

## 2023 Winter Summit and Its Future

### INTRODUCTION

The Winter Summit for 2023 was held on or about December 27, 2023. The location was The Room Formerly Known As The Champions Dinner Room at Majors sponsor Larry Ott Club of Peoria.

The Winter Summit was held in open session. In attendance were Majors President W and Tournament Directors LUF and TST. Tournament Director BT3 attended via science phone. The transmissions were weak and barely readable. Also in attendance: TBK, MEL, STL, DOED, MGY and BDD.

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.

*W and TST arrived earliest at which point they got a complete rundown on which beers the Larry Ott did not have on draft or in bottle form. So they ordered two whatevers and drank them at the front bar as STL and MEL arrived. They both looked better than ever! The parking lot was still practically empty as DOEDS drove in. As he backed into his parking spot, everyone nodded as he was voted Most Likely To Back Into A Parking Spot. There were literally dozens if not hundreds of open spots. BDD sauntered in and “shook hands” with everybody. Big Daddy MGY brought cookies whilst TBK also backed into a spot outside. STL noted that its not TBK’s fault for backing in as Ameren makes him do that. The gathering crowd soon made its way to the side room for the meeting. LUF arrived seconds later.*

**Opening Statement - President of the Majors.** With an aggressive gavel, W called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. CST. It took a minute for everybody to settle down and come to attention. Then the new girl came in to take drink orders at 5:07. W and TST pointed at their empty glasses. Two more whatevers. Everyone else ordered. Remarkably this also only took one minute. At 5:08 W began with an opening statement. Wait, was this also The State of the Majors Address? Doesn’t that come later a few weeks after the new president is established in office? Regardless, the address was well developed and delivered. And even made reference to joy vs. pain and wisdom vs. foolishness which is of course classy. It included a good, no great, review of the entire 2023 campaign. There were many colorful details and even a mention of the Fudge Fest Doed-Crash at Gateway National. I don’t think Dickens ever got a round of applause for his oration but W got one. Well deserved! There was no offered rebuttal. On now to the agenda items and more...

### OLD BUSINESS & NEW IDEAS

**1. Airing of Grievances.** Time was allowed for those to air up to a year’s worth of grievances. Hearing none, W was set to move on to paragraph 2 when a faint “I have one. I have one.” came out of the telephone. BT3 (in Tucson) was given the floor and he expressed his dismay at TBK for not having a passport. The crowd was frankly a bit frightened and confused. “Do I have a passport? What if mine’s expired? And why do I need one? What am I missing?” TBK pondered out loud why he was the victim of this “array of digs”. BT3 either rescinded his dig or was disconnected because nothing came of it. No further grievances aired.

## 2. Majors Review and Discussion

**2a. UFC.** From the Tournament Director to the members: DON'T SCHEDULE STUFF DURING THE UFC WINDOW WHICH IS APRIL 15 TO MAY 15. If all caps implies yelling, be thankful this came out of the little telephone. The TD has had it with people doing stuff during UFC Time already. The format of the UFC briefly came up and everyone agreed it was still good. But the time off vs. play your butt off argument picked up steam. Some liked the extra day at the UFC leading to one less 36 hole day. Others (TBK, possibly others) like maxing out the available daylight on the course. TD to consider all sides. The off season push for Mexico as 2024 UFC venue was addressed. The TD mentioned that is was "no-good" because of certain border issues. Some other sites were put forth like why not Tucson again? The TD explained that the UFC has traditionally been the "travel tournament" and Tucson is not really traveling. Not only for those that already live there but for those that have been to Tucson for four UFCs. <<"But you will get all the Tucson guys!!" <<"The Tucson guys are unreliable!!!" After some back and forth with regard to other places (by the way when you propose a location for the UFC and the TD responds with "put your bid package together", that means no to that location.) Farmington NM seemed to shoot to the top of the list for 2024. All rounds at Pinon Hills. Many were, if not in favor of the idea, at least cautiously agreeable to the idea.

