

T.W.I.G. NEWS

Triangle Women in Golf Newsletter

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“Greetings to my Sisters in Golf” by Peketa Long

On behalf of the Executive Board, I wish to bring you a brief reflection on the past year of golf with TWIG and more importantly to challenge and inspire you for the coming year. All of us are balancing our family, work-life, home and other obligations and as you carve out time for this activity in your schedule, it is our goal as your Executive Board to make this time enjoyable and worth the effort. We want you to look forward to our events and join in when your schedule permits.

This past year, the new Executive Board, was on the front nine of our two-year term!! We had a strong start with a learning curve (more birdies than bogeys)! The TWIG Kidz program implemented a professional and dynamic season under the leadership of Valerie Willis. The TWIG Invitational was one of our strongest and most well organized to date. Chicks with Stix, Spring trip, Fall trip, league play, Member-Member Tournament and the annual Christmas party rounded out our year. Our Membership Chair, Carmella Hart, worked diligently to welcome several new members and to lead a committee on the revision of our handbook and bylaws.

TWIG is an elite group of African American women that have been blessed with the opportunity to engage in this physically and mentally challenging game. It is a game that takes many hours of lessons, practice time, and play time. We are all at varying skill levels and different stages of life that allow us to devote varying amounts of time to this endeavor. So my challenge to each of you is to devote whatever time that you feel comfortable devoting, and TWIG will be here with a tee time waiting. Stay connected, keep practicing and set your own personal goals for the game.

We intend to alter our league play for 2016 to allow for consistency in courses. There will also be exciting trips in 2016. More information will be available at our tee off in March. Thank you for being a member of TWIG.

“Keep your sense of humor. There is enough stress in the rest of your life not to let bad shots ruin a game you’re supposed to enjoy.” Amy Alcott

Peace and blessings,

Peketa Long, TWIG Program Chair 2015



USGA Licensing Program for Clubs

by Renee Allain-Stockton, TWIG Handicap Chairperson

Triangle Women in Golf is a golf club licensed through the USGA Licensing program. The purpose of the USGA Licensing Program for Clubs is to ensure that all golf clubs in the US comply with the USGA Handicap System. It is also a requirement for all clubs that wish to issue a Handicap Index to its members. TWIG provides a Handicap Index to its members as an additional benefit of membership included within our annual dues.

A golf club is defined as an organization of at least ten individual members that operates under bylaws with committees (including a Handicap Committee) to supervise golf activities, provide peer review, and maintain the integrity of the USGA Handicap System. Any golf club licensed through the USGA must continue to follow all aspects of the USGA Handicap System and must complete the seminar quiz requirement during each four-year cycle. The current four-year cycle for the seminar quiz requirement was for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015. Diana Phillips successfully completed the seminar quiz requirement for TWIG in March of 2012.

Members of a golf club must have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with each other. TWIG complies with this requirement via our monthly league play dates, our Spring & Fall Trips, and our annual Member-Member Tournament. Members must be also able to return scores personally, and these scores must be readily available for inspection by others, including but not limited to fellow members and the club’s Handicap Committee. Our GolfSoftware.com online handicap program allows members to post their scores and also allows them to review fellow members’ scores for integrity.

A Golf Club is one of three (3) types under the USGA Licensing Program. TWIG is a Type 3 Club which means our members had no prior affiliation and a majority of the recruiting and sign up of the membership is done by solicitation to the general public. The playing requirement for members of a Type 3 Club are met if a member returns at least three scores played with other club members during the season and at least one of those scores must be played at a club sponsored event. Anyone not meeting this minimum requirement should be dropped from the Type 3 club handicap roster.

USGA Licensing Program for Clubs (cont'd.)

by Renee Allain-Stockton, TWIG Handicap Chairperson

The USGA randomly selects licensed golf clubs to complete the audit program each year. TWIG was randomly selected this year to complete their audit checklist. In the process of completing the audit checklist and in order to comply with the playing requirement as discussed above, I temporarily suspended anyone from our GolfSoftware.com online handicap system who had not posted any scores during this season.

I am happy to report that Triangle Women in Golf was determined to be in compliance with USGA Handicap System policy by the USGA Handicap Department in September 2015 and continues to be licensed with no additional follow up required. If I suspended you from the GolfSoftware.com online handicap system and you want to post your scores for the upcoming season, please send me an email and I can easily reinstate you.

If you are a member of another golf club, you are not required to maintain your Handicap Index with TWIG. We provide this service as a benefit of your membership.

Keep it in the fairways

TWIG Annual Tee-Off Meeting is a Hole in One by Sandra Ross

TWIG's 2015 Annual Tee-Off meeting, held February 22, 2015, really got off to a swinging start under a brand new Executive Board, and four new TWIG members joining us. A full season of scheduled league play and special events were reviewed, tournament dates and Spring and Fall trips were announced. Winston's Grille provided fine dining with delicious entrees served by smiling staff.

