

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

DATE: September 10, 2014

TIME: 2:53 PM

PLACE: Midville Golf Course
West Warwick, RI 02871

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Trudy Dufault	Co-Founder
	Jackie Booth	President
	Pat Dickson	Vice-President
	Luanne Googins	Treasurer
	Liz Duguay	Recording Secretary
	Chris Anderson	Tournament Co-Chairperson
	MaryAnn McLaughlin	Tournament Co-Chairperson
	Jenn Moretti	Corresponding Secretary

GUESTS: Chris Trenholme (Handicap Chairperson), Cindy Donald, Maureen Mossey, Vickie Brown, Laura Davert (Photography Co-Chair), Sandra Harper, Erin Mernick, Vickie Moretti, Peg Cherenzia, Shirly Booth, Karen Recore, Joan Foberg, Sue Fontaine, Linda Paolozzi, & Jill Rogers.

CALL TO ORDER: The President welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 2:53 PM.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to the number of members present, the Board decided to skip many items and begin with "New Business" and asked if anything needed to be added to the agenda. Laura Davert, presently the Photography c-chair mentioned that she along with Vicki Brown and Cheryl Irons will be stepping down as Photography committee members. A request went out as to who would like to volunteer and Sandra Harper volunteered to work on the Photography Committee. Laura explained how they maintained the photographs and that memory cards will be available to hand to the next committee.

The President opened up the meeting asking if any members had specific issues, or comments they want to address and went around

the room proving the opportunity for everyone to speak: The issue of the same people winning and consideration of cutting handicaps was raised again.

Question: Since some of the Golf Courses have very little merchandise for prizes if other types of gift certificates could be considered instead using gift certificates from the Pro shops. The response was that the food and gift certificates purchased at each of the golf course offsets the costs charged by the golf courses.

JF - Question on how divisions are set up. Especially the Championship Division where sometimes a person with a 16 handicap is put into this Division along with single digit handicappers. It was mentioned that this is a frequent topic brought up throughout the season, Currently Divisions are set up by persons participating in each event and that handicaps are determined by the lowest handicapper in a two person event and the lowest two handicapper in a four person event. Another question is why not take the average of all players in team events. Chris Trenholme explained that you would need at least two people having a low handicap to be placed in the Championship Division and that most people usually pick their own team. If two of those players have low handicaps then they could be placed in the Championship Division depending upon the number of teams playing. It was mentioned that the same people are always winning

SF – Commented on what is this organization about. It's a matter of camaraderie and friendly competitive Golf. That's what this organization was founded on.

JF – Doesn't feel that a handicap of 16 should be placed in the Championship Division.

It was mentioned that some tournaments are set up for certain courses in order to keep pace or other course specific commitment, such as the Quota format at Potowomut.

KR – Asked if any of these team events are given USGA points and the answer was that only some 2 person events, no 4 person events

TD – Mentioned that handicap reduction should be based upon tournament index combined for tournaments.

An excerpt from USGA War on Sandbagging was read at the meeting which addresses manipulating handicaps and doing well

in tournaments and problems associated with obtaining statistically is one of the reasons why it is difficult to cut someone's handicap since there are many factors such as tournament formats etc. that come into play.

Maybe one of the ways to address the Championship Division is to have flights as tried in the past. It was mentioned that sometimes there's a disparity between the lower handicapper and higher handicapper in the same division.

Some members feel that some people are purposely stacking their team to increase chances of winning however most feel that they won't play with people they don't know.

SF – Asked; How do we bring more players to OSWGA. Maybe have blind draws when putting teams together, but again, most want to play with people they know.

PD – We have two or three competing issues, having to want to play with friends & wanting to win. The Board tries to find suitable formats so that members can play with their friends & play at nice courses. Asked the members to tell us what didn't work. Have to address the 10 stroke differential when mixing lower and higher handicaps.

SB - Asked if the OSWGA weekly events are posted as tournament scores. Answer- Only the RI State events and individual events are posted as tournament scores.

