

2019 Winter Summit and Its Future

INTRODUCTION

1. The Winter Summit for 2019 was held on or about December 23, 2019 at the the home of the sitting President of the Majors, Loofy. Specifically, it was held in the exalted Earth-Sports Hall of Fame which is in the basement.

2. The Winter Summit was held in open session due to the non-sensitive nature of all subjects discussed. Except for the one classified subject that was briefly raised (twice!) causing >>>Security Breach<<< alarms to go off. All Majors tournament directors were in attendance. Majors legal counsel also was in attendance. DF, MOY, DOED, MGY and MEL attended as well.

3. The decision to hold the Winter Summit in open session was made by the President. The decision was unanimously supported by the remainder of the MEC.

4. The Items Visited section attempts to list those items visited in chronological order, that is, in the order in which they were discussed at the meeting. This means of retelling may lead one to surmise that the event was executed in an unorganized and perhaps slap-dash or even helter-skelter manner.

ITEMS VISITED

4. Airing of Grievances. Probably the greatest UFC of all time, St. George 2019, was the subject of two items of grievance. First, property management was cited for being not present to let us into our rentals when we arrived that first night. Not being able to get in, plus inability to raise any relevant personnel resulted in the booking of backup hotel rooms, lots of driving forward a little bit then backing up, telephone calling, stopping and starting and general running around in circles and having episodes. Everybody was mad. Then some guy answered one of our calls and we got in. Second, there was concern over the lack of water throughout St. George. This was only apparent to some who were keenly aware, mainly those who had a thirst issue. Plus swimmers. Although some did report there was water in the pool. Elsewhere... the new property management at Weaverridge, traditional final round host of the Dick's Hatband, was also under fire. To date, W is not impressed. Nobody really knows what the plans are for the course so it was agreed that we would just have to see what happens. Moving on, Geary's disqualification at the 18th DHB was raised as a grievance. However, everyone including MGY agreed the egregious rules violation and subsequent DQ ran like clockwork. To quote MGY it was "smooth as silk". So no grievance was appropriate or logged. ALL GRIEVANCES AIRED AND RECORDED.

5. DF Intercedence #1. "Can I just say 'I LOVE Pine Lakes!'" DF went on to explain his nuanced view of the course counting backward from hole #18. There were no objections. There were no statements of support for this view either. ITEM RECORDED

6. Ultima Test VII. The new baseball format out-performed its exit polling. Everybody had intelligent questions and everybody signed up. Everyone was happy. Nobody paid. Thats OK. They are going to pay like never before. There was very minor disharmony and mostly inaudible tumult due to said UT not being "golf" related. MGY proposed a second Ultima Test. UT 7.5? Penultima Test Alpha? Incoming president (selected, not elected) and designer of the UT7 made no objection as long as MGY ran the thing. MGY made no objection to that as long as KJO ran the thing. At this point, membership was briefly addressed by someone asking when KJO was going to get involved in the Majors. MGY assured everyone that it was as good as done. (See MGY's assurances to the same from 2015 thru 2018.) The UT 7 will feature 34 teams and a pot of \$17 a week. ITEM RESOLVED.

7. Unfrozen Caveman. Format and Rules were unaddressed. However, in a burst of planning, the UFC director, unveiled his 5-year plan for future UFC locations. "What happened to the package submission process?", someone asked. Immaterial. This is a new decade. While the Five Year Plan is definitely Soviet in origin, Glasnost prevailed and with input (mostly sticker-printing related), the director announced this lineup: 2020 Tucson, 2021 Winston-Salem, 2022 St. George, 2023 Palm Springs, 2024 Tucson, and 2025 Monterrey. Everyone was encouraged to start saving \$200 a month for the next five years in preparation for the Skins Game at Pebble Beach. After determining when Easter falls next year (FYI its not Tuesday the 21st), the director announced the week of April 19 was a likely time frame for the next UFC. The Masters, tax day, and some deal at St. Phil's were also successfully avoided. MEL resolutely announced his intention to cancel on or before April 7th. ITEM RESOLVED.