TWIG's Celebrate Season at Kamodo's Grille

by Carmella Hart, TWIG Membership Chairperson



The TWIGs celebrated the end of the golf season and their 2015 Christmas holiday with a wonderful luncheon at the new popular spot, Kamodo Grille restaurant. We experienced their mouth-watering Kamodo-style grilled food in a private relaxed atmosphere. About 22 members attended. It was great to see old and new TWIG faces, plus invited friends and guests. We were in good company with Holly (new Raleigh resident), Perdita (future TWIG Kidz mom), and Princess (a 2-yr TWIG Kidz sponsor)— all probable new TWIG members. The afternoon was filled with social ambience and fun that included welcomes, introductions, a recap of the year's program highlights, a white elephant gift exchange, and a global community donation effort resulting in \$366.00 in handmade jewelry purchases from Bead-for-Life, a program benefitting poor women in rural Uganda; all proceeds were donated in the name of Triangle Women In Golf.

During the luncheon, the Executive Board recognized Program Chair Peketa Long for her unwavering commitment to planning and coordinating the core of all we do as a group, the entire year of TWIG programs and scheduled activities; Treasurer Valerie Willis was recognized for doing an excellent job as Chair of the Budget and Youth Committees (TWIG Kidz) and for planning the 2015 TWIG Invitational. They were given gift baskets filled with all sorts of golf goodies. One member remarked they are the equivalent to being our "2015 TWIG MVPs". We give these 2 ladies our heartfelt thanks for all they continue to do to keep things running smoothly!

Chicks with Stix 2015 by Peketa Long

On May 23, 2015, twenty-five lady golfers convened at the beautiful Legacy Golf Course in Aberdeen, NC for the Fourth Annual Chicks with Stix. Triangle Women in Golf hosted the gathering of golfers from Durham, Charlotte, Pinehurst, Raleigh and surrounding areas. Ten members of TWIG welcomed the ladies and played in Captain's Choice format. Renee Allen-Stocktain and Valerie Willis debuted the use of our new software that allowed for pairing of golfers based on handicaps.

The weather and course conditions were excellent and allowed for some outstanding rounds of golf. The winning team with a score of 70 included Carolyn Morgan (EWGA), Acie Ward (Triangle Putters), Martha Butler (Pinehurst) and our own, Sondra Fountain. The closest to the pin was won by Dianna Phillips (Raleigh) and longest drive went to Rivia Brown (EWGA) with a 265 yard drive.

Lunch was served in the course club house and was followed by the awards presentations. The venue and fellowship was excellent.



We enjoyed each other's company — and the challenges of this beautiful course.



Peketa laid down the ground rules and kept us on track throughout this lovely



1st Place team scored 70.



2nd Place team scored 71.

“Practice Makes Permanent!”

2015 Spring Golf Clinic

by Erica Colleton

This is a very true phrase my son's band teacher always said. As with music, it is with golf. You must practice to improve, but you must ensure you are practicing the right technique. This is where golf lessons can play a critical role in taking your game to the next level. I personally take a series of lessons every year at the beginning of the season. If you are a new golfer, or a very experienced player, you can benefit from annual golf lessons. Beginning April 19, 2015, TWIG held a Spring Lesson Clinic at Capital Golf Center in Raleigh, NC. The series was a 1-hour training session held once per week for 4 weeks. Jeff Robinson was the Head Teaching Golf Professional. The lessons covered golf fundamentals; full swing with the Irons, fairway woods, driver; short game; chipping and putting. We also received specific advice on issues we were personally experiencing with our game. I always made a point of taking 15 minutes after each lesson to record key notes from the lesson in my cell phone notes app. This gave me something to take to the driving range the next time I practiced.

Group lessons can be an inexpensive way to get a huge value for your golf bucks! We try to keep the teacher to student ratio at 1 to 4, depending on what we are able to negotiate. If you do not take group lessons, I encourage you to consider private lessons at the beginning of the season so that you can complete the series before the weather turns too hot or too cold. The following ladies were enrolled in the Golf Clinic last Spring: Erica Colleton, Shirley Cook, Carmella Hart, Evelyn Holton, Loretta Hicks, Deborah Sanders, Karen Robinson, Robin Exum-Calhoun, Minnie Jones, Claudine Harris, Brenda Bush, and Myra Smith.

“Keep It in the Fairway!” -Erica

TWIG Kidz—On The Move by Valerie Willis, TWIG KIDZ 2015 Chairperson



TWIG Kidz is the youth program, sponsored by T.W.I.G. (Triangle Women in Golf), where young girls ages 8 to 18 are introduced to golf with the intention of inspiring them at a young age to continue playing the game. There are many benefits to learning to play golf including learning responsibility, learning a lifelong sport, building character, gaining confidence, learning about the many golf careers, and earning college scholarships. One of TWIG's goals is to help TWIG Kidz win at life by working hard at the game of golf to obtain the opportunity to be recognized for a college scholarship for their college education.

TWIG provides each participant with golf lessons via a customized First Tee Spring season program. Afterwards the girls move into the Dona Lerner Golf Academy at the Brier Creek private golf country club. TWIG provides some of their golf equipment, as they learn golf etiquette, as well as the official golf rules.

