yesterday looking for a golf ball, I wondered "what the hell is going on with this damn flooding problem?" In a nutshell, our maintenance team is dealing with far more gallons of water than ever before due to the many new housing developments adjacent to the course. Our pump system is fraught with capacity and electrical issues. The Super is working tirelessly to solidify our pumping system, including augmenting capacity with the City of Oak Harbor 's pump. Our Water Mitigation Committee is documenting all our efforts and is poised to renegotiate an Agreement so that WGC can be properly reimbursed for moving a river of water through our property.

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President's Comments

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I know some of our members have been affected by COVID so I want to encourage everyone to maintain safe practices. Golf continues to be one of the safest activities available, but that is because golf is played outdoors, lends itself to social-distancing, and can be played without common touchpoints. My sense is that we are nearing the end of the struggle, but we should not let our guard down. Again, I ask that you please take every precaution to stay safe and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Hit 'em straight or hit 'em often!

John 'Germ' Geragotelis

President, Whidbey Golf Club



**Team Whidbey's Brian Wasinger
Aces Number 5 at Bandon Trails**

Membership News

by Arik Dahlen, General Manager

How about that weather?!?! Between wind, rain, and snow the decent golf days have been few and far between so far this year. Trust me though, brighter days are ahead, and we are officially in the active GHIN posting season for our region. This is the time of year that those "fair weather golfers" start looking at their dusty clubs and get the itch! Let us get out there and welcome them to our beautiful course!

February was a growth month in number of new members with a couple Corp members joining and some military coming back from deployments.

Our region is currently still in "Phase 2" and have not seen any indication of when or what "Phase 3" looks like. The membership committee and I will have to be on our toes to prepare for any open house opportunities. We plan to be as creative as possible with the advertising budget this year to try maximizing our dollars.

Jeff Waller and I agree that the first task of 2021 is to reestablish a strong committee. That means we need volunteers! So please, if you, or someone you know, is passionate about helping WGC grow, contact me and ask about what is involved with the committee. We would love to have you!

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.

Ladies' Club News

by Lynn Coffey

The Ladies Club is looking forward to the spring coming. Hoping March will bring warmer and drier weather!

Ladies Golf Clinic is open to all Whidbey Golf members. Our assistant pro, Ryan Byrnes, will be demonstrating and guiding your golf shots, as well as videotaping your swing. Please come and join other women who are looking to improve their golf game. The next Ladies Golf Clinic is March 25th at 10am. The cost is \$20.00

Ladies' golf begins April 1st and goes through October. Every Thursday at 9:30am. Please join for \$40.00 per year. You can participate by paying in the Pro Shop. We look forward to seeing all the ladies on the golf course on Thursdays!

Don't forget to save the date for the Ladies' Invitational - Friday, June 25th and Saturday, June 26th! You can register online or in the Pro Shop. Ask a friend and sign up for your spot for this two-day even for women only.

Greens Report

by The Greens Committee

The course recovered well from the snowstorm, but electrical issues with the drainage transfer pump adjacent number 13 tee have plagued us. Until resolved, WGC will make every effort to stem the "flooding" on holes 12 and 14 by using back-up pumps and/or borrowing a transportable pump from the City of Oak Harbor.

If you noticed that our greens and some of our fairways are draining better than in the past it is because we are treating them with a product that allows the water to penetrate the earth instead of staying on the surface. This product will also reduce the irrigation and sprinkling requirements during the dry season.

We also hope you noticed all of the brush clearing and tree pruning being accomplished, for example behind and to the right of number 2. This clearing not only makes the course more aesthetic and playable, but the "limbing" also facilitates better airflow and sunlight (drying) throughout the course, especially in proximity of the greens.

Please be careful with your carts, there are still some muddy areas (and will be through May) on the course. And, if you see others driving too close to greens or pulling donuts in the fairways, please kindly ask them to be careful. Thank you.

Team Whidbey Rally's to Victory

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After three days of 2-person "best" ball matches, Team Whidbey trailed by two points (16 to 14). The final day comprised 20 individual matches on the toughest course, Pacific Dunes, with a total of 30 points up for grab (each match counted for 1 ½ points – front, back, and overall). The last day also witnessed the highest winds of the week with little protection afforded, especially on the 7 holes along the high-bank coast. The tough conditions were exactly what Team Whidbey needed. Reno held its own on the front nine, but 16 of 20 Whidbey players persevered to either half or win their back-nine match, propelling the team over the top by a scant margin of 1.5 points. Congratulations!

