



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

..... *Gary Sinclair*

It's just about time for us to tee-off – and we're ready! Your Executive has been meeting monthly since the AGM and everything is in order for a most satisfying season of good fellowship and a great variety of competitions – 16 at McCleery and Langara as well as five Away Games. It looks like a "best ever" season is upon us - particularly in light of your continued support in the management of our competitions.

As you review the 2005 Fixtures schedule you will notice the opportunity for increased involvement for all and, of course, the corresponding increase in the number of awards and prizes available. Unfortunately, our membership numbers, for a variety of reasons, have declined. As a consequence, so has our revenue – in spite of our fee increase for this 2005 season - thus creating a possible shortfall situation within our awards program. One of our management objectives this year is to achieve a balanced budget. Therefore, we must make an effort to increase our revenue. Three of the ways this can be accomplished are: recruitment of new members, a lowering of the age requirement for WPGC membership, and/or an additional increase of our membership fee.

Based on your overwhelmingly positive response to our telephone poll, we have taken a first step by officially reducing the club's age requirement to 55 years – effective immediately. We realize that this measure alone will not produce sufficient fiscal security and will continue to stress the need for additional playing members. If these measures do not prove to be financially fruitful by mid-season, we will then seriously consider the fee increase option.

Our primary playing objective is to enjoy our season and toward this end I return to my opening comments – we are ready! Our Captain's preparations have ensured that we are ready for the start of a banner season. Let's get at it and let the good fellowship begin! I look forward to seeing you all again at the *Opening Social* in the Arbutus Recreation Centre on Tuesday, March 29th, where we will officially get the season's opening ceremonies underway in preparation for our first official event – the *President vs Captain – 4 Ball Full Handicap* competition on Friday, April 1st.

Remember the sage words of PGA player Chip Beck –
"Pain and suffering are inevitable in golf. But misery is a choice."

Cheers!

Gary Sinclair

CAPTAIN'S OPENING ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERSHIP*Stan Lawson*

The Captain's Committee has been at work during the off season. The Calendar of Events has been updated and approved by your Executive. Our objectives were to:

- 1 Change the playing dates and locations so that those who missed out on playing in certain competitions last year may be able to play in them this year.
- 2 Certain events were very popular last year so both the T.N.T. and the Eclectic will be held at both courses.
- 3 Provide an equal number of playing days for mixed competition as well as play within your regular foursome
- 4 Increase number of Away Games to five. (Surrey and Fort Langley are in and Royalwood is out.) I would recommend



that we consider making at least one change of venue each year.

There have been some minor changes to the Competition Format and these have been made mainly to simplify the administration of the Club's activities done on Saturday morning.

The Captain's Committee hopes that the work done so far meets with your approval. However, if you wish clarification on anything that we have done so far or if during the season you wish to discuss any issue call me at 604-940-8876 at your pleasure. We will consider any suggestion and act on it as promptly as possible.

It is the sincere hope of the Captain's Committee that at the end of the season we served you well.

Captain W.P.G.C. Stan Lawson

Opening Social

Tuesday, March 29th

7 p.m. at

Arbutus Village Recreation Center

(Entrance is under and at the rear of Safeway at 30th & Arbutus. (Approach from south side of Safeway))

Opening Day at McCleery



Friday, April 1

President vs Captain

4-Ball full handicap competition

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Since the report given at the Annual General Meeting in November 2004 we have lost four members but gained four so our roster still stands at 80 active (or playing) members and 8 non-playing.

The four members that elected not to renew their membership for 2005 were *Jim MacFarlane, Terry MacDonald, Mel Endelman* and *Terry Kong*. All expressed regret for having to leave the Club and the enjoyment they had as members but for one reason or another they could not continue.

Our new members are *Karl Crosby, Farrell Hannah, Jim Trotter* and *Blair Trousdell*. We welcome them to our Club with the certain knowledge they will enjoy the friendly competition and social atmosphere that our Club offers.

The Club Executive is concerned about the declining membership which has reduced from the target number of 100 in just a year. Members are encouraged to introduce prospective new members to the Club and to call *Ray Dujardin* at 604-874-3727 with any specific names. We currently have 9 pending applications so there is much room for more!

To encourage new applications the Executive has reduced the entrance-age rule from 60 years to 55. This requirement was not a bylaw but a rule set some years ago by the Executive. A recent canvass of the Membership resulted in an overwhelming vote in favour of the change. In accepting younger members we will ensure that the standing commitment of members to participate regularly in Friday play is maintained.

Ray Dujardin

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

(604)

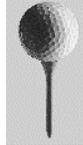
Karl Crosby	Port Moody	931-6184
Farrell Hannah	Coquitlam	936-7528
Jim Trotter	Vancouver	224-6741
Blair Trousdell	N Vancouver	980-2301

IN MEMORIAM

Long standing member , *Horst Dietrich* , passed away late last year in Mexico where he had moved. His playing partner, *Norm Watt*, sent the Divot Dust the following tribute.

“I had the pleasure of playing with Horst for ten years. We had a great foursome that included Charlie Barker and Neil McIntyre (latterly we added Ozzie Isfeld and Tony Appel.) At first I wasn’t sure it was going to be a pleasure but we soon found a common bond—we liked to take money from each other—which at times I found difficult because he played by the rules. The word “gimme” was not in his vocabulary. As much as I would say, “is that a gimme Horst?” He would simply say, “putt it or mark it.” Horst was the most competitive golfer I ever played with. He gave no quarter and expected no quarter—at least not until the end of the round. Horst was the best short putter I’ve every seen-10’ and under he was deadly. I will miss the give and take of our competitions, but most of all I’ll miss a good buddy and friend.”

Norm Watt



TEE-TIME COORDINATOR

Mike Alms (604-683-1086) has very thoughtfully agreed to continue as our tee-time coordinator.

BOOKING TEETIMES ONLINE

You will notice from the Fixture Card that we can now book online for Friday teetimes at www.vancouver.ca/park/golf. First step is to go to the website, follow the steps to create a password, etc. then bookmark the site for further use. We suggest one person in each foursome might want to give it a try. It takes some time to get registered so we suggest that you get set up prior to a Sunday night at 7 pm!

HISTORICAL NOTES

Gary Sinclair thought it would be of interest to our members to receive a list of our Executive Members from 1986 to 2005. A chart outlining this is on page 4.

. If you do not see your name on the chart, please give some thought to volunteering as and when vacancies arise.



your “dust” editor, Hans Stausboll asks if you every noticed

“that golf is a game in which the slowest people in the word are those in front of you, and the fastest are those behind?”

and

Did you ever wonder

WHERE GOLFERS COME FROM

