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GOLF NEWS





GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

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SEPTEMBER 1988

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

With only 120 members, it is difficult to look at the past season and describe it as a success. I know that there were a record number of entrants in the Medal Play but last year there were 260 entrants and we (GLAGA) had over 250 members! I don't understand why this problem exists, but I quarantee you this -there will not be a GLAGA unless those people who benefit from playing in our tournaments--ALL THOSE PEOPLE--are members of our association. To the 120 members who have joined this season, I apologize for not being able to make this stick this year.

Congratulations to the following individuals: John Nagel--Match Play Champion, Ned Bacon--Men's Medal Play Champion, and Shelley Savage--Women's Medal Play Champion. P.S. Since only one of you is a member, Please consider joining our association next year to defend your titles.

ITEM: It's time to give a warm thanks to the following sponsors.

- --B.O.C. Supervisor's Council
- --Little General Auto Repair
- -- Indian Hills Golf Course
- --Oak Lane Golf Club
- -- Chisholm Hills Golf Club.

By providing us with your support, we have been able to provide the Area with:

- --100% improvement in the Junior Golf Program.
- --50% increase in Women's tournaments.
- --A new tournament, The Reniger Memorial.

For all the work that the GLAGA does, nothing can replace the work of the sponsors and volunteers for each of our events. Best Golfing to All.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEVOTED TO RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT WAS GIVEN OUT AT THE MEDAL PLAY.

These are my feelings and not necessarily those of the G.L.A.G.A.

Thanks,

Jim Donahue G.L.A.G.A. Board Member and Past President



1988 Lansing All-City Questionaire Results:

The following are the results of the questionaire that was handed out during the 1988 All-City Stroke Play Championship at Forest Akers Golf Course:

Question #1. We have tried to create renewed interest in the All-City Match Play Tournament. Do you have any suggestions that would help us in this matter?

Remark:

- Need better and more advertising.
 (16 remarks)
- No Did not play in it.
- Get rangers to speed up play. (2 remarks)
- Have Flights. (2 remarks)
- Play Groesbeck because it's a city course and it's called the All-City!

G.L.A.G.A. Reply:

- In the past we have tried to use the normal means of promoting our tournaments. Obviously, we have not had the success that we desire. We are looking into this matter and will be making changes.
- No reply.
- We are not sure if you were talking about the "Match-Play" or the "Stroke-Play", but regardless we feel that the play moves well in all our tournaments.
- We have and are now giving a great deal of thought to the idea of flighting the "Match-Play" tournament next year. A decision on this will be made this fall.
- Once again, we were not all that sure just which tournament you were talking about. But the fact that Groesbeck is a city course really doesn't enter into the choice for a course to hold these "All-City" Tournaments. If it did, we have to consider Red Cedar, Sycamore, and Waverly for tournament sites. What we look for is a good test for our players and Groesbeck is certainly that, but with it just being one course it could not host the "Stroke Play" with it's ever growing field, by it self. Two courses are needed each year. The "Match Play" is a different matter and discussion has been and will continue to be made until a site decision is made this fall.
- Hold the Match-Play only at an 18 hole golf course.
 (14 remarks)
- One thing that our association can tell you about future sites for the "Match Play' tournament, is that it will not be held at a 9 hole golf course again.

- Limit the field of players.

- It is our intention to keep the cost of our tournaments to a reasonable level. But it must be remembered that there is a trade-off for lower entry fees and that is a smaller and lower prize list. In the past, several of our board members have sold hole sponsorships in order to increase the prize list and as in the case with Forest Akers, the pro has given us a good shake on the prize list, but our board members are losing the drive that they once had and we always don't get the cooperation that we receive from Groesbeck and Forest Akers, so we are getting caught between a rock and a hard place with some regularity. We will try to keep the entry fee down but to be honest, one complaint our of 283 players doesn't warent all that consideration.
- Once again, we are not sure that this remark is addressed to the match play, but either way we are in business to get the most people possible playing and still be able to control the tournament. We, as a board, realize that we are fast approaching a point that may require us to limit the number of entries for the stroke-play tournament. The match-play is all together different. We may flight the match-play just to get more people to participate. This decision will be made later this fall.





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Winter Leagues and Tournaments forming. *Open 8am - 10pm*.

At Ledge Meadows Golf Course 1801 Grand Ledge Hwy. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 627-7492 - Not on the East Course.

