



Whidbey Golf Club Fairway News

News and Happenings from Whidbey Golf Club



2020 Annual Shareholder Meeting President's Comments

Last week Whidbey Golf Club members met via Zoom for the club's annual report, the main points of which are paraphrased below. The biggest highlight was the acknowledgement of the loyal support that ***YOU, the members***, continued throughout the year amidst closure and many other restrictions due to Covid-19. Yes, 2020 has been a strange time indeed but in the big scheme of things, the club did a great job of fulfilling our main mission – golf. As a result, WGC had a good year financially and is on track to meet this year's overall budget. Both these successes can be credited to the hard work and flexibility of WGC managers and staff.

The annual meeting started with recognition of 2020 Whidbey Golf Club Champions: Men's Club Champion - Tim Wyer; Senior Club Champion - Roger Pierce; Super Senior Club Champion - Tom Ford; Ladies Club Champion - Bobbie Johnson; Ladies Net Champion - Lynn Coffey. Also recognized were our 6 golfers who made hole-in-ones in 2020: Elton Gifford, Jeff Waller, Roger Pierce, Bob Brewer, Tom Belew, and Troy Johnson. Congratulations to the champions and aces!

The 5 major WGC sponsored tournaments – Men's Invitational; 2 Person Best Ball; Couple's Chapman; 5 Person Best Ball; and Fall Five Person – all had full fields. However, the Ladies Invitational regrettably had to be cancelled. The negative impact to golf operations were the cancellations of the majority of WGC's "outside" tournaments, but all tournaments are scheduled to return in 2021. Additionally in 2021, WGC will be hosting the Washington State Junior Golf Association District tournament, the WSJGA's season-ending qualifier before the state finals.

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Items of Note

Pro Shop Hours

With the time change upon us, please note the changes to the Pro Shop hours

Driving Range

The hours for the driving range have also changed with the time. The driving range is closed at 4pm every day except Sunday, when it closes at 3:30pm.

Member Dinner

Friday Member Dinners are now every other Friday, starting November 13th

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 – sunset

Tue-Sun: 7 am – sunset

Driving Range Closes at 4pm

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

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Recall that before Covid-19 interrupted everyone's normalcy, the entire back nine was under water from the January rains. The only good news about the deluge is that it prompted the Green's Committee to initiate the renegotiation of the Island County-Oak Harbor City-WGC triparty drainage agreement set to expire in 2022.

The new Superintendent, Trevor Thorp, and the entire maintenance crew were recognized for their fantastic work this year. They kept the course in superb condition despite an inexperienced and undermanned staff and many other formidable challenges. WGC is committed to more course improvements in 2021 and beyond.

2020 was no different than past years regarding a decline in WGC shareholders, which as of last month, numbered only 108.

Conversely, many of the other membership categories held strong, especially Military, Casual, and Promotional. Open play golf was also strong, but unfortunately, the COVID-19 restrictions basically halted any social, catered, and tournament banquet events. When given the green light, the restaurant and bar will be spring-loaded to resume game nights, hold special events, and host Holiday and other parties (next year's hole-in-one party promises to be huge).

The Treasurer reported that WGC's financial health was good, and reviewed 2020 budget performance by department. The Operational and Capital Reserve accounts will both end the year with substantial gains, notwithstanding the significant investments the club made this year in capital equipment and repairs, including a new HVAC blower and furnace, an irrigation system pump, a new leaf blower, and more. WGC is well positioned for capital expenses coming due in 2021 and beyond. Speaking of the Capital Expense Plan, which is now under purview of the Finance Committee, WGC has a 5-year prioritized strategy for maintaining and improving the golf course and the clubhouse. The Board of Trustees has committed to executing major improvements (like cart path repaving in 2022!) and replacing decrepit equipment and systems, while maintaining positive trends for operational cash flow as well reserve accounts.

