



Metropolitan Golf Writers Association

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

SEND IN YOUR NEWS AND NOTES

All members of the MGWA who may have items for our newsletter are urged to e-mail them to **Chuck Stogel** (chstogel@aol.com).

MEMBERS GET DISCOUNT FOR AWARDS DINNER

MGWA members have the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for our 63rd National Awards Dinner scheduled June 23 at the Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY. Member tickets are priced at \$125, just above cost and, if you do anything in conjunction with our organization, you should be attending our dinner. The dinner is the primary fundraising activity that we conduct, in addition to being the longest continuous — and often largest — such awards pageant in golf. Members may also buy an extra ticket for spouse/guest at \$125. Details for obtaining tickets are being sent to all members.

Headliners for our dinner this year include **Fred Couples**, Gold Tee Award; **Nancy Lopez**, Winnie Palmer Award; **John Feinstein**, Linc Werden Journalism Award; the **Blackwelders**, Family of the Year; **New Jersey PGA**, Distinguished Service Award; **Travelers Insurance**, Bing Crosby Sponsor Award; Knickerbocker CC, Club of the Year.

All members will be receiving Raffle Books in the mail in conjunction with the awards dinner. As always, our MGWA raffle tickets represent a great value in relation to the prizes offered. Priced at \$5 per ticket, or five (5) for \$20, top prizes include a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust watch, plus golf trips to Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic and the CuisinArt Resort in Anguilla. We urge everyone to sell and/or buy as many raffles as possible. Should you need more raffles, they are readily available from the MGWA office. Funds raised directly benefit our MGWA charitable beneficiaries.

Please join us on June 23 at the Westchester Marriott for a fast, entertaining, enjoyable evening — in addition to showing your support for the MGWA.

PLAY TALLGRASS ON WAY TO WESTHAMPTON

The MGWA Activities Committee is in the process of finalizing an opportunity to play Tallgrass GC on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 14, on the way to our regular meeting/outing scheduled Monday, Sept. 15, at Westhampton CC in Westhampton Beach, NY. Opened in 2000, Tallgrass (www.tallgrassgc.com), located in Shoreham, NY, with easy access from the Long Island Expressway, is consistently rated one of the top courses in New York State. The facility, with an East End-style clubhouse and multiple practice areas, occupies 150 acres of former Long Island farmland and has a private club feel. The par 71 course, designed by **Gil Hanse**, is a true links layout, featuring wide-open treeless fairways and well manicured greens, plus strategically placed pot and waste bunkers.

For those who wish to combine Sunday and Monday into an overnight prospect, the folks at Westhampton Country Club (www.westhamptoncc.org) have provided a brief list of lodgings in the area. These include: Hotel Indigo East End, Riverhead, \$154, 631-339-2200, www.hotelindigo.com/Riverhead; Holiday Inn Express, Riverhead, \$181, 631-548-10000, www.hiexpress.com; Hilton Garden Inn, Riverhead, \$189, 631-727-2733, www.hilton.com; Westhampton Bath and Tennis, Westhampton Beach, \$279, 631-288-2500, www.theresortatwhb.com. These four locations are among the closest to Westhampton CC, but there are many more lodgings within 20-30 minutes drive.

More information about Tallgrass and Westhampton will be included in succeeding newsletters.



NEWSLETTER

MGA REBRANDS MET NET TOURNAMENT

The Met Golf Association this season has rebranded the popular men's and women's events known as the Met Net with a new name: the MGA/MetLife Four Ball Championships (www.mgagolf.org/news/2014/april/fourball). The tournaments will continue as net better ball competitions open to "average" golfers with varying handicaps. Now conducted by the MGA Foundation, entry into the Four-Ball Championships requires qualifying on the club level before teams advance to sectional qualifying sites with an opportunity to compete in the men's and women's finals. This year's finals are scheduled June 30 for men at Fairmount CC, Chatham, NJ, and Oct. 2 for women at Towers CC, Floral Park, NY. **Joe Ruggiero** and **Paul Lieberman** will represent the MGWA's Quill & Tee GC in the men's sectionals; there were no women's entries this season in the Q&TGC club qualifier.