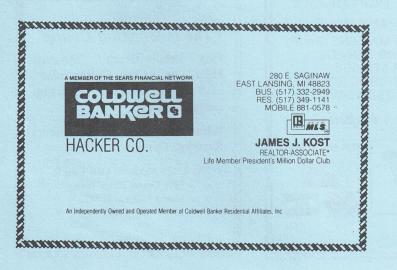
- It is our opinion that the East Course is the equal of any other course that we can use for this tournament. There are a couple of spots that need repair, but we were aware of these when we scheduled the tournament.
- Both sides the same fairness on the greens.
- Once again, we feel that the pin placements were tough, but not unfair, on some of the greens on the East side. The holes where they were tough were on holes that could be reached easily. Therefore, the pin placement only served to protect par on that hole.

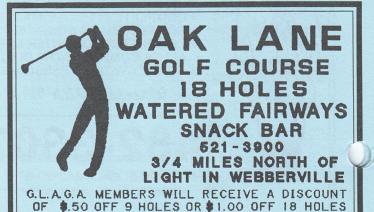
- Have "loser's bracket"

- We feel that it is more important to get more different people to play at this time than it is to get more play from the same people.
- Set the West Course up harder and the East Course easier.
- We received some heavy criticism when Bob Fossum shot 64 on the East. Now you are telling us to set it up easier. We have no intention of setting the course up to be like the U.S. Open nor do we want the course to play like a long par 3 course either. We feel that both courses offered a variety of shot possibilites and tested the players fairly.
- Alternate tee times so that everyone gets an early and late tee time.
- The fact that we have 283+ players in this tournament forbids us from doing this. If we were to alternate tee times and we had a rain delay of any length, we would lose the round and any chance of flighting the tournament fairly.
- Good Turnout play was tolerable.
- Thank You I guess.

- Play at a good course.

 We feel that we did, but an 18 hole golf course is a must.





- Keep the tournaments at the 3 courses listed.
- That is our plan if everything can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

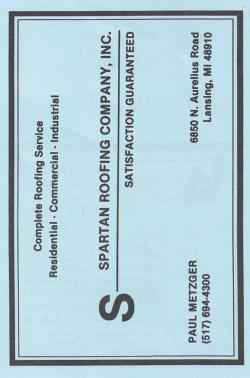
- The pace of play is great.

- Thank You the 10 minute tee times and playing in 3-somes is the answer.
- Flight players after the first round and award equal prizes for low medal. All matches would have to go 18 holes.
- You seem to have incorporated both tournaments into one as in the State Amateur. First of all all matches are 18 holes. Second we are considering some sort of flighting procedure for the future.
- I think the match play is a good idea. So do we!!!
- Hold it in September. Use handicaps as a qualifier.
- Have a special rate (for at least one practice round) for the public to play 18 holes. It costs too much to practice for someone who is not MSU affiliated.
- Some thought has been given to reversing the dates for the Reniger and the Match-Play. More in the fall.
- We normally get a reduced green fee rate from MSU for our tournament rounds. We feel that because of this, asking the course to lessen it's rates for people to practice is inappropriate at this time.
- Try to hold it all in one week like the State Amateur. (3 Remarks)
- Holding the match play is a very hard job to begin with. Trying to hold it all in weekend is almost impossible. We have succeeded for the most part. Some changes will be made this fall.

- Pray for rain!

- We did!!





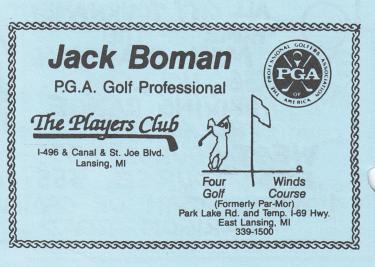
- Just keep working at it, you'll succeed. People I have talked to would like to see a match-play. (5 Remarks)
- Need a refreshment stand on both the front and back nines. It sure would be appreciated.

Nope - except the 3:00 tee times are unfair as hell!

- Have a tournament to lead into this one, or have two (2) 18 hole tournaments to lead into this one.
- Later in the year when its cooler.

- Thanks for the faith.
- The way the East Course is set up some thought is being given to asking the course set up a refreshment stand near the 6th and 15th greens for the tournament the next time it is held there. On the West, there is a drink machine on #14, but it wasn't working properly and that is being looked into.
 - When you have 280+ players involved in the tournament as we did this year, someone has to tee off at 3:00. The other alternative is to limit the field and then we wouldn't have the 3:00 tee times but we also wouldn't have the 280+ players. It should also be understood that this is the only complaint about the late tee times that we received. It should also be realized that on Sunday, the leaders of the tournament teed off at this time and later.
 - In theory, your purposal sounds great -I have just a few questions for you:
 - 1. How many people can give up two (2) more weekends for this tournament?
 - 2. Where do we get the people to put the time and energy into running these other events?
 - A person after my own heart. Unfortunately for us, the majority of the players want the tournament left when it is played (See question #4).





