Published by the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association

GOLF NEWS





GOLF: The Game of a Lifetime

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

MARCH, 1989

FROM THE EDITOR: Bob Aumaugher

This newsletter is the first issue of the new year. In it you will find GLAGA's Golf Tournament Schedule. Clearly not all local, state, or national tournaments (especially fundraisers and scrambles) are listed. The reasons for this are many. In some cases dates had not been set; in others the decision to renew the tournament had not yet been made at the time I put together the list. In any case, the printed schedule is a start. I encourage all of you to inform GLAGA of any other tournaments (especially local) that exist or will exist, and that you would like put on the list. Should there be some, I will update the schedule each issue. I have listed only course and type of tournament. For more details you will have to call the courses.

Also GLAGA has found it possible to lower our advertising rates. A 1/8 page ad is now \$50. Each doubling in size from there means a doubling in price. Thus a 1/4 page is \$100., a 1/2 page is \$200. etc. Also this year, a hole sponsorship for the All City Medal Play is \$75. However, we have a number of combinations available. For example, a 1/8 page ad and a hole sponsorship is \$100., \$25. less than getting them separately. GLAGA cannot bring you the newsletters without the generous support of our advertisers. We thank them and golf in Lansing thanks them. We look forward to their continued support. We also invite the support of those of you out there who as yet have not advertised with us.

Last, a reminder. Any organization has instances where newsletters do not get from point of origin to point of destination. This also is for many reasons. Golfers move and forget to give us their new address. Newsletters can get lost in the mail. Sometimes we cannot read the membership card. At present, for example, we have 4 names without addresses, which cannot be found in the phone book. We are not even sure of their spellings. So please help us identify them if you can. The names are: Rayner Garranchan, Tom Klienhardt, Dan Neer, and Tyler Thropp. If you will call us we will do what we can to get them their newsletters. The same goes for anyone else who is not getting theirs. Be patient with us, we do what we can as volunteers in a non-profit organization.

GLAGA INITIATES MORE NEW TOURNAMENTS

Starting Sunday, April 2nd and for every Sunday in April MASON HILLS (under new local ownership) will host a one day two person scramble. They are going to be similar to Oak Lane's fall scrambles. April has always been without many tournaments, probably because of 'iffy' weather. Here we think we may have found the answer. So find a partner, check the weather each week (some of us will play regardless), make a tee time, and come warm up gradually for tournament golf. Also, at MASON HILLS, GLAGA will hold a "POT" tournament. It will be on May 7th. The idea is to pay a green fee and then for another \$5. each , get into as many pots as one would like, or can afford, or can compete in. More on this one later.

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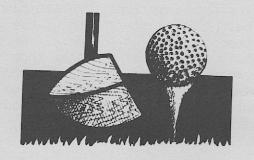
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COURSE HOSPITALITY SURVEY

Preliminary Results

Often GLAGA's surveys do not engender much response, sometimes none at all. In the era of the 25 cent stamp this is perhaps understandable. However, in the short time of two weeks, short as surveys go, we received responses—much to our surprise. So though not enough time has passed for us to give you a full report with analysis of our hospitality survey, we think some preliminary reporting is in order (particularly since Peakes said we would in the next GLAGA newsletter).

Recall that in the last newsletter we asked that you list in order your favorite and then your least favorite courses as regards hospitality and reception. We also provided room for comments. The survey idea was a response in itself to general talk about the possibility that the owners/managers of courses are not aware of how they and their 'contact people' are perceived by the golfing public. Thus it became our aim to elicit some responses from that public.

We have found the early results to be interesting. However after so short a time it would be premature to report complete results, or to draw conclusions. Some value may be gotten though from merely reading

comments as a whole. Since the season is about to get underway perhaps all will take note.

COMMENTS:

Most Hospitable--

Every one goes out of their way to greet you and then after the round-"how'd it go, etc." A tendency to remember your name. They're there for your pleasure (not just your green fee).

They are pleased to see their customers at...

Least Hospitable--

...overall attitude is surly, "take it or leave it"

Arrogance, not glad you're there. (Exclude starters, who tend to make up for pro shop.)

The owners at ... are rude and insulting to kids, members, adults. Too bad, the course is so nice.

STAY TUNED. Peakes and Aumaugher.