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HOUSE NEWS

BY PAM GLACH

Time and weather changes mean our normal winter clubhouse adjustments. Member dinners will be moved to alternating Fridays. Keep an eye out for Arik's weekly emails about the menu and don't forget to RSVP for Friday dinners or if you plan on dining after 7pm.

If you haven't stopped by in the last few weeks, there is a surprise waiting for you in the dining room! Arik sourced new tables and dining room chairs for an incredibly low price, and they have given a fresh look to the space. Bar area chairs will be reupholstered or replaced with a similar wheeled style, soon. If you have any interested in taking all or some of the old dining room chairs off our hands, let Arik know.

In case you missed the note in the last newsletter, tables are no longer restricted to members of the same household. Please continue to wear your mask as you move around areas when not seated. If the chilly weather has you missing the clam chowder, chili or any other menu item, but prefer eating at elsewhere, try our to-go service. Everything, including soups, can be nicely packaged to enjoy at home, on the course, or wherever your imagination takes you.

Membership News

Fall is in full swing now and the days are getting shorter, but we have still had some great golfing weather! We did see some new members join last month including a new Family Shareholder. The membership committee's focus right now will be set on planning the marketing campaign for 2021 in hopes that next year we will be able to continue to see growth from the new people that started golfing in 2020.

We will be running the 2021 Annual promo membership again offering a New Member the opportunity to receive the rest of 2020 for free if they purchase the pre-paid special for the entirety 2021. (only valid for first time members. See add for detail)

As always.... 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.

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



Ladies' Club News

By Linda Haslund

The Ladies Golf Club has finished the fun & games for the year. We hope the play continues on fair weather days.

We will keep everyone informed regarding our annual Christmas Luncheon. All ladies (social & golf members) are invited.

Have a good Thanksgiving!



Greens Report

By Trevor Thorp

Fall has arrived at Whidbey Golf Club, and that brings with it leaves, wet spots and frost delays. The crew is busy cleaning up the leaves every day. It seems though as soon as we make some headway, we get another wind storm and have to start over.

As we begin to get more rain, the inevitable wet spots on the course will start to show. I would like to keep the green flag for carts out for as long as possible, so what I ask from the club's cart users is to pay attention, and use good judgement in where they drive their carts. Avoid driving through the wet areas and damaging the turf.

We have already had one frost delay at the end of October. As we move into winter there will be many more. Trying to determine at what time the frost is going to clear is not an easy task. Many variables play into how bad of a frost we get and how quickly it will melt. There is no formula or guide. The amount of time of below freezing temperature, the humidity and moisture levels, amount and intensity of the morning sun, and wind all play a part. These first frosts of the year are especially tricky, because it can be above freezing but then drop several degrees as the sun comes up and create a significant frost. Please remember also, when you are getting ready to come to the course on a cold day, the golf course tends to be four to five degrees colder than the surrounding areas. Just because it is 35 degrees at your house doesn't mean that is the temperature here.

President's Comments, Continued from Page 2

The President thanked all the Board members, managers, staff, committees, and other volunteers for proudly running the club, and especially recognized Club Manager Arik Dahlen, Head Professional Dave Phay, and Treasurer Mike Prewitt for keeping WGC afloat during the Covid turmoil. After stressing the point that all flavors of golf operations (open play, tournaments, numerous membership categories) and continued support from shareholders are both essential to WGC's future, the president previewed the 2021 budget. In a nutshell, the Board is optimistic about 2021, planning for a high level of golf operations and membership to not only make up for losses in the house due to Covid uncertainty, but also provide capital funds. Most members will see a 3% dues increase, while cart owners will also see a \$4 per month Trail Fee increase.