- Prizes on the Par 3's and Long Drive on the Par 5's.
- Our intent is to make this tournament one of the classy events in the state. It is our feeling that these types of events would detract from the status of the tournament. Incidently - we do have a "Long Drive" contest prior to the actual tournament and are thinking about having a "Hole-IN-One" contest at the same time.
- Make Groesbeck the permanent site. (4 Remarks)
- Groesbeck has some tradition, but it also should be noted that the original concept of the tournament was to have it rotated. It was also the concept to have the field cut to the low 36 and ties after Saturday's round. While we will continue to Groesbeck everyother year, we will also continue to use Forest Akers also.
- Better weekend don't play it on a holiday. (6 Remarks)
- We have investigated using other dates an a great deal of thought will be given to the dates for next year's tournament.

Switch sites every year.

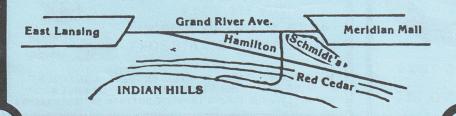
- It is our intention to switch sites on a yearly basis.
- Hold the tournament to 200 players thats it!
- The possibility exists at this time that only Groesbeck may be used for the this medal-play tournament next year. If this should come to pass, the the field will be limited to 150 players! More on this possibility later.
- Journal articles are real informative and interesting.
- This should be addressd to the Lansing State Journal.

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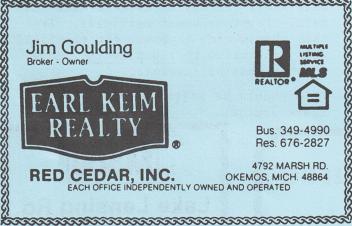
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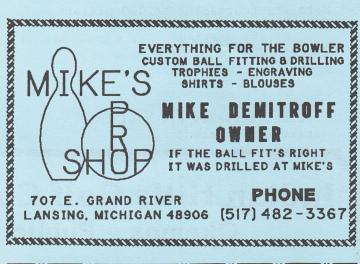
2704 LAKE LANSING ROAD (AT US-27) Rich Bratschi - Owner TOWING AND ROAD SERVICE

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- Tournament is run well need more water on the courses.
- Some means of flighting before play begins.
- Current format is best!
- Bigger crowds!

- It is the objective of our association to play this championship under best conditions possible. If we achieve this objective - we will never use "Winter Rules". We know that this is not always the case, so the condition of the host course dictates the rules we play under.
 - Thank You and we share your concern over the lack of water. We will make this type of concern know to the courses that host the tournaments.
 - We know that the present way of flighting is not perfect. We have considered other options, but they have more problems that solutions.
 - We agree!
 - We have no control over the size of the crowds. This often is dictated by the size of the player's family. Ever wonder why Dean Holland often has the biggest gallery?









MEMBERS OF G.L.A.G.A. WILL RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF \$.50 OFF 9 HOLES OR \$1.00 OFF 18 HOLES NOT APPLICABLE DURING LEAGUES, OUTINGS, OR TOURNAMENTS

- No Carts!
- Hold on two (2) successive weekends in
- No Flights!

- 4-day tournament. Cut to the low 75 players after 36 holes. Then have a 36 championship.
- Hold it earlier in the season or in August.
- Stop pairing all the scratch golfers together.

- Need plastic balls on the pins to indicate the pin position on the green.
- Hold at Forest Akers Golf Course.
 - Tee Time Requests.

- The use of carts is a concession to the course managers for using the facility.
- This may be the way the match play is run in the future. We will announce everything this fall.
- If you are talking about the match-pla we have some problems that we are trying to over come because we haven't flighted it. If its about the strokeplay. You may never see the All-City where it isn't flighted. That is why we started the Reniger Memorial last year.
- A few years ago, the format was to cut to the low 36 and ties after two roun and this was halted when we didn't have 36 players to cut to. The fact that this tournament is flighted is the reason that you have 280+ players
- If you are talking about the matchplay tournament. These options are being very much considered. If it is the stroke play - see question #4.
 - This practice is traditional for tournament. If you feel that you should be considered in this group your scores will indicate this and you will be paired accordingly. This is also done by the scores listed on your entry blank. We made all pairings (except for late or stand-bye entries) that way thi year.
 - It our opinion that pin placement sheets are better and more accurat than pin balls.
 - 158 other players agree with you.
 Forest Akers does not want to host this tournament every year.
 - In 1987 we said "No Preferred Tee Times" and still received 216 requests for special tee times and 107 requests for special pairings. If we can not honor all - we will not honor any!

