

News From the Fringe

March 1, 2012

President's Corner

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the MWPGA Publinks Championship and the 35th anniversary of the Senior Publinks Championship. We've come a long way from our one championship beginning in 1948 to the five that we offer today!

Your MWPGA Board has been hard at work this winter planning for next summer's championships. We have some great venues that we will be playing this year – Emerald Greens (Hastings), Brookview (Golden Valley), Pebble Creek (Becker), Baker National (Medina) and Albion Ridges (Annandale). Our plan is to post all registrations forms on our website by April 1st. Notice to competitors with proposed yardages for each course will be posted on the website early in the season for those who want to play practice rounds using the tees we will most likely play. Check out our website for all the news of the MWGPA, including last year's results and photos of the champions! www.mwpga.org

There will be many volunteer opportunities at this year's championships. This is a great way to get involved for anyone who might be interested in some day serving on the Board of Directors. There will be forms available at the spring meeting to complete with your preferred championship and volunteer area. They will also be posted on the website or you could contact Terry Klatt, our volunteer coordinator this year at: tklatt@comcast.net

In this "non winter" that we have had this year, I hope it's a sign of an early spring! I look forward to seeing you at our spring meeting on Saturday, April 21st at 8:30 AM at Brookview Golf Course, in Golden Valley. There will be an opportunity to play golf after the meeting. This would be a great chance for a practice round for the Match Play Championship to be held at Brookview in June.

Plan to play in one or more of our championships in 2012! Fairways and greens to all!

What's New in the MWPGA for 2012?

Our **newsletter** will only be available online at our website is the biggest news of the 2012 championship season. This will enable us to save significant money in printing and postage. If you haven't already book marked our website, www.mwpga.org, into your computer, now is the time to do it. You will want to check out our newsletter link throughout the year. Our plans are to have news posted every 2 months. E-mail reminders to our league representative and participants will occur to remind you when a new online newsletter has been posted. Watch for these! If you know of participants who do not have internet connections let them know to give us a call and we will mail to them copies of the articles in our online newsletter.

We have not had to raise our **registration fees** 9 years. In that time we have seen some considerable increases to our administrative expenses. Some of the key areas have been when we provide food at championships and green fees. The Board of Directors felt it was time to raise the registration fees. For our two state championships, Publinks and Seniors, where we provide a meal or a social event, we have increased the fees from \$90 to \$95. For our Match Championship, where half the field is given three rounds of golf, we also increased the fee to \$95. For our partnership events, the Four-Ball in May and the Team Club in September, we have held the fee at \$90 per team, or \$45 per person. To raise the registration fees was not an easy decision for your Board of Directors to do, but with increased expenses coming our way we felt it was necessary to do.

One key **tournament change** will take place this year. The MWPGA will be offering a Senior Net Flight(s) at the **Publinks Championship** at Pebble Creek. There is thought that this flight(s) may plan a shorter course than the Championship. Players 50 and over who opt to play in a Senior Flight will be paired by handicaps. For those seniors who still like to play in a stroke play championship, not net, enter the open division of the Publinks, not the Senior

Division. For the **Match Play Championship** we will again be offering 16 positions in Championship Flight if there are more than 8 players registered with a 5.9 or less handicap index.

Online registrations this year will be a little different as we will start to use TPP Online, a new software program from the USGA. The key difference for our players will be that any debit or credit card may be used. You will no longer need to use Pay Pal. There will still be a \$3 fee as was previously charged. You will also need a user name and password. For any of players that participated in an MGA event last year, the Mid Am or Mixed Am, your user name and password for the MGA will be the same for the MWPGA. All three organizations, MWPGA, MWGA and the MGA will be using TPP Online. One user name and password will work for all three.

We have hopes of doing something for our **junior players**, but nothing has been finalized at this time. Junior players, 18 and under, are currently welcomed in four of our championships if they are members of a member league. They are excluded from Seniors, which has a minimum age of 50.