*At 5:24 time out was taken to order food. LUF ordered something but with "no tomato". STL jumped the rest of the table with a quick "I'll take his tomato". TBK noted that DOED's nehru jacket reminded him of little JFK Jr. at the funeral. DOED did a few practice salutes to ascertain the validity of the unique observation. After taking note of DOED's unusually low voice that night combined with his too crispy of a salute, it was determined that he did not resemble little JFK Jr. too much. A little bit though yeah.*

**2b. MONDO.** The Mondo always attracts its healthy share of new ideas and discussion. Shotgun start. Starts on 1 and 10. Speed of play incentive. Renaming of holes. Scorekeeping improvements. Points for GONAD, Eva Brauns (actually a subtraction of points with this one it turns out) and Two-Hump Camels. One Man Scrambles. Penalties for doing many things or not doing many things. Not using an Anti-Shapiro for example. TBK suggested the whole thing could be cleared up if we just used File Maker Pro. Big Papa Jakes (newest Majors sponsor) will get a hole sign. Adios pantalones to one of either Chico's Bail Bonds, Suns of Britches or even possibly 1-800-BALLS. 1-800-BALLS sign sponsor TBK demanded more "cilia", which is microscopic lung hair or possibly an eyelash, be added to this signages nether regions. Should 1800B survive in 2024, this addition could happen. The thought bubble "Next Topic" was observed floating above TD LUFs head. This because he was thinking it was time for the next topic.

**2c. DHB.** A very short discussion indeed. TD TST and W renewed their No Den for Tee Times Agreement for another year. It is intended that the 2024 lineup of courses will remain the same. Met Fields (interestingly everyone got the beak at MFer in 2020 for its unbearable high grass), Mount Hawley (STL brief chagrin), Pine Lakes and Weaverridge. The TD will avoid repeating the proposed two rounds at Weaverridge fiasco of 2023. Boy oh boy.

**2d. HHS.** Donuts yes! Burritos yes! Both at the same time no!!!!!! Big Papa Jake not only served excellent burritos, he served notice! He will go head to head with the 20 year donut tradition! But as it turned out, there was not enough room for four to six apple donuts AND a huge burrito. So... Apple donuts and coffee will keep the new Sunday morning time slot while burritos (either breakfast or regular) will come either before or after Round 1 or 2. We just have to split them up. Before they split us up. The Connor Co Toilet Bowl will feature possibly a trophy for either winning or losing the Toilet Bowl. One or the other. And a gigantic flushing sound on loud speaker will denote the start of the Toilet Bowl on Sunday morning. Like when the theme from Sanford and Son was played that one year. Remember that? How did we get away from that?

**2e. MMAPC.** There was a quick suggestion that Red Carpet could do a hostile takeover of Mike Miller as Tour Cup Sponsor. That seemed to go nowhere pretty quickly as attention turned to what the 2024 MMAPC Purse would be. This of course is determined by the president in office in the corresponding year. So for 2024, BT3 will be president and will determine the 2024 purse. He deferred until Jan 1 the announcement of the purse so as not to cause umbrage on the outgoing administration. Kind of a let down because we all wanted to hear about the big increase.

**2f. EMF.** Discussion focused on the newly minted EMF Sprint which is the substitute for the EMF when the EMF cannot be played. The EMF is very selective. Comments ranged from “I didn’t get it” to “I liked that format”. Everyone agreed that when viewed with the perspective that we had to come up with something in case there is no EMF, the EMF Sprint while not perfect, was more than adequate. Or at least almost adequate. MGY chimed in that he could get four abstract guys from St. Louis to play in the EMF anytime. You mean EMFS? That could be possible. It would take some thinking. EMF though? No way. Its too selective.