The TWIG Kidz participated in the **TWIG Member-Member tournament**, held on October 24 at the beautiful Wil-Mar Golf Course. Each girl was paired with TWIG members to make a foursome. This was a memorable outing for everyone involved, and plaques were awarded to the winning teams, followed by a delicious luncheon that included the parents. The TWIG Kidz also received more good golf exposure by assisting at this year's **TWIG Invitational Tournament!** *Way to go girls!*



TWIG Fall Trip 2015 by Myra Smith



TWIGs were more than ready for Sunday's team play at Mid Pines South.

On October 9-11, 2015 eleven TWIG members travelled to Talamore Golf Resort in Pinehurst NC for a weekend of golfing. Those making the trip included Peketa Long, Clarissa Henderson, Deb Sanders, Myra Smith, Valerie Willis, Cassandra Evans, Jocelyn Williams, Carmella Hart, Erica Colleton, Cindy Edwards and Lori Snider. All members were extremely excited because the trip had been rescheduled because of all the rain the previous week.

The first unscheduled wonderful thing that happened was the opportunity to play at Pinehurst #3 on Friday. Peketa had a relative who worked at the course and he arranged for us to play at a 40% rate reduction for the course and the items in the club house. We couldn't believe our good fortune and enjoyed an outstanding afternoon of golf on this well know golf venue. The course played long but manageable.

After getting registered into Talamore Resort, we spent the evening with a deliciously catered dinner in Peketa's suite, good fellowship, stuffing bags, getting instructions for play for the next two days. Saturday breakfast was at Llama Pen where we met and talked with another ladies' golf group from Baltimore, MD. Everyone was wearing rain gear as the rain started early. The courageous TWIG women played for 7 holes until the rain was so hard the putting greens were like lakes that were preventing the golf balls from rolling. All were wet through and through and decided to call it a day. Rain checks were given for 9 holes to be played on another day.

The group dined at Ironwood Restaurant where we took group and individual pictures. The conversation, food and entertainment were just what we needed to evaluate the golfing experiences of the day. Later that evening Erica went over the play rules for Sunday play.

On Sunday, October 11, breakfast was at Llama Pin and everyone rushed to get ready for checkout. The golf play was at Mid Pines South with tee times starting at 8:04. It was a perfect day to play and the pace was comfortable. Teams competed hard to win the prizes. First place was awarded to Peketa's team. Congratulations to first place Team 1, Peketa Long, Joselyn Williams, and Clarissa Henderson. Second place was Team 2, Deb Sanders, Valerie Willis, Cassandra Evans, and Cindy Edwards. Third Place was Team 3, Erica Colleton, Carmella Hart, Lori Snider, and Myra Smith. We all felt like winners before we parted for our journey home!



An intimate dining experience at The Ironwood Restaurant made up for Saturday's heavy rains at the Talamore course. By Sunday the sun came out for a final day of play at Mid Pines South (below).



TWIG Spring Trip— May 1 to May 3, 2015—Sea Trail

One would say “It looks like these 6 gorgeous TWIG sisters had a lovely time” in Sea Trail Golf Resort at Sunset Beach, NC. Attending were Myra Smith, Pam Schooler, Deb Sanders, Garnett Campbell, Peketa Long, and Tia Bullock, a nice blend of old and new members. **Fabulous!**



TWIG 12th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament

Eagle Ridge Golf Course—Sept. 12, 2015

The TWIG Invitational Tournament raised \$10,329.00 ... benefitting TWIG Kidz and youth programs, spreading goodwill, and lots of enjoyment. Another successful group effort!



To our tournament sponsors and participants ... many thanks for a great day!





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Back Page stories ...



May 8th, TWIG member Erica Colleton and her Foursome won 1st Place in B-Flight at the 2015 Heritage Golf Club Invitational.



*Membership has its privileges.....TWIG Member **Garnett Campbell** poses in front of her personal locker at the luxurious new Club House at Hassentree Golf Course in Wake Forest, NC.*

Notes from the Editors

Carmella Hart, Membership Chairperson

Evelyn Holton, Historian/ Communications Chairperson

A big thank you to all our TWIG newsletter contributors. The help you provided made it all possible, either because of your leadership, drive and commitment, or simply team spirit during this holiday time!

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the Annual Tee-Off Meeting when it is scheduled for early next year. As you renew your membership for 2016, use the Tee-Off meeting as an opportunity to invite your friends who may want to join our organization.

Our Program Committee will roll out a new format for league play and announce exciting get-away trips for 2016! If you're interested in helping out, or have ideas, feel free to contact Peketa Long, Chairperson.

We'll provide you with revised TWIG Constitution and By-Laws next season based on your feedback and suggestions. Look for this important TWIG member guideline booklet.

There's so much to enjoy being an active member of TWIG. We're looking forward to the 2016 golfing season and hope you'll make time to be there.

Tee it high and let it fly!