PEOPLE, PLACES, ETC

Howard J. "Howie" Munck has stepped down from the MGWA Executive Committee after a lengthy tenure, but remains as co-chair of our Activities Committee . . . Big East Conference individual champion **Ryan McCormick** of St. John's and Middletown, NJ, has earned exempt status for 2014 on the PGA Tour Canada circuit by tying for ninth at the Canadian Q-School . . . Red Storm coach **Frank Darby** was named Big East Coach of the Year after leading SJU to its first conference team title since 1989 . . . Putnam County GC in Mahopac, NY, and management firm RDC Golf Group of Monroe Township, NJ, have settled their lingering litigation dispute. According to the *Journal News*, RDC — which managed the county-owned facility from 2008-12 — will pay Putnam \$10,000 as part of the deal. RDC had been seeking \$212,149 in fees, alleging that the county's refusal to fix course drainage problems had led to a loss of at least \$300,000 in 2011. In a countersuit, Putnam claimed RDC owed it more than \$400,000. . . .
CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to MGWA Executive Committee member **Dave Anderson**, whose wife **Maureen**, passed away March 26 at age 82. A longtime member with her husband at Knickerbocker CC, Tenafly, NJ, Maureen was an avid athlete who participated in a wide variety of sports and community activities. Memorial donations may be made to: Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation, 333 E. 38th St., Suite 830, New York, NY 10016 (www.childrenscbf.org).

KNICKERBOCKER DRAWS LARGE TURNOUT

A group of 60 members, with 55 teeing it up for golf, gathered for our initial meeting of the season on April 28 at Knickerbocker CC, Tenafly, NJ, our largest gathering for a spring meeting in a few years. The club, which is celebrating its centennial season in 2014 and will be honored at the MGWA's National Awards Dinner on June 23, as our Club of the Year, was a most accommodating host featuring wonderful (and plentiful) food & beverage, a magnificent clubhouse and a very challenging golf course punctuated by extremely fast greens. Club manager **Gavin Inglis** provided the opening welcome while longtime Knickerbocker member and MGWA Executive Committeeman Dave Anderson provided a fascinating history of the club along with regaling attendees with numerous anecdotes (during a lively Q&A session) about his career, various athletes and events he's covered. (Next time you have the chance, ask Dave what he thinks about covering the Masters tournament).

Another lively Q&A session took place during the presentation by **Corey Consuegra**, Bridgestone Golf's director of ball marketing. Consuegra, who revealed that Bridgestone now is making balls in the U.S., displayed an array of company products. He also detailed Bridgestone's new Hydro Core technology and the benefits of custom ball fitting. During the morning session on the practice range, MGWA attendees had the opportunity to take Bridgestone's custom ball fitting test, and to receive a printout about their swing patterns and which of the company's balls would best suit their game.

Golf competition for the day featured two simultaneous net better ball events. The twosome of **John Zanzarella** and **Jim Krajicek** combined for a 9-under 63 to lead the Quill & Tee segment with **Paul Lieberman** and **Joe Ruggiero** finishing one shot back in second place. **Mike Beckerich** and **Chris Lane** tied for third at net 67 with **John Napier** and **Adam Balkin**. With Zanzarella and Krajicek not entered in the Met Four Ball qualifier for Q&T golfers, Lieberman and Ruggiero will represent our club in the MGA sectionals. In the MGWA segment at Knickerbocker, **Drew Greenland** and **Bill Fullard** led the way with a net 62; **Marian Castner** and **Lowell Schmidt** were second with a 66; **Mark Cannizzaro** and **Hank Gola** were third with a 69. Nearest to the pin prizes went to **Bill Vostinak**, **Jon Olson**, **Rich Skelly**, **Scott Simpson**, **Greg Kelly** and **Paul Lieberman**.

Upcoming schedule: **June 23**, National Awards Dinner, Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY; **July 28**, Baltusrol GC, Springfield, NJ (Q&T Club Championship; special guests: **Rees Jones**, Bobby Jones Golf equipment & apparel); **Aug. 25**, Tamarack CC, Greenwich, CT (MGWA Team Shootout; BirdieBox founder **Keith Bolognese**); **Sept. 15**, Westhampton CC, Westhampton Beach, NY (Q&T President's Cup, Q&T Member-Guest, special guests TBA).