

SIMSBURY FARMS MEN'S CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 3, 2009

Attendees: Bob Christensen, Gerry Wetjen, Reg Zurinkas, John Brighenti, Jay Bailey, and Kevin Schultz.

Non-Board Attendees: Ron Patterson and Roger Antsey

Gerry Wetjen called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM.

Minutes were approved from the July Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Gerry Wetjen presented to the Board the August 3, 2009 Treasurer's Report. Gerry reported that we now have 245 members of which 35 are new members. We have an account balance of \$10,984.65 and the Scholarship Fund is at \$711.94. .

Motion to contribute \$100 to charitable effort led by Mike Wallace was approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report was approved by the Board.

Committee Reports:

Membership & Communication: Board Member, Kevin Schultz presented to the Board survey results on other clubs' application form language relative to Board approval of applicants' membership. Essentially, 5 area clubs (Lyman, Rockledge, Top Stone, Tunxis and Stanley) do not require board approval of applications provided it meets their member count limits or residency requirements.

K Schultz also reported member feedback on cost of away tournaments and clarification of tournament formats. This material is attached to these minutes as Appendix 'A'

The Golf Committee took note of the inputs and will release an update on Event Formats prior to next season.

Golf:

Board Member and Vice President, Bob Christensen reviewed the format of the 2 day President's cup to be held on August 8 and 9th. Handicap audit is underway and being coordinated by Reg Zurinkas and the Pro Shop. The early reviews appear consistent as players are using the Equitable Stroke system.

The past weekend's tournament was originally designated as 'T' but due to challenging weather conditions, the 'T' will be erased by the Pro Shop.

Discussion on the Club Championship, named in honor of Ben Nascimbeni, Jr., centered on eligibility to play and individual handicaps. This year's event will be open to all members as in the past. There will be a qualifying event on Saturday, August 29th and the cut will be made at that time to permit play continuation on Sunday, August 30 and September 5-7.

Greens: No Report.

Entertainment: No Report.

Junior Golf Program: No Report

President's Report: Gerry reported that there is continuing discussion on a longer term plan for the course capital requirements.

Other Business:

A brief discussion was on Tournament Dates and Religious Holidays was raised and the Golf Committee will be asked to double check potential conflicts in the future.

Next board meeting scheduled for Monday, September 14 @ 7:00 PM in the Simsbury Farms Men's Locker Room.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:25 PM.

Submitted by: Kevin Schultz.

APPENDIX A

MEMBER FEEDBACK distributed by K Schultz at august 3rd Meeting

JULY 8 SFMC Update included the following request:

Over the last few weeks I have asked for input on AWAY golfing events. THE SFMC has usually scheduled a golf outing to an area course which we may not normally play. The June 5th AWAY Event was cancelled due to weather conditions and has been rescheduled for Friday, September 11th at Farmington Woods. The inputs have been few but I will share them below:

.....a reasonable cost would be \$60-\$100 for a good course

.....perhaps the Men's Club could subsidize the cost to keep the cost down

.....could a weekend date be worked out vs a week day

I am passing these comments on to the Board for discussion.

If this email prompts any other thoughts on tournaments or events, please feel free to forward the comments to me. Our group has 243 members and your thoughts are critical to maintaining the vitality of the SFMC. The Board is interested in your thoughts on the timing and formats for both the Senior Championship which was held in early June and the Club Championship scheduled for late August, early September.

These are the written comments that I received

I can only tell you what I have heard from other members...

-- too many tournaments

-- too much \$ for an away tournament

-- I personally think Farm. Woods would not be a choice of our members. I've played it a lot and it is a tough track.

In general, the feedback I hear is too many tournaments and too much money....and most people don't want to admit that

In years past the fee included food...I assume it does this year also???????If not it is way to expensive for most of our members (I'm not sure it still isn't to expensive even if it does include food) and on top of that the course is substandard)

I thought it (Match Play Championship and Qualifier) was great! A 9 hole match is too short. Having 4 winners was the way to go. Perhaps we can have the 4 winners play to determine the ultimate champion??

