



THE SCORECARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF OCEAN PINES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GOLF JOHN MALINOWSKI



It's hard to believe that the 2016 golf season is moving into August and that the summer is flying by. This season has been quite busy at the course with member events and tournaments, junior golf camps and our PGA Junior League Golf team league in addition to

the amount of play we have been getting.

I have lived in Ocean Pines for almost 13 years and I have been as frustrated as many of you at times with the ups and downs of the golf operation including the conditions of the fairways (which were always great until June and then awful all summer), declining membership, the imposed walking trail fee, the health of the greens and I won't even mention any of the issues with the clubhouse.

One of the hardest obstacles to overcome has been the impression that Ocean Pines is a private golf course and that it is not open for

play by anyone except the members. It surprises me that many of the residents of Ocean Pines do not know that the course is open to the public, which also fuels the misconception that there is no one playing the course except a handful of people with memberships.

I am happy to report that the efforts and decisions made over the last several years are paying off. The number of golfers playing our course is rising and most of the increase is by Ocean Pines residents. When we analyzed the make-up of the golfers early last year we discovered that

Continued on p. 3

FREE RANGE BALLS

As a thank you for supporting the golf course, Ocean Pines is giving free range balls to all golf members now through August 31! Hit a bucket before your round or just come out to practice. Please note that there is a limit of one large bucket of free range balls per day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 16—OPLGA Governor's Cup

August 18—Happy Hour in The Tern Grille, 4-7pm

August 20—Men's Senior Championship. Open to Ocean Pines residents and golf members ages 50+. Flights determined by age. \$35 per person (plus applicable cart fees) for members and \$70 for all others, cart included. Also includes donuts, coffee, beer, soda, lunch & prizes. Register online at OceanPinesGolf.org or in the Golf Shop.

August 21—Sunday Social

August 26—Bavarian Hops Match

OTHER NEWS

Please note that the golf course and The Tern Grille will be closed August 23-24 for aeration. If you are interested in playing another course on either of those days, please contact the Golf Shop and we'll try to arrange a tee time for you elsewhere.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT RUSTY MCLENDON

Remember this previous winter? We were all hoping for and anticipating some warm sunshine and drier weather....

Well, July offered some typical summer heat. The fairway turf began to show some traffic wear and tear, mainly on the older fairways in the low spots but also in some of the surrounding

turf as we tried to get the amounts of irrigation regulated through handwatering and adjusting sprinkler heads.

The bright spot in all of this is that the bentgrass and the bermudagrass are alive and kicking, allowing them to spread and fill in any voids.

August will bring more of

the same, although the days are shortening and the sun angle is sinking. The maintenance staff will be working on getting the right grasses in the right spots over the next couple of months by sodding or seeding.

Also, don't forget the upcoming aeration on Aug. 23-24, weather depending.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION NEWS



From left to right, Club Champion Geri Fasulo, runner-up Meg Herrick, Janet Stoer, Carolyn Neal, Connie Phipps, Elinor Lees and Betty Holloway.

The OPLGA Championship was held July 18-19, two days that were amazingly rain-free! Geri Fasulo was crowned Club Champion and Meg Herrick was the runner-up. Other winners were Janet Stoer, 1st Flight Low Net; Carolyn Neal, 2nd Flight Low Gross; Connie Phipps, 2nd Flight Low Net; Elinor Lees, 3rd Flight Low Gross and Betty Holloway, 3rd Flight Low Net. Lunch and awards at The Tern

Grille followed the tournament, and Geri will enjoy the privilege of her own parking spot for the next year.

The OPLGA's next event will be the Governor's Cup on August 16. The low net golfer will be named the winner of this one-day tournament and will have her name inscribed on the permanent trophy on display in the clubhouse.

MEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Match Play

2016 Match Play started June 1 with 26 golfers. The field was down to four players—Al Wolski and Frank Ruggiere played for the championship with Frank Brown and Mike Daley vying for third place. Al won the final match in 21 holes.

A consolation event is planned for Men's Day on August 11. Prizes will be presented to Match Player win-

ners on that day as well. All are welcome to play. Those who played in the Match Play event will not have to pay the fee. Details and updates will be posted in the men's locker room.