It was mentioned that maybe not everyone is posting their scores every time they play golf, especially when playing in warmer climate or for those who head to warmer climate during the winter months

JM – Golf is played as a game of honor. Are women posting their scores is an issue and no one has any control of that. Since the GHIN system as well as other handicap systems have peer review then people can check to see that scores are being posted and if an OSWGA member is not posting scores than those issues/concerns should be brought to the Board.

SF – As a Board how do you bring all members to play? Would like to see maybe one or two more medal play events.

The President suggested to email comments to the website on this issue. Asked what are people more concerned about. Divisions and how handicaps are established in each event especially scrambles and two best ball events. It appears most players like team events versus individual events.

SH – suggests that more team events be postable events.

EM – suggests that her handicap is high due to the difficulty of her course & when playing at other courses that are wide open and straight she scores better.

As far as having more flights in each division, then there would be less people winning in each flight since there will only be 1 or 2 places in each flight.

JM – suggests maybe doing away with winning and gift certificates altogether.

PD – Most of the issues mentioned will be addressed at the Board meetings during the winter months.

CD – one of the things that kept her from playing in RIWGA was playing individual tournaments.

KD – suggest a blind draw event, however only a small group signed up the last time it was offered. Some of the higher handicappers feel intimidated playing with the lower handicappers.

PC – Suggests that OSWGA shouldn't reward volunteers with free and that members should freely volunteer at the events. Trudy said that the gift certificates for the volunteers are one way to show appreciation for those that offer to help. Luanne also mentioned that since the board members reward themselves that we should reward the volunteers as well. It was suggested to just announcing the Board's appreciation of the volunteers should be enough.

SB – made the statement that the organization has come a long way since it first started.

KD – discussed concerns she has with a tournament committee member as a result of incidents occurring at 4 specific events. She discussed each event and referred to the incidents as being bullied

and that comments from this individual were unsolicited confrontational and adversarial.

PD – as the Appeals Chairperson, will take complaints under advisement as the Board has not heard similar complaints from other members. Maybe KD perception is that she feels she's being bullied since no other allegations has been made

LG – Also mentioned that some people have approached her about certain members being too aggressive.

Pat asked if there was anything else from the members to discuss and no one else raised any issues.

New Tee Signs – The Vice-President looked into purchasing about 100 T-signs with having the logo on one side and tee numbers on the other side. The approximate costs would be around \$210 and the signs will be wider and longer than the current ones so they will be more visible from a distance. Trudy made a motion to approve the purchase of the new signs, which was seconded by Jenn Moretti.

Voted: Board voted to approve the 100 signs as described above.

Non-Board members being included in Board email correspondence - Due to a previous incident, Comment was to ensure that only Board members receive emails regarding board issues and that if a non- board member is to be included in the email conversation, the rest of the board should be asked prior to the inclusion.

Pairings set so like players are grouped together - The issue arose as to why different divisions are being paired together when there are enough players in each division to be paired with players in their own division. For example a team from "A" Division being paired with teams from Championship division when these players could have been paired with teams of like divisions. The Tournament Director mentioned stated that if players request to be played with other players she honors those requests. Also that she feels she should mix division in some of the tournaments, so players have the opportunity to play with members in other divisions. After a short discussion, the Board agreed that players and/or teams should be placed in the same divisions unless the TD receives special requests to pair people together or if there are late

entries and the pairings have already been made. Someone mentioned that sometimes it is beneficial to pair people from different divisions and it was suggested that for next year to set up maybe one or 2 individual or 2 person team event in which players will be paired with plyers from different divisions, but that the Board will make an announce ahead of time so everyone is aware of it being signing up.

Non payer "Player of the Year" - since eligibility criteria for "Player of the Year" is by accruing USGA points and since Board members are at an advantage in being able to play in most if not all the tournaments because they do not have to pay for their entries, than they have a better opportunity to accrue points towards the Player of the Year. Currently Board members are not eligible to play in the Players Championship, but could still earn enough points to be 'Player of the Year' It was being suggested now that since they have the opportunity to accrue points quicker, that they also be prohibited from being the 'Player of the year' Some of the members also voiced concern that Board members not be eligible as the USGA State Team Representative . A motion was made by Trudy that in order to be eligible for" Player of the year" they must be a paying member and any non-paying member not be eligible. The motion was seconded by Jenn .

