

2022-2023 MAPLEWOOD MEN'S CLUB BOARD

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THE PREZ SAYS...

For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I grew up in Kent, live in Seattle, have a wonderful wife, will become a first-time dad in July, work for Microsoft, and I have been a member at Maplewood for 27 years. That said, I never imagined writing a newsletter article as the Club President...

When I joined the Club in 1995, I was greeted outside of Charlie's by the timeless smile of Mr. McCaffrey, who handed me my first GHIN Card (36.2 Index). He then walked me down to the old practice green below the Pro Shop (now the 16th tee) and introduced me to Mr. Youngquist, who welcomed me with a warm and humble handshake, as if I belonged in the Club. As a 12-year-old kid, I had no idea joining the Club would have such a significant impact on my life.

During my teenage years, I looked up to the character examples set by Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Youngquist; learned to love golf with Kurt Brandell, Jim Vickery, Shane Schulke, Steve Opacich, Terry Gangnes, and Andy Richards; and grew up admiring the games of Greg Kump, Jeff McKenzie, Gordy Bentler, Ryan Heidy, Steve Gamba and Brian Espe, who always seemed to be at the top of the leaderboard. These men, and so many others in this Club, have been very influential in my life.

One constant since the day I joined was the Club President... Brian Espe. I had the great privilege of honoring Brian with the Club's first-ever "Distinguished Service & Lifetime Achievement Award" (DSA) at this year's Banquet. Brian served as the Club President for 31 years. During his tenure, the Club grew into one of the largest, most active memberships in the Northwest, serving as the "Home Club" for more than 3,000 unique members and hosting more than 500 golf tournaments in his time as President.

Needless to say, the Club would not be the same without the immeasurable efforts and the countless hours Brian spent serving the Club. In addition to honoring Brian with the first-ever "DSA", the Board also re-named one of our largest annual events to memorialize his legacy and service. I hope all of you who play in this year's "Espe Championship" in June – formerly known as the "2-man, 2-day" – will say "thank you" to Brian for his 31 years of service as Club President.

It is impossible to 'fill the shoes' of such a legend. Instead, I can simply hope to continue the long history of the Club, help retain existing members by hosting great events, and grow the membership by providing a refreshing experience new members cannot find at any other Club.

We have tried some new things at events this year and have received a great amount of positive feedback. We will be introducing some additional things, including online tournament registration and eventually electronic payment, in the coming months. We will do everything we can to be inclusive and ensure all of our existing members are able to continue participating in events. We simply ask for your patience, willingness to try new things, and most importantly – please provide feedback and reach out to the Board and me with questions, concerns, or requests for assistance.

As we head into peak season, please remember to thank:

- Steve Meyers, Kirk Gleason, and the Pro Shop staff;
- Tim Marrapodi and the Maintenance Crew; and
- John & Barbara Parks and ALL of the RiverRock team members

Without their continued support and partnership, the Men's Club would not exist as we know and love. Too often it goes unseen and unknown, but ALL of these people make great effort to serve the Club and help all of us have a great experience at Maplewood.

In a similar vein, I would also ask people to thank the other seven gentlemen who volunteered to serve on the Board the next two years. I have learned first-hand the last few months, there is far more work involved than I ever thought, and this Club definitely does not 'run itself'. Please thank Bryon, Dan, Dennis, James, Ken, Terry, and Will for all they do to operate the Club.

In closing, I acknowledge every person reading this newsletter has a choice to join any club and play at any golf course. I genuinely thank you for choosing Maplewood and being a member of our Men's Club. If there is anything we can do to improve your membership experience, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to seeing all of you - and meeting many of you - this summer.

-Tim
Men's Club President
tim.pilgrim@hotmail.com

FROM THE HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL – KIRK GLEASON

Last month, we hosted the Youngquist Senior Championship – congratulations to all who played! I hope it was a successful tournament for you and thank you for participating.

For those of you who did not know the man whose name is honored at this event every year, please let me introduce you to Bob Youngquist...

Bob was a left-handed golfer, "One of the chosen few", a phrase coined by fellow lefty, Steve Opacich. Bob was a long-time member, he participated and won many Men's Club events, he had multiple hole-in-ones, and was a Men's Club Board Member, serving in the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for many years.

During the time I knew him, he played Maplewood Golf Course on Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, and all tournament Saturdays. He always walked, either carrying clubs, or pushing a cart, well into his 70's and early 80's.