**2g. AJC.** Nothing here other than we would very much like to have an AJC sticker adhered to the bathroom wall at Industry Brewing. DOED wondered why this was even a topic. Just do it. Ok, but how about our 2026 goal of having an AJC sticker put on the wall of the LADIES room at Industry Brewing? How about that? Do ladies have stickers on their restroom walls? Everyone agreed they probably did have stickers. Now, DOED was at a loss as to how to proceed. MEL volunteered Suzanne of Suzanne Miller Realty Empire to do it. Hooray!

**3. Attendance & Invitations/Email List.** We need to have 100% of the EMF qualifiers on the master email list. Good idea yes. But did something happen to warrant this topic? Unknown. Or unremembered. Also, how about we keep this email list up to date? What would be the alternative to email? Somebody quickly relayed the obvious alternative: Discord. At this point MEL suddenly and deliberately went off on Discord. What are all these channels? Who cares about F1? And what are all these channels and this stupid F1? Incensed (ie. angered at something unjust and wrong), TST located the “MEL” on page three of the agenda and decisively (ie. quickly and confidently), circled. D! T! M! As you will see this subject (the email list one) is of such import that it is repeated later in the agenda. So get ready for that.

**4. Ultima Test.** Again the president will preside and everybody was on the edge of their seats to hear what it would be in 2024. It used to be golf. Then it was golf and then golf and ladies golf. Then GOV kept winning so we switched to an MLB 13/19 Run Pool. 2024 will have a huge carry over from 2023 so be sure to get it it. In whatever form it may take. BT3 will let us know soon.

**5. Final Exam.** Nothing new here really. A proposal to pay second place too this time. First still wins almost all the money but second would get his (or her!) money back. BT3 to decide on that one.

## **NEW BUSINESS AND BAD IDEAS**

**1. Rename the Majors.** If MEL hadn’t had his temporary cardio issue, this wouldn’t even BE an issue. But alas, it came up. Should the moniker *The Majors Golf Cult* replace The Majors? How about *The Golf Davidians*? Or *The Majors Temple Agricultural Project* possibly? *The Jim Nabors* got one or two votes. As did simply *The Nabors*. Of all, the favorite seemed to be simply *Majorstown*. With the president of the Majors retitled The Mayor of Majorstown. And a directive to the Peoria City Council to rename the city “Majorstown USA”. But what to call the actual mayor of the city then? This item may or may not be revisited.

**2. Email List.** See here it is again. No changes from the earlier addressing of the topic except TBK suggested instead of email we use fax so as to “keep it simple”. In general nobody really likes email after all.

**3. “In, if you need me” or other variations - automatic DTM nomination.** The point being that we don’t need anybody doing us any favors at The Majors. Either you are in or you are out. Please pick one. As to the penalty phase, i.e. automatic DTM nomination, everybody is already nominated for a DTM anyway. Maybe we meant automatic permadead. Now that would be harsh punishment indeed.

**4. GHIN App for yardages (huh?).** Huh? x 10 actually. This was possibly the most incoherent discussion of the night. The proponent, believed to be ATR, was not in attendance to explain what’n the H? Maybe he meant GHIN for the Mondo app somebody suggested. No one bothered to look up what GHIN even is. Thankfully the food came.

*At 18:05 the food orders began arriving. Everyone was satisfied with what they had ordered and the chowing down began.*

**5. Majors team in the Mike Stout Memorial (and our own hole sign).** This was TST’s idea. That the Majors field a team to compete in what he thought was the Mike Stout Memorial since this is what the flyer he got from Lavery said. DOED was adamant that it be recognized as “the ISC” deal before he would listen to any further discussion. Ok, ok, the ISC deal. Can we bring our own sign or not? DOED, as in DOEDISCBOD, as in DOEDISCBOD Crane was not big on the idea. ISC would make a Majors sign for us. No, we want OUR Mondo sign from the hole we will pay for. Not happy, DOED relented and said it would be ok if we brought a sign from a “significant sponsor” only. What defines “significant” was beyond the scope of this meeting. But it doesn’t look good for Chico and The Balls. In the end though it felt as if ISC would actually be doing The Majors a favor. Reference now item 3.

