

# MAPLEWOOD Men's Club Newsletter

One of the largest, friendliest and most active golf clubs in the area.

August, 2018



## Men's Club Meetings – All members are encouraged to attend

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	September 5 <sup>th</sup>
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	November 7 <sup>th</sup>
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	January 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019

**2019 Banquet January 26<sup>th</sup>**

## THE PREZ SEZ;

It's been a fun filled year since our last newsletter. We have had a full schedule of events and participation has been great. Most if not all events have had 100+ players which puts us ahead of last year's numbers. And that brings us to a better number, for the first time in quite a few years our membership has reached the 400 plateau. With the increased participation I would like to thank all of you for doing your best with our pace of play policy. The length of our tournament rounds has decreased by almost 45 minutes per event. Now on to another great thing, the weather. Wow what a summer we have had up to now. July was one of the driest / hottest on record. This has made for great a playing season up to this point. With the nice weather brings a strain on the golf course and it shows. The greens crew has done an excellent job keeping the course in excellent shape, as there have been times when they have come out late in the day and hand watered some of the greens. And let's not forget the work we can do to help out by filling divots and repairing ball marks, also keep our carts away from the greens. The best thought on this is to roll your carts around the bunkers and not between green and bunker. Every little bit helps and will make Maplewood a better place to play. Enjoy the rest of the summer. Tee it high and let it fly and make a bunch of putts.

See you at Maplewood.

The Prez

## Men's Club Board Members

<b>President</b>	Brian Espe
<b>Vice President</b>	Jerry Bruce
<b>Sec/ Treasurer</b>	Dennis Maples
<b>Handicap Chair</b>	James Postma
<b>Tourn. Director</b>	Craig Johnson
<b>Rules Chairman</b>	Will Reynolds
<b>Trustees</b>	Wane Dallosto Dan Cabot



## From the Pro-Shop

We have enjoyed a great summer thus far with weather that has been more than cooperative when it comes to getting out on the golf course. The latter part of July saw record stretches of high temperatures, but thanks to the diligence of our crack Maintenance Staff the course has remained in the best condition in many years. To accomplish this we were regularly pouring in excess of 300,000 gallons of water a night through the irrigation system to keep the course lush and green.

There have been several changes and/or improvements around the course in 2018. One of the most notable of these is the increased density of the fairways. This is the direct result of a change Steve Meyers and his crew made in the type of fertilizer used on the fairways. For the last 3-5 years we have been using a liquid product. As a result of Steve's research, a new granular product was introduced this spring and will be going down again in the coming weeks. This, coupled with the sanding by the Ladies and Men's Club members, has made a significant improvement in the fairways. Another change are the "cut-outs" made around several of the greens allowing players additional options when trying to get up and down to save par. Hopefully, this has made it easier for many of our patrons, and has helped in speeding up play. Last fall we did some excavating along the left side of hole #2, and widened the landing area, thereby providing a bit more of a bail-out should you miss the green on that side. The crew has also been performing regular maintenance in trimming trees up along fairways to allow for a decent chance to get your ball back in play, potentially save strokes and speed up play. Finally, one of the major projects this summer was the leveling and enlarging of the tee box on the fourteenth hole. The new sod was laid on July 30 and the plan is for the tee to be opened (*at least for limited play*), for the upcoming Club Championship. We have several projects planned for the fall to continue to improve the drainage around the course and make it possible to continue to have carts on our fairways earlier and longer than some of the other facilities in the area.

All these projects would not be possible without your support and patronage. We recognize you have a choice where you play golf, and we hope it continues to be here at Maplewood. Mike Toll and his staff do everything possible to make each and every Customer welcome when you enter the Pro-Shop. Hopefully they are greeting as many of you as possible by name. If you are new to the Club this year, take a moment to introduce yourself to the staff so they can get to know you and make your experience here just that much better.

Thank you for your business!

Doug Mills

## Rule Golf With Golf Rules

After the wet weather we've endured this winter, our hot weather now doesn't seem that bad. It can always be worse. We could live in another part of the country where nature isn't, hasn't been as nice as what we have. Sure makes our golf games seem more tolerable. OK, maybe that's a stretch.

First, congrats to Bryon Schultz and Dan Eisel, winners of our \$35 book award for coming out on top of the 1<sup>st</sup> two Rules Quiz's of 2018.

All entries are winners for learning more about this crazy game we play. Hope to see more 'winners' entries in future Rules Quiz's.

Common questions I've heard, endured, lately have been about getting relief from hazards and immovable obstructions.

From my research and contact with USGA Rules Officials, I see two different sets of relief. One with regards each for the player and the ball.