Voted: to prohibit any non-paying or Board member from being selected as the "Player of the Year".

SB – Asked who gets free tournaments and was told that the Tournament as Founder of OSWGA gets all her tournaments free, Board members receive 25 free tournaments and that Tournament Co-Chairs only receive free tournaments for those they are responsible for overseeing the event.

Emergency Cellphone Use – An incident was discussed that someone used a cellphone regarding a call she received about a death in the family. The person returned the phone call, but still completed her round and did not leave the course after receiving the call. Cellphone policy, including emergency use is outlined in the OSWGA handbook, etc. carts breaking down, medical emergency are some examples of emergency use. All parties in the foursome were contacted and explained the policy.

Elections – The Vice-President will send out the banquet invitations by the end of the month, which will include information on the upcoming elections and names of candidates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes received in a timely Manner – President and Recording Secretary will work it out.

Repeat Tournament Winners – The Tournament Director mentioned that upon researching tournament scores and the winners that some are playing 1-6 strokes lower than their handicap and that Tournament Score (Tournament Index) Events should also be part of the equation when looking at someone's Handicap Index

EM – Stated that people aren't aware of what scores are being posted and that in Match Play people who don't complete the hole may not be writing or posting their true scores.

It was mentioned that people may not posting all scores and that there be a process in place for members to approach the Board to check to make sure members are posting scores accordingly.

SH – raised the issue about OSWGA receiving mail before the required deadline, in order to be eligible for Player of the Year points however she was told that her application was received after the deadline and wondered what triggers lateness. Currently, the handbook treats tournament entries different (postmarked by) than membership applications (received by). It was suggested to clarify that policy to postmarked by for both in the handbook so members will have a better understanding of the requirements.

Banquet – Vice-President will meet with West Valley Inn about the food choices and will have invitations sent out by the end of September.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the July 21st meeting were sent out for review via email, and amendments were made at that time.

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the July 21st meeting as presented.

VOTED: to approve July 21st meeting minutes.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Handed out July and August monthly financial report and an updated "Tournament Report". Stated that the Scholarship

awards handed out are reflected in the August's monthly report. There was loss of revenue from the tournament held at the Back Nine, due to cancellation and problems with payments from participants.

She mentioned that several of the Scholarship recipients sent "Thank You" letters and read letters to the audience from Kelsey Hayward, Lauren Della Grotta, Angelica Muscatelli and Jessica Grasso. Katie Um also sent a "Thank You" Letter regarding the donation sent by OSWGA to assist in expenses for her trip to the Invitational Tournament. The Treasurer also mentioned the association's insurance policy is due and was contacted by the insurance company seeking to carry the policy for a three year period instead of two years which would lock in the price for 3 years by \$1150 per year.

A motion was made to lock in the price of the association's insurance for 3 years.

Voted: to extend the insurance policy to a three year period.

CHAIR REPORTS:

HANDICAP REPORT:

No written report.

TOURNAMENT
CHAIRPERSON:

The following report were presented and discussed.

- ▶ Crystal Lake – everything went well. Food was good.
- ▶ Alpine CC – everything was okay.
- ▶ Laurel Lane – Other than the irrigation installation work going on, course was okay.
- ▶ Back Nine – the fact that just about everyone who played won something was quite popular. Overall the Price has increased and maybe consider offering \$5.00 towards food or don't include food and players will be responsible for food costs on their own. In order to make a profit the entry fee may have to increased.
- ▶ Midville GC- food was good. Course was good.
- ▶ Fenner Hill – everything was good.

WEBSITE: No Report

STATISTICIAN: No report

TOURNAMENT
DIRECTOR: Discussed looking into some new courses, Acushnet River Valley for next year. Currently working on securing courses for next year.

A motion was made to accept the Tournament Director's Report and all Chair reports as presented.

VOTED: to approve the Tournament Director's Report and all the Chair's reports.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM. Next meeting will be held shortly after lunch at the Warwick CC tournament on October 14th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Duguay
Recording Secretary

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