Those are the main changes coming this year. Watch our website for any other changes that might take place.

Get to Know - Two New Board Members

When someone is new to the Board of Directors of the MWPGA they experience a learning curve of the ins and outs of organizing and running our summer tournaments. This year's new members; Kathy Hubert-Wyss and Kari Haug have a lot of golf experience as well as a love of the game so it shouldn't take them long to pick up the duties and chores of our Board members. First let's meet Kathy Hubert-Wyss:

Golf is Her Passion!

Kathy first began playing while in dental school at the University of Minnesota. She was advised that it was a great way to network and relieve professional stress. Little did she realize how much impact it would have on her life.

All her leisure time is now devoted to watching, learning and playing golf. She and her husband do not take vacations unless they revolve around premier golf resorts. They recently returned from a trip to Ireland where, in the company of two of their friends who are former touring pros on the LPGA, where they experienced a half dozen of the top rated courses in the world. Kathy stated, "it truly was a trip of a lifetime."

They have a winter home in Arizona, which allows her the opportunity to work on her game and compete in tournaments year round.

Kathy's background as a collegiate athlete, and running in the U.S. Track and Field Nationals, helped imbue in her a spirit of competitiveness that still fires her enthusiasm to participate in all the golf tournaments that she can fit into her schedule. Playing primarily in championship and first divisions, she enjoys all the acquaintances she's made, and loves the challenge of trying to compete against many of the top ranked players in the state, or battling it out in the handicap divisions. Kathy says, "the common denominator is that the vast majority of the gals that compete in the tournaments have a lifelong love of the sport and many have become great friends."

Kathy's current stint on the Board of the MWPGA is just one of the ways that she is giving back to the sport she loves. "If you love golf, give tournament participation a try. I promise you that you will never regret it!"

Next, we'll get to know Kari Haug:

Golf Enthusiast and course designer!

Golf has been a lifetime sport for Kari, a sport that she learned to play as an 8-year-old on sand greens in a rural Minnesota field. From those simple beginnings, the game has taken Kari around the world, including a year spent on the vast links of Scotland, and finally back home to Minnesota.

While in Scotland, Kari studied golf course architecture at The University of Edinburgh – Edinburgh College of Art. She graduated with a Master of Science degree in golf course architecture and became a graduate member of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA.) She is owner and principal architect of *Kari Haug Planning & Design, Inc.*, a company specializing in eco-sensitive golf course design, and design that is specifically attentive to playability from the forward tees. She also has a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota.

In addition to designing golf courses to improve course playability for women of all abilities, Kari is founder of the "Minnesota Women's Golf Project". This project's mission is to increase the presence of women in the golf industry and on the golf course. She believes young women need role models and mentors ready and willing to open doors for the next generation, and she believes now is the time to do it. Kari is honored to join the MWPGA Board of directors.

With all the experience these Kathy and Kari bring to Minnesota golf both will be great additions to the Board of Directors of the MWPGA.

Match Play - Come Join the Fun!

Always a fun early season tournament, the MWPGA Board of Directors would like to cordially invite you to register for our Match Play Championship to be held on June 8th-10th at Brookview Golf Course in Golden Valley.

While most golf tournaments today are stroke play, the United States Amateur Championships are match play as is the very popular Solheim Cup, a biennial golf tournament with the best women golfers from the USA and Europe. If you've ever watched the Solheim Cup live or on television, you have witnessed first hand how entertaining match play can be.

In order to help MWPGA league participants become more comfortable with match play, members of the MWPGA board of directors are willing to attend your spring meeting or a league day to provide information about the differences between match play and stroke play. We'll help you become familiar with terms such as "halved," "all square," and "dormie." If you'd rather do some reading on your own, here are links to two sites that provide match play information:

<http://golf.about.com/od/beginners/a/matchplayscore.htm>

<http://www.usga.org/ChampEventContent.aspx?id=21474844633>

A Chance to Win A Free Entry to One of Our Tournaments

This year we will have a special promotion for our Match Play Championship. All players who enter will be eligible to win one of two free registrations for one of the remaining championship this summer, PUBLINKS, Senior PUBLINKS and Team/Club. All players who played in 2011 and register to play again in 2012 will be eligible to win one of the free registrations. All players who register to play this year, but did not play in 2011, will be eligible for the second free registration.