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NATURAL GRASS AVAILABLE

One Woman Golfer's View About Making Golf More Enjoyable For Women

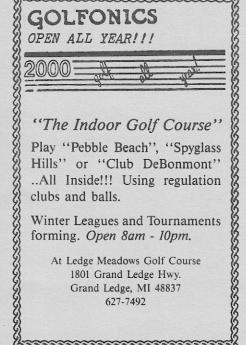
by Susan H. Zurvalec

Now that the season is upon us again, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you some of my views about the game of golf. I first started playing folf as a teenager on a rather rugged 9 hole, short Scottish style golf course in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. During my teenage years my mother, who was my teacher, and I played together regularly at this course during our summers together. Although this golf course makes no special accommodations for women golfers (there are no forward tees), this doesn't seem to matter. The attitudes of both men and women toward the 'game' seem different from those here in the states. Perhaps it is their Scottish roots the hole. but I have always sensed a deeper appreciation for the game as 'sport' to be enjoyed at any level of play, as distinct from the more competitive, 'macho' attitude often exhibited by the male species on our golf courses. The latter attitude often intimidates women golfers and reduces their enjoyment of the game.

Having said that, I have some thoughts as to what could make the game more enjoyable for most women golfers in the States. I think it is fair to say that the average women golfer does not hit the ball anywhere near as long as the average male golfer. I have seen statistics which indicate that the typical woman golfer hits somewhere between 80 to 180 yards off the tee. This being so I think that the red tees can and should be an integral part of the design of the golf course. However, with the exception of a few golf courses in Michigan, such as Boyne Mountain's Alpine or Monument courses, separate red (women's) tees were an afterthought, if they were considered at all. On the majority of courses, including Forest Acres West, the red tees-when there are any-are poorly maintained, often not level, and positioned in such a way that one's tee shot is on an angle off from the natural flow of

Thus, I would like to see more golf courses give serious attention to the red tees so as to make these tees more a part of the golf hole and not just a tiny bump in the fairway. This means that not only should they provide shorter distance in proper proportion to the length of the hole, but there should also be thought given to





where they are placed as well. It would also be nice if the red tees had benches and ball washers like the white (men's) tees have. Improvements such as these would go a long way toward giving women the confidence that they can play competitively with men as well as just adding to the overall enjoyment of the game. Since more women are playing golf than ever before, I think it makes sense to improve the quality of play for women.

Besides the importance of the red tees, there are a few other areas which could stand improvement if we want to increase women's participation and averall appreciation for the game of golf. The women's lockeroom, if there is one, tends to be smaller than a bread box, poorly maintained or equipped in comparison to men's lockerooms. (I have to admit that my research into the quality of men's lockerooms has come from a secondary source-my husband.)

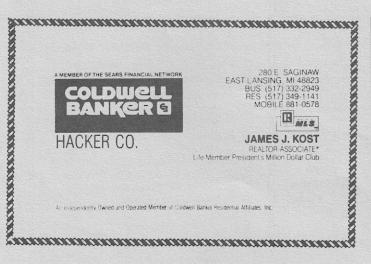
One women's lockeroom I recall in particular could not be reached except by entering at the rear of the club far removed from the pro shop, and by climbing the back stairs. I wondered at the time if women golfers were really welcomed there.

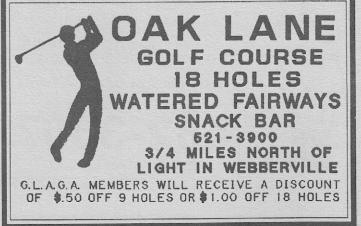
Another pet peeve of mine is effeminately designed golf equipment for women. While I don't mind pastel colors in general, I don't appreciate going into a golf equipment store and finding only flowered golf bags or pink handled golf clubs in the women's equipment line. This signifies to me that the manufacturer or retailer believes women take golf less seriously than men. I would rather see more emphasis placed on properly proportioned and weighted golf equipment for women than 'feminine' looking equipment.

In addition, I would like to see more of a selection in women's equipment in general. Golf gloves, for example, are not available in a woman's 'cadet' size like they are for men. Since I was so lucky to be born with large palms and short fingers, getting a woman's glove to fit has not been easy.