He loved playing golf with his friends, his wife (Jill), and enjoyed meeting and playing with new people. If you had the chance to play with Bob, your view of humanity was forever changed, as he was a true gentleman. Bob possessed characteristics such as kindness, honesty, magnanimity, and authenticity. These are traits, I believe, perfectly describe a golfer who respects this great game.

He and Jill were both marshals at Maplewood for many years. Every shift, Jill would bring cookies for the guys playing on Wednesday and Sunday... not only Bob's group, but ALL the guys playing. Bob was diabetic, but would occasionally sneak a treat, as he was barred from eating them at home. Collectively, the Youngquists were great members, leaders, and ambassadors at Maplewood.

Sunday, August 14, 2016, was the Final Round of the Club Championship and Bob made par on the eighteenth hole. As he walked through the Pro Shop, on the way to the bar to turn in his scorecard, I asked him how the round went. He happily told me he made par on eighteen, then expressed he was hot and tired, and Jill was going to have to let him take a nap when he got home.

The next day, Bob Youngquist passed away in his sleep at age 91. He went out on top by making a four, a coveted par on the last hole he would ever play.

In 2017—during the Men's Club Banquet—the Senior Championship was forever renamed the Youngquist Senior Championship. This generous dedication, brought forth by Brian Espe and the Men's Club Board, was a very special commitment to the Youngquist family.

This is just a fragment of Bob's life, but a view of my relationship with him. My experiences with him pale in comparison to the many stories, adventures, lives he touched, and the influences he had at Maplewood. My mom never liked that I worked every Sunday—she a devout Catholic—she would rather I take her to church. I was in good hands though; my Sunday sermon became the conversations I had with Bob. He was interested in my life and always gave great advice. I will forever remember Bob Youngquist and thanks to this dedication, you can too.

I hope this helps you better understand who this man was, what he meant to me, and what he meant to Maplewood Golf Course. Moving forward, may we all strive to live a life of joy and respect for golf and each other, as this incredible man displayed.

Thank you for your support – continue to practice and play golf – and always make your three footers.

-Kirk
Head Golf Professional, PGA
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FROM THE MAPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE MANAGER – STEVE MEYERS

Thank you all for your time spent playing Maplewood, hitting range balls, and visiting the RiverRock!

We are looking forward to another great year at Maplewood Golf Course. Mother nature has not been as gracious as last year, with the wetter than normal weather pattern, but the golf course is holding up very well considering all the rain the last 8-9 months. I am hopeful dryer, warmer weather is just around the corner.

As most of you know, we had some movement this year in our Pro Shop staffing. Our long-time Head Golf Professional, Mike Toll, retired in January. After interviewing multiple qualified candidates, I am pleased to say we promoted our very own Kirk Gleason to become our new Head Golf Professional! In conjunction with Kirk's promotion, we also promoted Chris Hughes into the Assistant Golf Professional position.



Both have been doing a great job in their new roles, bring great ideas, and they are both eager to help Maplewood in any way they can, moving forward.

In addition to promoting Chris & Kirk, we also hired a new full-time Pro Shop Assistant – Sean Baker. Sean may be a familiar face to some of you, as he worked at Maplewood about 10 years ago in a part-time position. Please help me welcome Sean back to Maplewood during your next visit to the course.

We have one additional entry-level, full-time position to fill, which is called a Golf Course Associate. The person in this role will work in a combination of maintenance and pro shop capacities. Recruitment has started and this position is currently posted on the City's website. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let me know.

The replacement of the driving Range netting is a major project we are working on in 2022. We are in the final stages of completing all the required paperwork and this project should be taking place this summer.

Lastly, after a 10-month wait, I am happy to say we finally received our new fleet of golf carts! Many of our old carts were on their 'last legs', so we are pleased to have fresh 'wheels'. They are here and ready to be rented!

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and team members at Maplewood Golf Course for all the work they do to help make this the best municipal golf course in the area.

Thank you!

-Steve
Maplewood Golf Course Manager
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FROM THE RULES CHAIRMAN – WILL REYNOLDS

Here we are approaching the sunrise of another season. After all those days of this past off-season, striving to be where we wanted to be, we have a new season to be where we hope to be.

Please get familiar with the Maplewood Men's Club (MWMC) Rules for Play on our course: Preferred Lies, Local Rules, Off-Season "Bunker Rule". Updates have been made and they are available on our website (www.maplewoodmensclub.com) on the "Schedule" page.