Brookview Golf Club in Golden Valley is the site of the Match Play Championship in June. The course was in outstanding condition last year. We would like to encourage others to be a part of this great golf facility and warm hospitality as a host club. Match Play is less painful as a player as one bad hole does not eliminate you from the competition. One can always concede a hole and move on to the next tee box.

We hope to see many of our players in the Match Play Championship this year!

New Golf Rules to be Implemented

There are a vast array of changes (revised or new decisions and amendments) to the Rules of Golf and Decisions on the Rules of Golf. It would be impracticable to list all of them here. We recommend that you visit the USGA website: www.usga.org for two (2) pdf files that you can download. You will find these files under 2012 Rules of Golf. One is called *Amendments to 2010-2011 Edition* (filed under Complete Listing of New, Revised, etc.) and the other one is *Principal Changes Introduced in the 2012 Code* (filed under Principal Changes). We will continue to maintain a link on our website to a Rule of the Month. (Look for a couple of major changes in the April Rule of the Month.) It will be updated just prior to each month so that you can refresh your memory on the rules posted last year.

We would like to continue to offer a program where Board members will come to your league to present mini presentations/clinics on the rules. We can tailor these clinics to your needs. If time permits, we would like to explore some of the differences in match play and how much fun it can be! Contact Ann Brilley or Pam Fitch to schedule a clinic.

Lynn Anderson to speak at MWPGA Spring Meeting

This year's speaker at the MWPGA Spring Meeting has a very interesting background and will provide attendees with some great information for improving their game. **Lynn Anderson, Level III TPI Certified, ACE (Certified) Personal Trainer, and co-owner of Totally Driven – the ultimate golf improvement center**

In 1996, after 13 years as a tennis professional, Lynn decided to see if she could have similar success playing golf. She really wanted to play on tour and knowing the fitness and skill level it would require, she found a personal trainer and golf pro to work with her on training and skill development. After a couple years, Lynn did make it onto the mini-tour based in Florida.

Understanding the important role equipment plays in being able to play golf to the best of one's ability, Lynn went through a major club manufacturer's club fitting and ordered some new irons. She was excited, until she started hitting them. Every shot went left, no matter what she did. So there she was, trying to make tournament cuts and she had clubs that she couldn't hit straight.

On the advice of her teaching pro, Lynn took the clubs to a true club-fitter and found out that the flex of the shafts was incorrect as were the lie angles. The new club-fitter explained to Lynn what was wrong with her clubs and what equipment she really needed to improve her game. The fitter's knowledge of golf equipment impressed Lynn so much that she had the fitter build her a set of clubs. Lynn's new clubs were as different as night and day from the ones she was using before. In fact, the first time she used them in a tournament she shot a 69.

Lucky for Minnesotans, after Lynn finished playing the mini-tour, she brought her knowledge about club fitting, training, and instruction back home to Minnesota. In 2004, she joined efforts with Andy Thompson and John Weedman to form Totally Driven – the ultimate golf improvement center located just east of St. Paul, MN. Lynn is the Director of Golf Fitness and Instruction at Totally Driven and has utilized her unique background as a player, TPI Level 3 and ACE Certified fitness instructor, and her mentorship under two Master Teaching Professionals to help golfers of all levels improve their games. She has worked with Andy to put together some very unique and highly effective programs for distance, putting, and overall golf improvement. According to Lynn, golfers don't have to be trying to make it on tour to benefit from golf instruction, personal training, club-fitting, and much more that Totally Driven has to offer.

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