I would like to close by saying I believe that golf is a game we can all enjoy
for a lifetime. My husband and I enjoy
playing together whenever we can. I would
like to see more mixed leagues for husbands
and wives because I think golf is an activity which spouses can play together without necessarily competing against each other.
With more men and women playing golf than
ever before, golf course designers, course
managers, golf equipment manufacturers and
retailers would be wise to take some of my
suggestions to heart. It would be of benefit
to everyone.







by Dave Hershey

This is the second of a series on the rules of golf and their application. While playing in a member-quest tournament, I observed the following situation. Every one had driven safely and three of the foursome had hit their second shots on the par five opening hole at Mount Pleasant CC. The fourth player was in a fairway trap on the left side of the fairway. Attempting to hit a long wood shot, the player left the club face open and the ball skittered off to the right toward the out of bounds stakes. The ball traveled about one hundred yards and went into the long grass near an out of bounds stake.

The parties looked for the ball for what they later agreed was about five to ten minutes. At that point the player who had hit the ball said, "I guess I'll go back and hit another while you guys keep looking to save time." After dropping in the trap his shot hit the lip, popped into the air, and went only ten to fifteen yards. At this point his first ball was found in the long grass yet determined to be in bounds. thus picked up his second ball and took an unplayable lie with his first ball and hit

It should be noted at this point that the player picked up his second ball under Rule 27-2. Provisional Ball, paragraph b & c, which provides that if you find the original ball and it is not out of bounds and you have not played the provisional ball from a point near where the original was or a point nearer the hole then you may declare the provisional abandoned and play the original.

WHAT WAS THE CORRECT RULING HERE?

First, as stated earlier, all players agreed after the fact that the search for the original ball lasted more than five minutes, a violation of rule 27. - Ball Lost or Out of Bounds, Provisional Ball, Definitions. Second, while the player correctly dropped the second ball in the trap from which he hit, to say he will go back and hit while the others continue looking does not satisfy the requirement of announcing one's intention to hit a provisional ball. Before hitting a provisional ball one must to his opponent that the second ball is a provisional. It is not good enough to merely announce that you intend to 'reload', nor to say so after looking for the ball.

HERE IS WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE CORRECT PROCEDURE.

The player should have announced his intention to hit a provisional when he thought the ball might be out of bounds. In the situation the player should have declared the first ball lost after looking for it more than five minutes, then dropped a second ball in the trap taking stroke and distance for the lost ball--Rule 27-1, Ball Lost or Out of Bounds. When the player picked up his dropped second ball upon being told his first ball was found, he should have been assessed a one stroke penality for improperly lifting a ball in play and he should have replaced the ball. When he did play from the spot where the original ball was lost, he should have received another stroke penality for playing from the wrong position--Rule 20-7.

The point here is that the player was going to get a stroke and distance penalty for lost ball, but by not knowing the rules he ended up being penalized more.