Carrying copies would be a good on-hand reference, if/when a decision is needed. Knowing and practicing the ruling guidelines in every round is a good habit to build in preparation for use in our competitions.

"Inside the leather" refers to a measurement. It's the distance from which short putts, in our casual rounds of golf, are commonly conceded.

When "inside the leather" first entered the golf lexicon, it referred to the length of the leather grip itself. Since grips on conventional-length putters are rarely more than about twelve inches in length, the original intent of "inside the leather" referred to putts of less than a foot in length.

Over time, it seems the distance has become the length of the putter or more. Out of fairness to others, in any competition you are in, it may be best to play to the original intent.

All of this said, please remember, putting out and finishing each hole is the rule for all Maplewood Men's Club competitions and tournaments. Please do not 'pick-up' or take that 'gimmie', even when "inside the leather".

As always, please do not hesitate to send me any rules or ruling questions. If I do not know the rule, at hand, I will gladly do the research and get back to you with the answer(s).

-Will
Men's Club Rules Chairman
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FROM THE HANDICAP CHAIRMAN – JAMES POSTMA

When the World Handicap System™ (WHS) was implemented in January 2020, three new safeguards designed to protect the integrity of your Handicap Index® were built into the system. Now that more golfers are seeing these features come into play, here are three things to know about each one:

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

1) The PCC is entirely based on scoring data.

Simply put, the PCC compares the actual scores made at a given course each day to the expected scores of the players who made them. If the number of players who score at or below their expected score is higher than anticipated, the course played easier. If the number of players who score at or below their expected score is lower than anticipated, the course played more difficult. PCC adjustments are applied automatically and clearly identified within a player's scoring record.

2) The more scores, the better!

For the calculation to take place, at least 8 scores must be posted at a course by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below – and the more scores that are posted, the more reliable the data becomes. The calculation also takes into consideration each player's Course Handicap and the Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® of the tees that were played.

3) When you post matters!

The PCC takes place at the end of each day, so only scores posted on the day of play will contribute to the data pool. With that said, if you forget to post on the same day, the result of the PCC will still be applied to your score when it is posted – as long as you post it to the appropriate date.

So far in 2022, 58 percent of scores have been posted on the same day – let's all do our part to increase that number! This is a pretty poor percentage, so please do what you can to post the same day you play.

Soft Cap and Hard Cap

1) It starts with your Low Handicap Index®.

A Low Handicap Index serves as the baseline for the cap procedure and is the lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player within the 365-day period preceding the most recent score in their scoring record. A player does not establish a Low Handicap Index until they have 20 scores in their scoring record.

2) The caps are applied automatically.

Each time your Handicap Index updates, the new value is compared to your Low Handicap Index and:

- If a 3.0 stroke increase takes place, the soft cap reduces the rate of upward movement beyond 3.0 strokes by 50 percent.
- If a 5.0 stroke increase takes place (after the soft cap is applied) the hard cap prevents any additional upward movement from taking place.

3) The Handicap Chair can override the cap – but only if necessary.

All of us experience a poor stretch from time-to-time. Typically, however, our underlying playing ability does not change significantly over a short period. So, a player's Handicap Index usually works its way back toward their Low Handicap Index. If a player experiences an injury or illness that causes higher scores and the cap(s) to be applied, the Handicap Committee at their home club can override the cap by adjusting their Handicap Index to a level reflective of their current ability.

Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)

1) A score that is 7.0 strokes or better than the player's Handicap Index is considered exceptional.

WHS research shows that a player who shoots an exceptional score is more likely than others to score at or below their Handicap Index in subsequent rounds. As a result, the ESR is designed to better reflect demonstrated ability and prevent a player from having an advantage.

2) The procedure is simple.

When a score is between 7.0 and 9.9 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played, their Handicap Index is reduced by 1 stroke. If the score is 10.0 strokes or better, their Handicap Index is reduced by 2 strokes.

3) The impact of the ESR diminishes over time.

When an ESR takes place, a -1 or -2 adjustment is applied to the most recent 20 score differentials in the player's scoring record. However, scores made from that point forward will not include the -1 or -2 adjustment – unless they are also exceptional – which allows the ESR to work itself out of the player's scoring record over time.

For more information or to learn more about the World Handicap System, visit www.usga.org/whs.