

## President's Update

(Gary Cassita)

Welcome to the final installment of your 2019 MGA season. Let me start by conveying my personal thanks to the entire membership for their patience and understanding during a very trying year. Although we had many roadblocks thrown in our way this year you guys hung in with your BOD and made it a year to remember for years to come.

Even with the 3 months pause for the greens there were still some milestones to highlight. Another extremely successful Match Play tournament that crowned a new champion by the name of Tony Zeltmann. Tony went out and played 6 solid rounds with a pause in the middle to capture the championship who says he can't stay focused nice going "Z" congrats. Also new champs were crowned in a hotly contested MGA CUP, accolades go to Bob Deauvall and Greg Lindsay for their yearlong endeavor. The weekly games were also a lot of fun; the level of competition week to week is just phenomenal.

With regard to our new circumstances I implore all to hang in there the growing pains will subside and I believe our league will be the beneficiary.

So to close since I type this 2 days before Thanksgiving I would like to call special attention to few people; Keith Blankenbicker thanks for guidance to put me on right track for success in such a fun job, Bill Hagel for his tireless pursuit of equality and fairness, Rich LaBarbera for putting up with my incessant requests for emails to be sent, John Lane for not allowing me access to the check book, Bob Axelrod for just being the jack of all trades that you are, Ed Kosteva for constantly cleaning up after me, and finally Joe Rychalski with out his efforts this year the MGA would have imploded. So, guys the next time you see

one of these gents take the time to give them a pat on the back or better yet by them a beer they really went the extra mile for us this year.

So, until next season keep it in the short stuff



## From The General Manager

(Chip Smith)



Wow, it's hard to believe we have been at Cape Fear for three months now. I hope everyone is seeing changes taking place on the golf course. It was nice to re-open on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with new putting surfaces and all new sand. I don't think we could have asked for a much better grow-in on the greens.

All of the Winter Over seeding is complete now and the grass is coming up nicely. Since the seed has germinated, we will begin cutting back on the watering and try to get the course a little drier. We are completing a fertilization application that will further enhance the growth of the winter grass.

You have also noticed quite a bit of clearing in the wetland areas and around tee boxes and outer areas. The wetlands will help site lines for shots and the other clearing is an attempt to get the course back to its original look. The outer areas will be an on-going project, but so far there has been a great deal of progress.

Waste areas, fairway bunkers and greenside bunkers still need more time to compact, so please be patient with the new sand. The holes with the long waste areas will also still require more scraping to smooth out the bumpy ride.

As many of you may have seen, we are establishing a set of Senior Tees on the scorecard. The distance will be between the current

white and green tees with consideration for forced carries and length of holes. The game should be enjoyable, so choose the tees that allow you to reach greens in regulation and enjoy your round. Once you move to tees that suit your game, you will have more fun and you may even see you friends join you.

I want to personally thank everyone for showing confidence in us by joining the club. As many of you know, we started our membership drive in August and the response has been great. We started with 71 members and we are now approaching our goal of 500. As of Thanksgiving, I think we have 28 left to reach 500. Please help us pass the word that anyone who joins before December 31, 2019 will have his or her initiation fee waived. After then, it will be \$12,500.00.

With the increase in members, we will increase golf events in 2020. We will publish a first quarter calendar before the end of the year. One example of a fun event will be the introduction of our Cigar & Whiskey event. More to come soon, but know that we like to create fun events.

I will leave you with a quote I came up with years ago. *"I don't see a soul in this place that has a caddie with their name on his back. Relax and enjoy the game and especially the friends you play with. If you want to be serious, make sure it involves the pint you pick or the food you choose."*

Thanks for your support,

## The Forest

(Charlie Garavents & Chef Scott Euvrard)



Hello gentlemen, as the days are getting shorter and the temperatures getting colder, I'm sure everyone is anxious for better golfing days in the spring. As you know, Paul Hughes did an incredible job with the new greens and bunkers and Andy, Stephen and the rest of golf maintenance are keeping the course in excellent shape. I want to thank you all for your patience during this transition and I know after the dust settles all will run smoothly through out Cape Fear National.

For those of you that attended this years Men's Member Guest... a good time was had by all. I was able to take some action and group photos of all participants. I know it has been over a month, but I will let you know how to view and possibly print up the photographs.

MGA closing dinner is just around the corner on December 12th starting at 5:30. You will enjoy a buffet dinner with a garden salad, carved prime rib, chicken Marsala, roasted red potatoes, chef choice

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vegetable and dessert. There will be a happy hour from 5:30-6:30, which includes house wine or beer and a cash bar after happy hour.

We will be planning some member events in the near future, with some old favorites and some exciting new ideas. I will continue to be a liaison for the MGA and the membership in general, so if anything comes up, my door is always open. Have a great holiday season and the warm weather will be here before we know it!

### Pork Tenderloin Marsala (from Chef Scott)

Pork tenderloins are super easy to work with they thaw fast and cook fast. You will need 1 pork tenderloin cleaned and cut into medallions about two inches thick. One 8oz package button mushrooms or whatever kind of mushrooms you like. One clove chopped garlic and one shallot peeled and chopped. 1.5 cups Marsala wine 1-tbl beef base or one bouillon cube and 2 cups water. Dredge the pork medallions in flour and sauté in 2-tbl olive oil. Brown on all sides and remove from the pan. Add garlic shallots and sliced mushrooms. Sauté until mushrooms are cooked add Marsala wine and reduce by half. Add base or bouillon and water and bring to a boil and add pork back to the pan. Cook for about 5 minutes until pork is cooked through then add one tablespoon of butter and stir to melt and thicken sauce. Serve with pasta or potatoes and veggies. Awesome quick meal basically done in one pan.