**6. Preferred comms method (Discord, but not for everyone).** Especially MEL. BDD respectfully admitted that he feels overwhelmed by Discord. As in there is too much to keep up with. TST suggested to him and to everyone that if there is one channel to subscribe to and keep up on its the new Hot Items channel. “Its right up there at the top” DOED rightfully noted. Back into his phone, TBK was dismayed that he was unable to immediately enter comments into the Hot Items while BDD was expertly subscribing to said channel. TST was impressed with BDD’s level of competency and was pretty sure he himself couldn’t do that.

**7. Majors Tour Card (sponsor exemptions for all events and tour members).** Idea crafted by BT3. People would be issued a tour card (a physical card?) after they meet some predetermined qualifications. The benefits for the cardholder were in the development phase it seemed. DHB TD asked how this would apply vis-a-vis (yes he actually used that term) the Hatband. BT3 said maybe we could use the DHB Qual Matrix to determine who gets the Tour Cards. Item to be revisited.

**8. Motion that will be met with scorn by one, joy by some, and head scratching by others.** This has been TBK’s baby for several weeks now. And yes, it seemed he was serious. The idea being that players play the HHS (and possibly other Majors?) straight up. No handicaps. If someone met this idea with scorn, it was not really noted. Joy? STL and MGY seemed to like it. Headscratching? Yes almost all if not all. This is a structurally foundational matter. There are too many facets to it. “Why would anyone but the best player play?” “Remember, there is always somebody better than you.” “If there were no handicaps, ICN would have beat you in one hole, not seven”. “Why would you do it?”.... Because it (the current handicap and PIQ systems) penalizes the better players. Yes it does by enticing lesser players to play and possibly win. But they do bring money. This is an extremely existential conversation. TBK suggested a vote but no vote was observed. Then the president (and HHS TD) moved on. But not before saying he was “open to it”. What?!

**9. Quote the motion of all motions unquote.** This was #8 all over again apparently.

**10. Quote bombshell of all bombshells unquote.** Fake news. If there ever was something it wasn't tonight.

**11. Tournament Schedule.** The UFC Window suddenly expanded. Now it was March 15 to May 31. Presumably no one is to schedule between these two dates until the UFC dates are finalized. Got it? STL mentioned to the MONDO TD that a St. Louis trip might be appropriate around the Mondo date as the Cardinals will be out of town during DHB Week '24. They will coordinate. The DHB is set for August 15-18 and the HHS will wait to see who controls their own destiny before deciding on final dates.

**12. World #1 Golf Towel (Yellow), for WN1 with #weeks at #1 (peach).** The roadblock has always been what to do with somebody who has had two stints as WN1? Two towels? DOED suggested you leave room on the peach towels for adding secondary stints later. Seemed so obvious when he said it that way. Now we will have towels. If no further roadblocks can be found.

**13. Dead To Me Voting.** Page three of the agenda listed everyone eligible for a Dead To Me vote. Which is everybody. So all attendees voted for their least favorite humans. Then turned them into President W for future tabulation. The results of the vote will be published in time. Projections are for no Permadays once again. Possibly some In-The-Tunnels. MEL committed mass DTM-icide and voted for everybody. Ironically, after the voting concluded, allegations of cheating were bandied about. Names have been redacted to protect the guilty. Anyway, Somebody#1 related a story about Client#2 doing something about a stump after "buntin' it off the front tees". Somebody#3 stabbed Somebody#1 in the back by walking away. Then later Somebody#3 told Client#2 that Somebody#1 thinks you cheated. Alas however, the story related by Somebody#1 was not this concise. And Everybody#4-11 either couldn't follow it or got bored with it.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:54 the Summit adjourned with the final smack of the gavel in President W's term.

## **FINAL NOTE**

29. The 2023 Winter Summit concluded after a period of approximately 108 minutes. This not counting time for those who wanted to stay to see the video of TBK doing antics in the elevator. Historians and scholars will look upon and consider this to be another successful day in the history of The Majors.