Question #2. - We are trying to decide where to hold next year's All-City. Where would you like to see it held?

Forest Akers (East and West)	158
Groesbeck	39
Royal Scot	9
C.C. of Lansing	1
El Dorado	1
No Preference	75

Question #3. - Some people have suggested that 282 players are too many for this tournament. Do you agree?

> YES 31

158 NO

NP 6

- At 10 minute intervals and with 3somes the pace was good. Remarks about question #3:

> - If the numbers increase maybe an 18 hole qualifier round is needed to reach the 250 player goal. The top 175 from the previous year would automatically qualify.

Remarks about Question #3 - Cont. - "282 players is enough interest."

- "I feel that you should go back to the original concept with a cut to the low 36 and ties after 36 holes and this would limit the field for you."

- Last year we asked you if you would like to see this tournament held Question #4 in August and the majority said yes - Do you still feel this way?

Yes - 88

NP - 75

No - 120

Remarks about Question #4 - "Play the tournament in September."

- "Hold the match-play earlier in the spring or in August or September.
- "Don't hold Match-Play on a Holiday weekend."
- "July is perfect."
- "July is best."



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Question #5 - It has been suggested that we make M.S.U. Forest Akers the permanent home of the All-City Medal Play. Do you agree?

Yes - 139 NP - 76 No - 68

Remarks about Question #5 - "Play Groesbeck because it is a <u>City</u> course and it's called the All-City."

- "Make Groesbeck a permanent site." (4 remarks)
- "Hold it only at Forest Akers." (4 remarks)

At this time, one of our Board members would like to address some of the things that have been said in this questionaire -

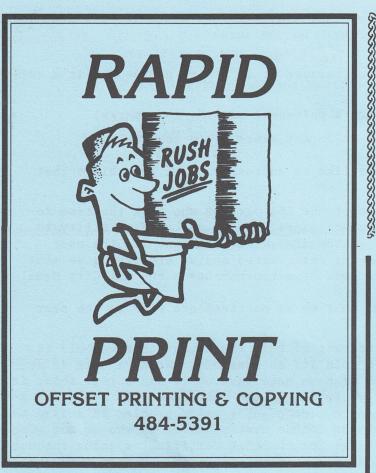
I would like to thank each and everyone of the 283 players who took the time to at least fill out part, if not all of the questionaire. It is our responsibility to try and put on the best run tournament (s) in the area. We feel that for the most part we have. The All-City Match Play is being resurrected and we are trying as many different ways as is possible to make it as good of a tournament as the All-City Medal Play.

I would like to address a few problems that we as participants face in the next few years. These are:

- 1. I feel that it is in the best interest of this tournament that we hold it on as many courses (that want to hold it) as possible. We have held it at four (4) different courses since we have been part of it and before that, it had been held at both the country clubs. So the tournament has a history and a tradition of moving from course to course. The major problem in moving the tournament has come from some of the course owners/operators who do not want to lower the greens fees in exchange for the gift certificates going through their pro shops. We have not had this problem with either Forest Akers or Groesbeck, but we feel that we, as a board, owe it to the players of this area to get greens fees as low as possible so that more money can be put into the prize list. I personally don't see why that is a problem with some of the courses, but it is and it is a problem that must be worked out or this tournament will be held at just two or three different courses.
- One individual, in answering the questions in the questionaire, used the paper to voice his displeasure with Ken Horvath, the Professional at Forest Akers. I feel that this individual must have had a problem with with Ken during the playing of the tournament, but this individual should also know the following:
 - a. Ken Horvath and his staff have donated their time and efforts for the Junior Golf Program.
 - b. Ken has been an invaluable aid in the running of this tournament over the time that he has been associated with it.
 - c. Ken has helped with the Prize List, so that it is at a level that a tournament of this type should be at.
 - d. Ken, as the on-site tournament director, had the most thankless job of all.

We, as an association, and I as an individual, would like to thank Ken for all the help he has been to this tournament and to the association as a whole. Thanks Ken!!!

3. I feel that those of us who play in this tournament should, if they can, take a more active role in the G.L.A.G.A. so that this tournament and the association can grow. We have been cited by "Michigan Golfer" as an area that is starting to make its presence known in the state-wide golf tournaments. We need to continue this progress.



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