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THE GOLF NEWS 1989

GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

```
APR
    2
             Mason Hills, 2 person scramble.
             Mason Hills, 2 person scramble.
     9
    16
             Mason Hills, 2 person scramble.
    23
             Mason Hills, 2 person scramble.
    29
             Highland Hills, 3 person scramble.
             Mason Hills, 2 person scramble.
    30
MAY
     6
             Groesbeck, Golf Day.
             Mason Hills, Pot tournament -- best ball, skins, medal, h-skins, etc.
     7
    13
    14
             Flint GC, Michigan Amateur Qualifier.
    15
    15
             Bay City CC, Mich. Am. Q.
             Royal Scot, Class A girls regional.
    19
    20
             Portland CC, Portland Best Ball.
    21
             Portland Best Ball.
    22
             Gull Lake, Mich. Am. Q.
    22
             Oak Pointe, Mich. Am. Q.
    22
             Red Run CC, U.S. Open Qualifier.
    23
             Travis Point, Mich. Am. Q.
    27
    28
             Centennial Acres, Best Ball - Scramble.
JUN
     3
             Oak Lane, Oak Lane Best Ball.
     4
             Oak Lane Best Ball.
     5
             Arbor Hills, Mich. Am. Q.
     5
             Hilltop GC, Chemung Hills, Grand Haven, Marquette, Mich. Open Q.
             Schuss Mtn., Bay Valley, Heather Highlands, Mich. Open Q.
     6
     7
             Garland, Mich. Am. Q.
     9
             Marquette, Mich. Am. Q.
             Groesbeck, Spring Best Ball.
    10
             Oak Lane, BOC-GLAGA 4 person scramble for special olympics & junior golf.
    10
    11
             Groesbeck, Spring Best Ball.
             Royal Scot, Bath fundraiser, 4 person scramble.
    16
             Groesbeck, All City Match Play.
    17
             Groesbeck, 4 women scramble -- morning.
    17
             Groesbeck, All City Match Play.
    18
    19 to 23 CC of Jackson, MICHIGAN AMATEUR.
    23
             Groesbeck, All City Match Play.
    24
             Groesbeck, All City Match Play.
    25
             Groesbeck, All City Match Play.
    26 to 29 The Bear, MICHIGAN OPEN.
     30
             Pontiac CC, Frank Syron Memorial.
JUL
    1
             Frank Syron.
     2
             Frank Syron.
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DONAHUE'S COMMENTS

This issue marks the first issue of the 5th year of our association and its "Golf News." I am somewhat surprised at the committment of our current board members. They seem to want to take on and solve the problems that we are facing and will face in the For those of you who haven't heard, the PGA future. At the same time, I am a little dismayed at the lack of support that we have of irons with square grooves starting in received from some of those in our membership who seem to have very strong and pointed views of almost everything that is wrong with amateur golf in the Lansing area. I, as you well know, have often made very point- ment concerning the square grooves. There ed and controversial expressions of my feelings about golf, but the difference is that I am not afraid to back my statements with action. This is because I really do care and want golf in this area to improve.

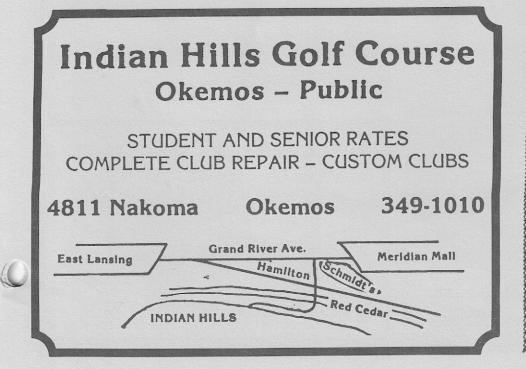
One of the reasons that I am writing this is to show my support for the new president-Tim Russell. Tim is not only a very qualified person, but he is also a person who is responsible, who cares and who will be receptive to both new ideas and criticism. Tim will be a very good leader and I am proud to call Tim a good friend.

There was a time not long ago, that I telt that I might never write another article for the "Golf News". I questioned whether anyone even read this paper. I found out today that people do read this and that they do care. Now I have a renewed interest in writing and expressing my feelings. I hope that people will read this and take the time to reply and in so doing help to make this a column for the membership.

In order to get the ball rolling I will lead off with my thoughts on the PGA's latest ruling on the square grooves on irons. has ruled that they will not permit the use 1990. I wonder what effect this will have ou us?

I feel that it will just be a matter of time and the USGA will issue the same statewill possibly be a "grandfather" clause, but they will more than likely fall in line very quickly.

You might wonder what other people think about this issue--well I checked with a few people and this is what I found out: Ken Horvath from Forest Akers feels that pressure from the golf club manufacturing companies might force the PGA to retract their ruling just like they did last year. Chuck Pohl--the new pro at Royal Scot feels that this just might be a reaction to the fact that players like Mark Calcavecchia