7. Sponsorships. A separate side conversation took center stage at this point, abruptly interrupting the tournament discussion. BT3 may or may not have been admonishing MGY for his lack of Lariat collection which led to a more group-wide analysis. The Lariat as you may know, is the site for the DHB Champions Dinner and is the official Steakhouse of choice in Peoria for Majors participants. TST suggested MGY take it out of the register if necessary. He said he will get it. BT3 added "Might as well get 2020's amount also". To that MGY was all "What?!?" MEL, representing Suzanne Miller Realty Empire (SMRE), was all in again for 2020. A report surfaced that GNR had frequented SMRE resulting in a home sale and instantaneously vaulting MEL/SMRE to the front of the Dollar Earned Per Dollar Sponsored race. Peacocks (did it really burn down? Still nobody knows.) remarkably remains a non-sponsor. The buck has been passed from WAR to DOED to get it done. From here it went to "Do we have an Official Bowling Alley of the Majors?" The answer to that being, you guessed it, "How about Country Club Bar-B-Que?" The rational being somebody's old lady has some kind of influence. "Yes, could we have the Winter Summit at the CCBBQ?" "Yes, how about Mt. Hawley Bowl?" "It might be very loud in there?" The bowling alley it is. Try to keep up. MGY to investigate. There were no issues with all other sponsors. Loofy's Emilia Romagna car wash bay (the one to the left of the coin changer at the Knoxville location) may or may not have been adjusted. Probably has. ITEM RESOLVED.

9. Tees. DOED in an altruistic moment questioned the tee production funding. As the Majors seem to be awash in money from sponsorships and other sources, why not use some of the revenue for the tees? DOED asked TST how much he spends per event on the tees. TST hemmed and hawed. And before he could come up with a realistic answer, MEL surmised that with private funding comes creative control to which TST did a little burp and pointed at MEL and did the trigger pull gesture. TST did ask everybody how they liked the tee length, too long? Noooooo! Keep them long was heard loud and clear. A proposal was made to always take Majors tees to PGA events and drop them here and there for advertising purposes. ONLY IF the Majors website address is on the tee as one attendee astutely advised. ITEM RESOLVED.

10. DF Intercedence #2. DF reported that at one of the PGA events, he unsuccessfully attempted to effect the introduction and use of a Majors tee (specifically a yellow 3.25" Mondo tee) by a PGA professional (MWAX) into that event. Failure was attributed to: one, tee color incompatible with golfer. White only. TST responded that we can supply white Mondo tees. Two, print on tee incompatible with golfer. No printing. Plain tees only. Three, tee length incompatible with golfer. Teensy Tee Mullinax apparently wants 2 3/4" or shorter only. ITEM RECORDED.

11. Mondo at Royal Madison Considering the magnitude of the scorekeeping disaster that was the 2019 Mondo (throw in the 2018 Mondo fiasco while your at it), there was not much said about how to keep it from happening again in 2021 - vintage "bring it up and it will fix itself" mentality. It worked in 2018 so... wait... After a period of head nodding LUF said he would think about it - a marked departure from 2018's "I'll take care of it". Discussion then turned to the dates for the 2020 Mondo. Luf was pretty sure that TST had already said he had a wedding to go to so the 2020 date had to be moved. TST reminded him that that wedding actually occurred last year not this year. TST drew attention to the fact that no date for 2020 had yet to be set and that LUF was thinking of 2019. Luf then set June 19 in stone for the 2020 Mondo. Everyone agreed this sounded like a good date. TST said he needed to check and see if it was a good date on account a he had a wedding to attend sometime in June. After an investigation consisting of a few text messages, TST announced the wedding was - would you believe it? - June 19! So LUF offered the 12th and everybody was again good except TST. So the 26th was finalized. TST still needs to text LUF to tell him that he has a prior engagement on the 26th that he forgot about until this very typing. That is for real. ITEM ALMOST RESOLVED.