* "For my time and money, Bandon Dunes is the greatest pure golf experience in the world. Period! ... and boasts 4 courses in the Top 100." – Golf Digest



**Bandon Dunes First-timer
Jim Phay Drives the Green
on Reachable Par-4**

House Update

by Pam Glach

March has started off with big news in the house! Our chefs, Lexi and Kris, became engaged recently and have decided to move back to the east coast to join a new restaurant with some friends. We will miss them and appreciate their efforts to help us maintain some level of service throughout a difficult year. Kris and Lexi will continue with us for the remainder of March and we hope to have a new person start as close to April 1 as possible.

An ad has been placed on Indeed and received 10 qualified applicants within the first 12 hours, 32 as of 3/6. Most of you are aware that many restaurants from fast-casual to fine dining have shut their doors permanently across our city, state, and country. Our club has an opportunity to provide a new home to a great talent and reopen with a fresh approach to our clubhouse service. If you would like to share our job posting with your network, we welcome the additional exposure. Have them search "Whidbey Golf Club" on Indeed.com.

The house committee meetings are beginning again this month, with this hire being the main topic for the first meeting. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts about the Chef search please attend the meeting. The meeting will be Wednesday, March 17th at 5:30. That happens to be St. Patrick's Day, so we will keep the bar open until 7:30 and the kitchen will take orders until 5:45 for those in the meeting or just looking for a place to socialize. If you prefer to attend remotely we will open a zoom, email Arik to receive the meeting link.

We are staying on schedule with Friday member dinners, with the next one being March 19th, look for the menu in your email the Monday before and please RSVP.

We have big things to accomplish in the coming months. Please join our committee and help me ensure we continue to take the restaurant and clubhouse in a positive direction.

2021 Wrider Cup



Team Whidbey headed down to Bandon this year to defend the Wrider Cup for the first time since 2012. If that seems like a long time, it's because it IS!!!! For those of you who haven't kept up, we went on a seven year losing streak before we eked out a tie in 2019. From there we have figured out a way to win the last two and set ourselves on a path out of the abyss. Despite the lack normal meal accommodations the resort did a great job making everyone as comfortable as possible. It seems like both teams had a great time and are itching to get back down there to compete. Congratulations Team Whidbey!



Back Row: David Phay, Pat Ford, Todd Robinson, Mel Elvebak, Ryan Elvebak, Jeff Waller, Tracy Vass, Greg Hamming, Kent Dale, TJ Kubisiak, Cory Glach, Brian Wasinger
Front Row: Jim Phay, Steve Anderson, Steve Robinson
Not Pictured: John Geragotelis, Tom Ford, Don Beeson, Arik Dahlen, Mike Lacey

Wrider Cup Standings:

Reno	8-4-1	
Whidbey	4-8-1	
2009:	Reno	15.5 - 14.5
2010:	Whidbey	25.5 - 14.5
2011:	Whidbey	22.0 - 18.0
2012:	Reno	24.5 - 15.5
2013:	Reno	24.0 - 16.0
2014:	Reno	23.5 - 16.5
2015:	Reno	22.5 - 17.5
2016:	Reno	23.0 - 17.0
2017:	Reno	24.0 - 16.0
2018:	Reno	22.5 - 17.5
2019:	Tie	20.0 - 20.0
2020:	Whidbey	21.5 - 18.5
2021:	Whidbey	28.75-31.25

2022 WRIDER CUP DATES

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Competition</u>
Monday	Feb. 21	Pacific Dunes	Practice Round
Tuesday	Feb. 22	Sheep Ranch	Fourball Match Play
Wednesday	Feb. 23	Bandon Trails	Fourball Match Play
Thursday	Feb. 24	Old Macdonald	Fourball Match Play
Friday	Feb. 25	Bandon Dunes	Singles Match Play
Saturday	Feb. 26	Departure	

High School Golf

The High School Golf Team will be allowed to practice and play a shortened season this year and should be starting mid-March. This will last into early May so if you play in the afternoons please check with the pro shop before showing up to play. That way we can give you the priority for the 1st tee.

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set you clocks forward the night before Sunday, March 14th.

Spring Shootout

Saturday, March 20th

\$40/Shareholder, \$45/Member, \$60 for guests

Let's kick off the season with some fun! The teams will be made up of 4 players (Men & Women) that will count two net scores on each hole. Each player will receive 90% of your handicap for the team game. This will be a "HOW LOW CAN YOU GO" course setup which will be achieved by playing the tees up from where most would normally play. Come out and join us for an exciting day that includes lunch and prizes.

Celebrate the Masters

Saturday, April 3rd

This is an annual event where we turn the course into a par three challenge. Each hole is turned into a par three and most of the approach shots will be from places you have never been before, or at least you shouldn't have been there! This tournament is probably the most anticipated of the non-major tournaments we run all year.