I thought the match play event being played this weekend was successful last year and was surprised and disappointed that the format was changed for the event this year. I don't know when the change was decided but I can tell you that hardly anyone knew about the change until this past Sunday. I attempted to qualify Saturday (unsuccessfully) and was never aware of the change.

I thought the rationale behind this event was so low and high handicappers would compete with each other. As I look at the four separate flights, this doesn't seem to be the case. It turns out to be same old, same old.....the format mirrors the flight championships.....very close handicaps.

As for input into the Club Champ and Seniors championship events, I'm not sure what you are asking for, but here goes.

I've participated in all these "divisions". I personally favor "match play" because I enjoy the "head to head" competition and it gives the higher handicapper an opportunity to defeat a lower handicapper. On the other hand if you went pure medal play it would be decided easier and quicker....and many clubs have gone this route. I guess the one format promotes more risk-taking and "go-for-it" play (match play), and the other format (medal play) promotes a more conservative game plan.

It's a matter of personal choice. Do you intend the same format to apply to all divisions?

I do believe you should let it up to the members to decide and put it to a vote of the membership....or take a poll.

Just a suggestion (or maybe the SFMC already does it and I just missed it) Could there be a description of the various tournaments posted somewhere online? Eg: I am signed up (I believe) to play in next weekends Member Member Round Robin. I have no idea of the format. Match? Medal? Team total score, best ball of two? Full handicap? partial handicap? etc.

I (K. Schultz) sent the following to Reg and copied 2 or 3 other Committee Members regarding The Match Qualifier and Finals Event

Hi Reg

Essentially, the comments were:

.....thought the tournament would have provided play amongst a group of people vs. just one day with one person and a second day in a loser's bracket...

...playing the 2nd day was kind of senseless...except for the \$\$

...apparently, the **low handicappers on the tournament committee** didn't want to play against high handicappers (this was a recurring theme from several people who came up to me on the course)

.....seemed like the program was **changed at the last minute** to satisfy certain people who didn't want to play with higher handicappers

...why were we put in flights...as the handicap system would have provided a level playing field and some of us high handicappers would get to play the lower handicappers

...last year, we played **a series of 9 hole matches** to sort out the winners

*My comment is.....*I (KWS) asked on 2 occasions during the week how the stroke differential between me ..a 20 and my scheduled opponent who was a 32 would be handled...and was told even up , no differentiation by the Pro Shop...which explained why there weren't any cards prepared for Saturday and then I was told give him 6 aside...That is MY experience so others were not just being whiners..

To say that there was MISINFORMATION and CONFUSION is an understatement.

I fully endorse a clear annotation to our go-forward schedule so that there aren't any questions relative to the format.

We have a terrific group of people at all levels (Board, Committees, Members) in the SFMC....and at the Pro Shop. I think we want to keep the communication open and having a back-up document on the website to address how events work would be helpful. This would explain format and state handicap % used etc.

I know many people have been around the Club for many years and aren't confused about a 27 hole medley but others, like me, need education...so let's get the words together. I did notice a printout at the bulletin board on Saturday which is close to what I am asking for and perhaps, that is a standing document which I hadn't seen before..interesting that it was placed there on this past Saturday

These comments were primarily verbal as I seem to be the new guy and people are ready to share their inputs since I prompted their feedback in the past 2 weeks. Let's just take the high road and ensure that I can play back an approach that will add to our communications vs. appear to be defensive...

Best Kevin

After writing this email, I further confirmed the apparent wide spread ignorance of our FORMATS....since in the 27 Medley, my group thought that alternate hit meant alternate hit....and realized on the second hole that the group ahead of us was having all 4 players tee off....we phoned the clubhouse to learn that we were WRONG and the guys ahead of us had the RIGHT scheme....we may have one misguided guy on the Board but my other 3 players were totally surprised at the true meaning of how we play alternate Hit at Simsbury Farms....let's get it written and communicated.