

**OCEAN STATE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board of Director's Meeting**

DATE: July 21, 2014 TIME: 2:30 PM

PLACE: Laurel Lane Golf Club  
West Kingston, RI

PRESENT: Jackie Booth President  
Pat Dickson Vice-President  
Luanne Googins Treasurer  
Jen Moretti Corresponding Secretary  
Trudy Dufault Co-Founder  
Chris Trenholme Handicap Chairperson  
Christina Anderson Tournament Co-Chairperson

ABSENT: Elizabeth Duguay Recording Secretary  
Mary Ann McLaughlin Tournament Co-Chairperson

GUESTS: Carolyn Brown; Erin Mernick; Vickie Brown; Laura Davert; Maureen Mossey; Kris Kennedy; Kathy Mis; Karen Recore; Peg Cherenzia; Sue Fontaine; Barbara Baris; Sandra Harper; Betty Jean Shadeck; Vickie Moretti; Mary Lou Sevigny; Katie Um

CALL TO ORDER: The President welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS: DUE TO THE NUMBER OF GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE, MEETING WAS STARTED BY DICUSSING "NEW BUSINESS" AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST.

1. Exceptional Tournament Play- Due to complaints verbalized to the Tournament Director, Trudy Dufault, she had requested that 2 players have their handicaps reduced in their next tournament citing multiple net wins and "exceptional tournament TEAM play" as the reason. Handicap .Chair, Chris Trenholme began an analysis and identified 8 players, not 2, as having multiple net wins. A list of those players was provided to the Board and a discussion began as to what constituted "exceptional Tournament play" . Criteria for review included: winning four or more tournaments in both individual and partner events. Those analyzed won respectively 62%; 57%; 38%; 57%; 33%; 72%; 57% and 31% of events entered.

Chris reviewed each person's scoring per the Tournaments played and was unable to conclusively show that any individual was consistently under par or playing to the level of "exceptional" in her analysis and opinion. It was again noted that our many different formats and prize distribution (going 1<sup>st</sup> gross then 1<sup>st</sup> net as

opposed to all gross then all net; sometimes paying 1 gross prize and 2 net prizes, and that with so many team events it is impossible to determine which player is exceptional as many times players are hitting their second shot as a result of another teammates extraordinary drive ) –this can all result in more net winners. It was also noted by President Booth that Tournament Director Trudy Dufault has said for many years that most of our players ARE playing for net. Trudy noted that the handicap on each respective day for each respective player was not noted for each player under review and it was decided that having that information would have been helpful.

A lengthy discussion ensued and here are some of the highlights in Q&A format:

1. Christina Anderson Q: What is considered “exceptional” play?

Chris Trenholme (CT) A: Consistently finishing under par.

2. Sandra Harper Q: How are divisions set for our Events?

CT A: The divisions are first made depending on many factors: number of players, handicap ranges, format, budget. In a 1 BB the team is placed in a division based on the lowest handicap in a group. For a 2 BB it would be the 2 lowest handicapped players.

Jackie Booth (JB) A: An 8 stroke differential is the maximum recommended by the USGA. We use a 10 stroke-maybe we should think about going with the 8.

3. Pat Dickson Q: Should we be looking at scores outside of OSWGA events that are posted? I.e. are members posting scores regularly for rounds played?

JB A: If you see that someone has unrealistic scores, you can formally ask OSWGA to initiate a “peer review”. If you hear someone say that they play a specific day each week –or- that they play all winter in Florida but yet they have no scores entered into the GHIN system, you can formally ask OSWGA to initiate a review.

CT A: You also would want to check to see that scores from Tournaments are posted as “T” scores. “T” scores are posted so that the two lowest scores in this category stay as part of your GHIN Handicap calculation for a full year.

Jen Moretti A: Noted that some people seem to be more strategic than others when it comes to choosing their teams. For example, choose players at certain handicap levels or with certain skill sets that can enhance their chance of victory based on event format.

JB comment-it is proven that a team with a bigger span between handicaps has a better chance of winning net than a team of similar handicaps.

4. Trudy Dufault Q: More people are complaining about “net” winners vs. “gross” winners. The field is supposed to be equalized with the handicaps and instead seemingly some people are winning an inordinate amount. Suggestions have been made to “cut” handicaps by one stroke or two following a “net” victory. Is this something that we want to pursue? One member (name withheld) in particular has won 72% of the events that she has entered. Her usual partner in events where a partner is required has won 62% of the events that she has entered. This in particular has caused an

inordinate amount of complaints.(noting that none of these complaints have been formal just in passing conversation)

Karen Recore- comment- Suggestion to host more "Blind Draw" style events to minimize this particular issue. It was discussed we held one such event last season and the participation was low-most like to play with their friends.

Wrap up: Suggestion made by Kris Kennedy to table issue until off-season when a full analysis can be made and a decision formally is made part of bylaws regarding how to adjust handicaps when seemingly a person is gaining an unfair advantage with the GHIN handicap system in our events.

Second Motion made by Pat Dickson to develop a written policy over the winter months to safeguard the rights of OSWGA players. At this time, no cuts are going to be made this season based on "exceptional tournament play". President Booth added tabling the discussion is fine but we may need to cut players and can't say "no cuts" are to be made for the rest of the season as there may be instances where this needs to be done in the ensuing tournaments and we need to be able to do so if need be.