Club Championship

The Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association Club Championship was held in extreme heat and humidity on Friday

Continued on p. 3



Bob Long, center, took top honors at the 2016 OPMGA Club Championship.

HANDICAP & RULES COMMITTEE NEWS

Is it a "loose impediment" or an "obstruction"?

(Section 23 USGA Rules of Golf)

Definition: "Loose impediments" are natural objects including stones, leaves, twigs, branches and the like, worms, insects, etc., and the casts made by them provided they are not fixed or growing, solidly embedded or adhering to the ball. Sand and soil are

loose impediments on the putting green, but not elsewhere. Our local rule states stones in bunkers are moveable obstructions and can be removed without penalty. (24.1)

Snow and natural ice (other than frost) are either casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player. Dew and frost **are not** loose impediments.

Relief: Except when both the loose impediment and the ball lie in or touch the same hazard, any loose impediment may be removed without penalty. If the ball lies anywhere other than on the putting green and the removal of a loose impediment by the player causes the ball to move, Rule 18-2 applies. (penalties)

On the putting green, if the

ball or ball marker is *accidentally* moved in the process of the player removing a loose impediment, the ball or ball marker *must be replaced*. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball marker is *directly attributable* to the removal of the loose impediment. Otherwise, the player

Continued on p. 3

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GOLF

Continued from p. 1

approximately 2,200 residents had played our course at least once over the prior two-year period, a number that did not include any of our members. Rounds by residents of Ocean Pines have also increased this year compared to last year.

The conditions of the course are greatly improved and are the best since I have lived in Ocean Pines and

maybe in 30 years, according to some of the long-time members and residents. I will put our greens up against any course on the Eastern Shore and I have no doubt that Ocean Pines golf will continue to grow and thrive. Good things are happening around here. There's a palpable energy that I hope you've noticed. I think it's time.



The Mary Mac tournament is one of the events keeping the course busy this summer.

MEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Continued from p. 2

and Saturday, July 15-16.

On Friday players were divided into two flights—White and Gold—with the lower handicap players playing from the white tees. After Friday's round each of these flights was again divided: a Blue Flight that would play for the Club Championship from the Blue tees was created from the leaders of White Flight while the rest of field would con-

tinue play from the same tees as Friday. Scores from Saturday were used to determine all winners and the Club Champion.

When the last scorecards were signed and turned in, Bob Long, playing in the second-to-last threesome, had edged out 2014 and 2015 Champion Domenic Monaco by a single stroke with a round of 84. Bob teed off on hole 18 with a three

iron and laid up to 120 yards; with a crowd gathered around the 18th green his third shot came to rest 5 feet from the cup. His par on 18 gave him a back nine score of 41 and the margin for victory and rights to the Club Champion's parking spot.

Frank Brown, playing from the white tees, won his flight with a score of 80. Walt Lischak and Steve Neal shot 88 and 86 respectively to win the

two flights playing the gold tees. Bill Cordwell, Frank Ruggiere, Harry Vander Vossen and Jack Myers took low net honors in their respective flights.

Following play the participants and spectators headed to The Tern Grille for some cooler temperatures, liquid refreshment and chance to relive the great and not-so-great shots of the day.

HANDICAP & RULES COMMITTEE NEWS

Continued from p. 2

incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2.

When a ball is in motion, a loose impediment that might influence the movement of the ball must **not** be removed. *Note: If the ball lies in a hazard, the player must **not** touch or move **any** loose impediment lying in or touching the same hazard (Rule 13-4c).*

What's the answer: A half-eaten pear or apple lies directly in front of a ball in a bunker and there is no pear or apple tree in the vicinity. Is the pear/apple an obstruction rather than a loose impediment, in which case the player could remove it without penalty? The answer is no. A pear/apple is a natural

object. When detached from a tree it is a loose impediment. The same goes for a banana skin or other fruit skin. (*Section 23/3 USGA Handicap Manual*)

What's the answer: What is the status of a snake? The answer is that a live snake is an outside agency. A dead snake is both an outside agen-

cy and a loose impediment. It is possible for an item to fall under more than one definition. Yes, this is actually in the Decisions book!

Check out the USGA website for videos that actually show you the rules. It's well worth your time.