12. Bus Trip To The John Deere Classic. MGY was the creative mastermind behind this one. Everybody to go up there and do stuff that is borderline allowable. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

13. Dick's Hatband. After making accommodations for the MHCC/CCP event and the St. Jude Run, the 2020 dates were set for August 13-16. The question was posed "What if Weaver is still crap?" To which TST floated the possibility of all four rounds at Pine Lakes. To which everyone balked. Even DF (see item 5 above). So TST said the lineup would be Met Fields, Mt. Hawley (LUF concurred), Pine and Weaver. And if Weaver is still crap, the final round would return to Met Fields. W will periodically take crap quality samples and advise. Perfect. Then MEL brought up "How about Pekin Country Club?" "Yeah! ERN!!" Fer the love of... ITEM RESOLVED.

14. Hoo Hoo Shoot. There was a mysteriously quick motion to move the HHS to September (18-19-20 specifically) and an equally swift and eerie adoption of the same. Why did that just happen? Unknown. Note taking provides no guidance. A motion to start with the top 16 players in the MMAPC standings and to only go to lower ranked players in the event one or more of the top 16 can't play was AND wasn't carried because W said we already do that. Stan permitting, the Country Club of Peoria is desired once again as the Sunday bracket play venue. The group recognized the possibility that CCP may be unavailable to us with the earlier September time frame. The time frame will take precedence. The time frame is that important. TST, the Apple Donut Magnate, was incorrigible in angrily noting that no one had thought of the idea of a portable microwave to heat up the traditional post HHS treats. ITEM RESOLVED.

15. Erlenmeyer Flask. The suggestion to take the EMF entry fee from \$20 to \$40 was not popular. But this "doubling of the blinds" suddenly became popular - only after a flask break and reset at minus 20 was achieved. Note, this is a departure from last year's Winter Summit in which it was determined that minus 22 would reset the flask. So, it was agreed that if and when a team shot minus 20 to break (symbolic-LY!) the flask, the new required score to break the flask would be reset to minus 16 and the entry fee would be raised to \$40 per person. Should players be allowed to play in the EMF if they are EMF qualified but have not qualified to play in the associated DHB or HHS? We say, YES! However, and this is unchanged, if a player does qualify for the associated Major and chooses not to play in it, he and/or she and/or they will continue to be ineligible for the EMF. ITEM RESOLVED.

the following items are lifted from the Majors website Winter Summit topics page and may relate to some topics previously addressed...

16. Established Handicaps. BT3 maintained pressure on WAR, MGY (in attendance), TBK, MEL and others to get and keep a USGA handicap index. MEL engaged in handwringing over what club he had to join in order to attain said index. W reassured MEL no club membership was required. MGY said it would be bad for him because he always plays the ball down and from the tips. Of course he does. DF said then he should get an index for that very reason. BT3 advocated that not having an established index actually puts one at a disadvantage. MGY relented. ITEM TO BE TRUSTED BUT VERIFIED.

17. Fred Garvin Male Prostitute Cup. If we had a Brainstorming section of these minutes, this topic would be placed therein. Details were vague and difficult to follow. The bottom dwelling AJC point getters would face off against the EMF Syndicate team in an Astronaut Jones type format to be held in off-AJC years at the UFC venue. Follow? Somehow MEL did and declared he would find a sponsor for it. First one in 2022? ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

18. Majors SWAG. BT3 purported that the Majors needs more stuff to hand out. When asked “like what”, he said he didn’t know but MEL pointed to his little card holder thingy on the back of his cell phone. W said stickers. TST will investigate. ITEM RESOLVED.