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are beginning to dominate the tour with their Ping clubs.

Whatever the reason, If the USGA does follow suit, the ripple effect will soon reach us all. Just what will this mean to us? Well let's look at what might happen:

1st--You can be sure that the GAM will soon fall in line with the PGA and USGA and ban these clubs from their events. So those of us who wish to compete in either the GAM or USGA events will have to dig out our old sticks or buy new ones.

2nd--If the new rulings follow the same path as they did last time, the local organizations will have to rule on these clubs. If that is the case, GLAGA will have to decide how to rule. For that matter so will the City of Lansing, Portland, Oak Lane, and any other golf course which wishes to hold a tournament.

3rd—If Ping sues the PGA or USGA, I feel that golf rules as we know them are in real jeopardy because if the USGA loses another suit (as it did to the Polara Golf Ball Company for 2 million) Ping will make the amount that Polara got look like pocket change. The USGA does not have that kind of money and thus would have to close its doors. Then what would we do? There would be total disruption in the ruling bodies of golf. And for what? Besides, what might be next? Would the golf ball companies sue each and every time some organization did not allow its ball to be used in their competition? Where would it end?

I feel that the people from Ping, the

USGA, and PGA should agree to have an outside agency look at this square groove problem and make a ruling for all parties. Then everyone should abide by this ruling in order to save the integrity of the game.

If the square grooved Ping irons are found not to conform to the rules governing the groves on clubs, then a 5 year grace period should be allowed for all those who have purchased the illegal Ping irons—to get another set to use. What the PGA rules, does not affect us directly because most players on the tour get their equipment free to begin with, so they would have no problem getting another set to use immediately. But for those of us who must sell ours and shell out \$500 or \$600 for another set, it isn't that easy. So the grandfather clause would cushion the blow for us.

As for local tournaments, I guess that I personally feel that we need only to override that one rule and allow the square grooved irons and then abide by all the other rules. This could be determined by a survey the year before the ban was to take effect. Each player would be allowed one vote and the majority would rule.

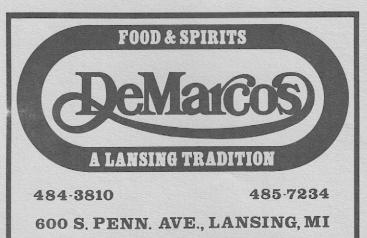
Let's hope that the USGA makes a good and correct move this time and that everyone involved agrees to abide by whatever happens. What is good for golf should be good for us also.

If you have feelings on this subject or any other golf related concern or interest, please mail your thoughts to:

GLAGA - Newsletter Committee

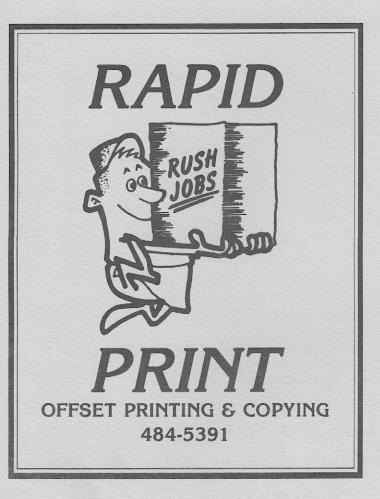
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JUL
              Royal Scot and Groesbeck, All City Medal Play.
      8
              All City Medal.
      9
             All City Medal.
     15
     16
             Mason Hills, 3 person scramble.
     17 to 22 Cog HillCC, Chicago, USGA Amateur Public Links.
     21
             Highland Hills, Women's scramble.
     22
             Portland CC, BOC employee golf outing.
     23
     29
             Oak Lane, Oak Lane Medal.
     30
             Oak Lane Medal.
     31
             Oak Lane, Oak Lane youth tournament.
AUG
     5
             Groesbeck, Senior Medal Play.
      5
             Royal Scot, Women's All City Medal Play.
      5
              BOARS HEAD SCRAMBLE
      6
             Women's All City Medal.
      7
             Lansing CC, Walnut Hills, USGA Amateur Sectional.
     7
             Michaywe, Senior Open.
     8
             Senior Open.
             Cheboygan CC, Northern Michigan Open.
    12
             Northern Michigan Open.
     13
    19
             Chisholm Hills GC, Chisholm Hills Invitational.
    20
             Chisholm Hills Invitational.
    22 to 27 Merion GC, Philadelphia, USGA Amateur Championship.
    26
             Groesbeck, Fall Best Ball.
    27
             Fall Best Ball.
    28
             Washtenaw CC, Michigan Mid-Amateur Championship.
    29
             Mid-Amateur.
SEP
     2
     3
     4
             Highland Hills GC, 3 person Labor Day Scramble.
     9
    10
    16
             Oak Lane, Fall Best Ball.
    17
             Oak Lane Best Ball.
    23
             Forest Akers GC, The Bud Reniger Memorial.
    24
             Reniger Memorial.
    30
OCT
             Oak Lane, 2 person scrambles -- every Sunday until it snows.
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