2. Rules on the Course- There have been complaints regarding players telling fellow players what they perceive to be the correct rule at hand for a particular situation and then being incorrect. Some players are stronger than others in terms of expressing their opinions as to their belief of the rule at hand and have caused their fellow players to rely on the incorrect opinion to their detriment.

Kathy Mis and Kris Kennedy both suggested that if there is ANY confusion as to a ruling, the proper protocol is to play two balls from that position and get a ruling at the end of the round regarding the correct way to have handled the situation at hand. Kathy and Kris offered to write a letter to the Membership regarding this policy as a reminder. The letter will be posted on the OSWGA website if the Board decides to pursue.

Discussion ensued as to "complaints" regarding this issue and the multiple winners issue. If a member is unwilling to make a formal complaint as opposed to verbalize to one individual-asking their name to be withheld-how should the "complaint" be handled?

3. Match Play- Discussion ensued about allowing players to finish unfinished holes once a match is over. For example, Pawtucket has said they wouldn't mind if our players did so. Problems ensue when this is done. Continuing to play can slow up the remainder of the field. In an event like Pawtucket, in past years, victorious players were waiting for another match to conclude so that winners and prizes could be announced, as scoring could not be completed. The players on the course in that final match were waiting to finish their round due to a group in front of them continuing to play when their match was formally over slowing play.  
Per USGA, it is not up to the Course, it is up to the committee- USGA rule that the committee can adopt as part of their rules of the competition that players come off the course once their match is over.
4. Attendance at Board Meetings-Per by-laws Committee Chairs &Members do not have to attend all Board Meetings of the OSWGA .They are to attend

when specifically asked by the President. That said, the board would like to see more frequent attendance of chairs and committee members.

5. Scholarship Review- There were 7 Applicants for Scholarship and all 7 were granted a \$900 scholarship. Chair Vicki Johnson and her committee completed the review of the applicants and provided a list of name; scoring results based on many factors including GPA & community service. As a side note, Karen Recore asked why we weren't going to be raising additional monies at the Banquet towards the Scholarship Fund via raffles etc. as we had decided at previous Board Meetings not to do so for this anniversary year.. Pat Dickson explained to the group that we have a healthy Scholarship Fund currently and this year's Banquet is to be a celebration with no fund raising associated with it. She also noted that at Private Courses where we play, ½ of any proceeds go into the fund as well as \$5 per membership fee.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 26, 2014 Board Meeting were reviewed and they were approved as presented.

A member had posted a comment on the web asking why the agenda wasn't posted for this meeting until 1 day before citing that she would like to know ahead of time what was going to be discussed and felt other members might be more likely to attend if they also knew what was on the agenda. Discussion addressing the minutes not getting out in a "timely fashion" ensued and the idea of instituting a deadline for which the minutes must be prepared and presented to the Board for comments of 10 days prior to the next meeting was suggested. The current by-laws say minutes should be presented in "a timely fashion". It was also noted to change this wording in the next by-laws revision as Robert's Rules suggest this is too arbitrary a term.

President Booth will speak with Recording Secretary Liz regarding efforts to get the minutes out at least 10 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Booth accepted Meeting Minutes for June 2014. Dickson second.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer handed out the financial report from June and reported nothing extraordinary had occurred during that month.

Booth accepted Treasurer's Report for March. Dickson second.

### CHAIR REPORTS

HANDICAP REPORT: This topic was covered in New Business.

- WEBSITE: No issues to report. Members seem to be using the "Looking for a Partner" function on the site.
- TOURNAMENT  
Co-Chairs: A report was provided to Board Members regarding events at: Potowomut; Cranston; Foster and Laurel Lane.
- NOMINATING REPORT: No report
- APPEALS COMMITTEE: No report.
- RULES COMMITTEE: No Report
- STATISTICIAN  
COMMITTEE: No Report
- SCHOLARSHIP  
COMMITTEE: Report as noted was prepared by Chair Vicki Johnson  
Letters to applicants along with checks will be generated and mailed out by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- PHOTGRAPHY: Laura Davert, Cheryl Irons and Vickie Brown are assisting with taking photos at events and also posting them to the Website.

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**A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and all Chair Reports by Dickson. Moretti second.**

**BOARD VOTED to approve all Reports.**

- OLD BUSINESS: Banquet 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. – The banquet is scheduled for the second Sunday in November, 9, 2014 and will be held at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI.
- As discussed at a previous meeting, the Vice-president is in charge of the event and is considering various options in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of OSWGA. The focus will be less on scholarship fundraising for this year. There will likely be a raffle where rounds of golf at local course (donated) will be awarded. No gift baskets, etc.
- The thought is to give a special item to all of the Members of OSWGA to commemorate this special year. The frontrunner is a Shoe Bag with our logo to be given out at the Banquet. If members are not in attendance, we can either mail

the item to their RI Address –OR- gives out at the start of the next season. Pat Dickson is still working to secure this item(s).

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:20PM. There will be no meeting in August 2014. The next meeting will be after the Tournament at Midville Golf Club in West Warwick, RI scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Moretti  
Corresponding Secretary