19. POY criteria change. An attempt was made to explain how the player of the year is determined and to explain why that methodology should be changed. One could theoretically make the argument that a few were interested in the topic. Interest in the WS as a whole was getting critically low by point 19. The necessity to make a change may have been proven to be warranted but the energy to flush out what that change should be was exhausted. No change authorized. ITEM RESOLVED.

20. DF Intercedence #3. “The Mondo is the truest test.” That is a strong statement. ITEM RECORDED

21. Commas on the Money List. BT3 wants commas. “Commas? Where?” someone inquired. “On the website Money List page! I need to see commas!”. TST agreed to make the change. ITEM RESOLVED

22. Majors Hall of Fame. What a difference two years makes. See the following from the 2017 minutes...

5. Majors Hall of Fame. It was proposed that a Majors Hall of Fame be erected and filled with deserving inductees. Nobody seemed to know what the criteria for entry should be. Though all agreed Big Dan should be in. Even so, “too self-serving” was one comment that rang solidly. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

Given enough time, everything can become somebody else’s good idea. BT3 suggested that two to three years after official retirement (the definition of “official retirement” yet to be determined) a player would be eligible for the MHOE. Using Baseball Hall of Fame criteria and the Majors Constitutional outline for legislative decision making might be a good way to address admittance. There were no yeas or nays recorded. BT3 to head it up. ITEM RESOLVED.

23. No Facial Hair Rule. Not carried. ITEM RESOLVED.

24. In-course Out of Bounds Rule. This topic encompassed several minutes of the meeting. There were many many opinions. In the end, it was decided that we would build a wall, a big beautiful wall on #15 at Pine. MOY declared that Morton would pay for it. But until the wall is complete, the DHB and HHS directors will consider the lateral placement of the ball within a number of club lengths of the out of bounds markers and assessing a penalty stroke. Majors constitutional counsel was on high alert and prepared to interject if there was any movement to make the rule Majors-wide. No such movement was made. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

25. Speed of Play. Only one idea was put forth. And only one need to be. Because it was mic-drop brilliant. A Majors shot clock. The mechanics and logistics are perhaps beyond the scope of current science but that is neither here nor there because the concept is game changing. Credit MOY. ITEM TO BE REVISITED

26. UFC to allow low index player to be “partners”? We haven’t seen this much canoodling since Mairzy and Dozy Dotes, the Yellow Shirt Brothers, paired off at “that one UFC - remember?”. Oh and high index players will be teammates as well. Speed of play issues were raised for the high indexers. AND for the low indexers - too much time spent lavishing on their luxuriant talents. Looks like it may happen though. ITEMS RESOLVED.

27 Golf GameBook alternative. BT3 pointed out that there was another app out there that was pretty good. Some guys from North Dakota employ it. GGB it was agreed wasn’t that difficult to use. At least lately. It HAS had its problems. Majors self described luddite STL had no issues with GGB so that is a feather in its cap. BT3 to find out what the SD app is called and advise. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

28. Hole signs at The Mondo. Director and Royal Madison admin permitting that is. Hole signs depicting the hole number, name, layout, Mondo hole event, and hole sponsor could be depicted. TST will think about it. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

29. Expanding the Astronaut Jones Cup to six players per team. It seemed like a good idea until DOED brought up that it would increase the captains out of pocket expense by what? 50%? Everyone agreed that was on the ball. ITEM TO BE REVISITED

30. Majors Minors. A proposal to put those players that have played ten Majors without winning one into a minor league system. One from which they would have to fight their way back into the Majors. Not adopted. Even with a grandfather clause. ITEM RESOLVED.

31. Winter Summit Conference Calls. A proposal was made to denounce and censure all conference calls. TDs would remain unrestricted of course, but Winter Summits and Ultimas Test would be free of the cumbersome and awkward call-in procedure. Exceptions for accommodating directors schedules would be made. ITEM RESOLVED.