In closing, the President stated the Board's overarching 2021 goals and long-term goals:

- Continue to improve WGC – golf course, surrounds, and facility enhancements – to the benefit of members and guests
- Continue to refine Capital Expense Plan
- Increase members of ALL flavors and increase non-member (outside) play and events
- Grow community participation (Covid permitting)
- Continue to improve communication between Board, Staff, and Members
- Finalize Water Mitigation Plan – Sign Drainage Agreement
- Expand Member Privileges – Golf and Social (Covid permitting) Experiences

Attention Members – To read the 2020 Annual Shareholder and Member Meeting Report comprising complete committee reports, actual budget numbers, and detailed Membership and Capital Expense Plan charts, log into your WGC on-line account.

I am hoping 2021 will bring a renewed enthusiasm to the Board and Committees and Members because we have a lot of work to do, and we need a lot of support. Thank you.

Hit 'em straight or hit 'em often!

Sincerely,

John 'germ' Geragotelis

President, Whidbey Golf Club



Happy Holiday Season Everyone,

Normally we would be winding down the season right about now, but because of what happened earlier in the season, we have an extra event for November. Our Masters Par 3 Tournament and the Apple Cup 2-Man will be back to back this year. These tournaments, plus Thanksgiving, make for a packed November schedule.

Hopefully you are all prepared to get some golf in that you were unable to play in April.

Here are a few noteworthy things that are coming up:

2020/2021 WINTER ECLECTIC

Our 5th annual winter eclectic series starts on November 16th and goes through February 28th this season. It's a simple and fun event. Each week you come out to better your scores on each hole from the previous weeks. Example: if you have a bogey on #3 you are trying to make a par or better the next time you play. This will be all net and flighted. There will be 2 men's flights and 1 women's flight. It's only \$20 for the whole season! Please call the pro shop to sign up.

Celebrate the Masters

Saturday, November 14th

This is an annual event (rescheduled from April) where we turn the course into a par three challenge. Most of the approach shots will be from places you have never been before, or at least you shouldn't have been there! Afterwards, we all meet upstairs for a lunch and the 3rd round of the masters. This tournament is probably the most anticipated of the non-major tournaments we run all year.

Apple Cup 2-Man

November 21, 10:00am Shotgun

This tournament requires two players per team (ladies included). Each team will be playing for bragging rights as a Cougar or a Husky. They will also be competing in a two-person best ball at the same time. Last year the Huskies prevailed for the first second year in a row to make it Huskies-5 and Cougars-3. You can make teams of Cougars, Huskies or have no allegiance and play for either side. All eight years have been a blast and we are hoping to build this into a packed annual tournament. Grab your alumni and come out to support your team no matter what the college you root for.

Long & Wrong Scramble

January 16th, 10:00am Shotgun

This is a 10th year tournament that will test everyone's ability. "What is a Long & Wrong Scramble?" It's a scramble like no other! The "long" is where the tees are placed and the "wrong" is where the pins are placed. The tees are going to be as far back as possible and the pins will be in places that you wouldn't normally call fair. Put together a team of 4 and come out to see a whole new course. There will be some shorter tees for the seniors and women as well.

Christmas Sale

Friday, December 11th

This sale will be our final sale of the year and is a tradition here at Whidbey Golf Club. Aside from the great deals you can find on everything in the shop, you will experience a festive Christmas atmosphere where you can grab holiday drinks and snacks. It's a great time for all of us and there is always someone there to mingle with. Even if you don't plan to buy anything, come by, have a drink on us, and chat for awhile.

Thank You to our 2020 Tournament Sponsors!

Our sponsors for our major tournaments this year were all local business and most of them have been supporting this club for years. These are the people that make it possible to have the tournaments that we do. Please thank them by visiting their stores and giving them a chance to win your business. Here are our sponsors this year:

Major Sponsors

2 Person Best Ball



Whidbey Dental Associates

Men's Invitational



Couples Chapman



5 Person Best Ball



Fall 5-Ball



Scoring Software Sponsor



Steve Richardson
Insurance, Inc.

Platinum Sponsors

Tracy's Home Furnishing



Uncle Bill Handyman