For the player it's no penalty relief for stance, swing, and line of flight. (sprinkler control boxes, sprinkler heads, cart parts, etc.). Relief (full relief & one club length) MUST be had for all of these parameters. Else repeat your process until these are met. That is unless you want to add 2 penalty strokes.

For the ball, relief from a hazard, it must come to rest in play. Not in the hazard you're taking relief from. (Two club lengths from point of entry, no closer to the hole or keeping the entry point in line with the flag and go as far as you feel is fit. Else re-do the process) There is NO relief for your stance! You may stand in the confines of the hazard.

Any questions, issues with golf rulings, do let me know. I'm here to help clear these up. I relish the challenge and always look for new rule quiz items.

Lets all finish this season on a strong note, playing our best games of the year. There's lots of golf left.

Will Reynolds

MWMC Rules Chairman

## The Sandbagger In Golf: What It Is, Why You Should Never Be One

In golf, "sandbagger" is a derogatory term applied to golfers who cheat by pretending to be worse than they really are. Think of how a golf bet often begins: With one golfer asking another, "How many strokes are you going to give me?" A sandbagger will misrepresent his playing ability (claiming to be worse than he really is) in order to get more strokes than he deserves.

Winning a tournament or bet in this fashion is called "sandbagging." A golfer who has won by sandbagging is said to have "sandbagged" his opponents.

The term did not originate with golfers. Rather, it came to golf after originating in the world of street gangs and toughs. And it passed through poker before finally getting to golf.

The term can be thought of two ways, one a general usage and the second a more specific usage relating to golf handicaps.

### **The General Usage of 'Sandbagger'**

Generally, any golfer who misleads others about his ability level, claiming to be worse than he actually is at golf, might be a sandbagger. If the person is not trying to gain from that deception, no problem (he might not even be aware he is misleading others about his ability-maybe he just has low self-esteem or a sincere but incorrect view of his playing abilities). But a golfer who deliberately misleads others about his ability in order to gain in some way-to win a bet, for example-is a sandbagger.

In the golf lexicon, a usage example of this version of sandbagger is: "Don't bet with Bob - he's a sandbagger."

This usage of sandbagger is synonymous with hustler, and such golfers are also sometimes called bandits.

### **Sandbaggers and Golf Handicap Indexes**

In a more specific usage, a sandbagger is a golfer who artificially inflates his handicap index in order to better his chances of winning tournaments or bets.

One of the ways a sandbagger can inflate his handicap index is by selectively leaving out his best rounds of golf when he posts scores for handicap purposes. Another is to, more simply, lie about the scores he is posting (claiming higher scores than actually shot).

In this way, the golfer drives up his handicap index. Then, when the sandbagger enters a tournament, he claims, for example, a handicap index of 18 when, in fact, his true handicap might be closer to, as an example, 12. In that way, the sandbagger has just bought himself six extra strokes off his net score, and improved his odds of winning his flight or the tournament.

This form of sandbagging is also known as "handicap building." As an example of how the term is used, one golfer might say of another golfer known or suspected of sandbagging, "Bob sandbagged his way to the second-flight championship last year."

A sandbagger is considered by many to be the one of the lowest forms of golf cheaters. Sandbaggers are, at base, cheaters and hustlers. Golfers who are found out to be sandbaggers are often ostracized and always looked down upon. Sandbagging can lead to the end of friendships and even to a golfer getting booted out of a club.

## **Pace of Play**

In 2018, a pace of play penalty was initiated for golfers that did not meet the criteria of completing the round in under four hours and thirty minutes or finishing greater than fifteen minutes behind the group in front. The pace of play has been great this year. Rounds are averaging under the maximum of five and a half hours.

The threshold time of four hours and thirty minutes assumes that you are playing each hole in fifteen minutes.

Some recommendations for keeping your pace of play under the limit:

1. Verify that you are under the fifteen minutes for each hole
2. If you have doubt where your shot went, then hit a provisional ball
3. Help the members of your foursome by tracking each shot
4. It is better to keep up on holes 1 – 15, than sprinting holes 16 – 18

## **Tournament Participation**

The 2018 tournaments have been averaging close to 100 golfers each tournament. The field days have been consistently well attended this year.

## **Weekly Competitions**

The weekly competitions are held either every week or every two weeks depending. Entry fee is \$2 each time you play. When you pay your \$2, please make sure that you write your name and handicap on the signup sheet.

The weekly competition rules are being reviewed by the tournament committee. The rules will be updated and added to a new weekly competition notebook. This notebook will be available in the fall.

## **Email Update**

For the past three years, emails have been sent from a website called eClubhouse. It was noted that some members were not receiving emails from eClubhouse. In May of this year, emails were moved to Golf Genius which is more reliable in email delivery.

Craig Johnson

Tournament Chairman