32. MGY Intercedence. The context unknown, KJO was described to be even more meatheadish than Geary. ITEM RECORDED

33. Majors APP. Nobody had any idea how to make one or what should be on it. TST said we could hire somebody to do it. BT3 will get YCC to look into it. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

34. Tournament of Champions. After much back and forth and exploring all the options, it was determined that the Tournament of Champions should be a bowling event held at Mt. Hawley Bowl before, during or after the Winter Summit which will be held there. Golf on the golf simulator at Quail Meadows was briefly considered but the idea was rejected when MEL said what everybody was thinking: "Simulators suck!!" ITEM RESOLVED

35. A traveling DHB. In a fundamental misunderstanding of what was being proposed, TST immediately shut down the conversation. Said he'd been there before, done that before. BT3 was finally able to get the point across that he meant place travel, not time travel. So say, a DHB in the same time frame but up in the Chicagoland area or somewhere else. TST agreed to take it under advisement. ITEM TO BE REVISITED.

36. Season long team event. An idea that matches up players based on something they have in common. Maybe, what equipment they play. Team Mizuno for example. Or something like that. Maybe what F1 team their guy is on. Details were scarce but BT3 to draw it up. ITEM TO BE REVISITED

37. Dead to Me votes. BT3 inquired about the continued viability of the Dead To Me Voting system. Everyone agreed that it should be continued. Somebody thought about bringing up that it should only be done in person at the WS, but was unable to do so due to lack of physical ability to raise his head from the table. ITEM RESOLVED

38. Major Book of the Month Club. A resounding "YES!" MEL suggested we start with a good old Mary Higgins Clark while TST urged beginning with the ever reliable The Mouse and The Motorcycle. Besides, he's already read it (1969, 1997 and again in 2018) so he's already ahead. ITEM RESOLVED

39. Posting of Majors event dates. LUF suggested that the dates for Majors events be displayed more prominently on the website. TST agreed to do it once the dates were finalized. ITEM RESOLVED

40. Official Alcobeverage of The Majors. Majors Malort - The Official Thing That Is OMG! of The Majors. ITEM RESOLVED?

41. Moment of Silence. Yes, we actually had one. For Shoe-D who departed just recently. We expressed our sadness at his passing. And vowed to name something after him. Mike Tilly Hall of Fame (yet to be constructed) is an example. ITEM UNFORTUNATELY RESOLVED

42. New War Deck. TST acquired one but forgot to bring it in all the hubbub of Christmas goings on. He described the dimensions. The cards are approximately 750% bigger than the old war deck which had been reported missing. ITEM RESOLVED

43. DF Intercedence #4. In the Mondo, a player should have the ability to anti-shapiro someone from another group. Like the shot clock, the idea is brilliant but rather difficult to imagine the structure and protocol involved in effecting it. Reacting to the term "anti-shapiro", MGY advocated that a player should only be allowed to have one anti-shapiro used against him. TST chimed in that all three should be allowed for use on any one player. W added that for a natural eagle, a player should earn another anti-shapiro to use on any player in the group. LUF could be observed taking it all in. ITEM RECORDED

44. Hitting into groups??? Scholars even debate the meaning of the subject. One conjecture: its asking what should be done about one group repeatedly hitting into the group ahead, risking injury and plain being rude. Evidence shows that one attendee (presumably and historically from the group ahead) recommended picking up a ball and throwing it back at the intruding group. Archives show that this was an unpopular recommendation - at least the intruding group's point of view. ITEM UNCLEAR AND UNRESOLVED.

FINAL NOTE

45. The 2019 Winter Summit concluded after a period of approximately 120 minutes. But it didn't start right away as all participants were busy being bedazzled by the impressive display of both amateur and professional sports memorabilia on parade. One sports academic tallied at least fifteen Bradley hats in the lavatory alone. He wanted to make clear that the count was taken only after official business was concluded and that no risky multitasking was involved. Overall the tone was generally congenial and the outlook is optimistic. Even though the summit was long, spasmodic, and disjointed, historians and scholars will look upon and consider this to be another successful day in the history of The Majors.