## From the Editor

(Tom Stepnowski)

### **Pace of Play**

Mark Twain once said, "Golf is a good walk spoiled", I don't agree but it can become that when the pace of play is slow. For some reason there is something mystical attached to playing 18 holes in four hours. Frankly I believe it should be done in a shorter time but let's set four hours as the goal. That is roughly 13 minutes per hole. How can we achieve this and still enjoy the game and not feel rushed. I believe the credo should be ready golf. Once you have teed off and get to the fairway if you get to your ball hit it. You don't have to wait while one of your playing partner goes on information overload by looking at the GPS and then taking out his rangefinder for additional information before he hits. I don't believe most of us have that precise of control on shots that a yard or two will make a difference. Given that at Cape Fear we are often found in a cart path only situation, you can help your self here. I call it the three-club rule and sand bottle. Take the club you think it is one longer, and one shorter go to the ball with the sand bottle and make a choice. Hit the ball! Should you happen to hit your ball into one of the perilous places on the course and you can't find it. Remember you can only look for three minutes and then you must play the lost ball rule. Hopefully you hit a provisional when you saw it go in the perilous spot. Fear not if it is one of your favorite balls Bennett aka Buzz Levine will probably find it at some point and be willing to sell it to you. Back to the pace of play. Once on the green it makes sense to putt in the proper sequence. The ball furthest goes first and actually is allowed to continue putting into holed out unless in Match Play.

There your opponent controls the putting. If you are playing and are having a tough hole and you have reached your esc score pick up. No

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sense tiring yourself out plus it will speed up the play. Another thing to keep in mind you should be in touch with the group in front of you. As they hit their shots from the fairway, you should be on the tee and be ready to tee off. Slow play kills the game don't be a facilitator of slow play. Be ready and enjoy the game.

### **Some Random Golf Humor**

Three older gentlemen were set to tee off on the first tee when a buxom young blonde walked up and asked do you mind if I join you. They all nodded yes. They all proceeded to the first hole where she had about 20 footer for birdie. She announced if any of you boys can give me the read to make this birdie I will show you information that was never published in the Kama Sutra. The first old boy stood behind the ball and said left edge. The next guy doing his best Camillo Villegas look at the putt declared straight in. The last old boy walking with a limp looked at the putt from both sides of the hole walked up to the young lady and declared "Its good!"





December 2019

# Men's Golf Association Newsletter



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## Treasurer's Report

(John Lane)

MGA finances are strong despite the course being closed for 3 months this summer. The MGA lost a lot of weekly game revenue but we also saved money by not having as many beer or appetizer days while the greens were being planted. DIDN'T THE GREENS COME IN GREAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The MGA is hosting a beer and wine Happy Hour 5-6 pm prior to the December 12 Awards Dinner. This is all part of your MGA Dues, great food and drink. The MGA is providing wine at each table to go along with a great selection for dinner entrees and sides. The money awarded at the dinner was increased again this year and more people will be receiving money this year than last.

The MGA is financially sound with a safe buffer to carry over in the checking account to 2020. The award dinner, cocktail hour, awards given to MGA Members and wine with dinner - all provided by the MGA - budgeted at \$6,500. The carryover this year was a little larger (about \$2,000) because we didn't have as many appetizer or kegs days while course was closed. The MGA Board recognizes this and expects to schedule more keg days in 2020!!! Early indications are that the Membership Rate should stay consistent at \$60 next year.

Get in shape this winter and get ready to Rock It next year!!!

## Statistically Speaking

(Bob Axelrod)

Well, another MGA season is now in the history books and what a season it has been! We've had record-setting membership, a short season with new greens, very few CPO days and a new owner and new pros in the shop. Once again I will paper the walls of the clubhouse bar area with more stats than you would ever want to see at the Annual Dinner, but here's the highlights. But if I miss any that you'd like to see going forward, please let me know.

As I predicted back in May, we have more than 150 members for the first time ever! 153 MGA members and 40 new members! This is more than an 11% increase in membership over last year's 136 members. And our members are very active, too. We've played over 1,500 rounds and averaged more than 68 players per round, an increase of almost 15% from last year. Like last year, this is a higher number than previous years. The extra members paid off (literally) as players earned about \$6,500 in weekly game winnings even in a shortened season. And winnings since the new pros took over have been in cash, rather than credit book. I hope everyone picked up their little envelopes each week, but I heard that Joe has a very nice vacation planned with those that weren't.

The new greens are in and they are great, aren't they? But we lost almost 3 months of MGA play making this our shortest season ever with only 22 MGA rounds. But seriously, didn't you really like playing on the temporary greens over the summer? I know I got to practice my wedge play but putting was a bitch. The rye grass is now fully emerged, and the course looks great. The bunkers are in the best shape ever and you no longer need a stepladder to get out of the waste bunkers. The combination of great shape and dry weather has

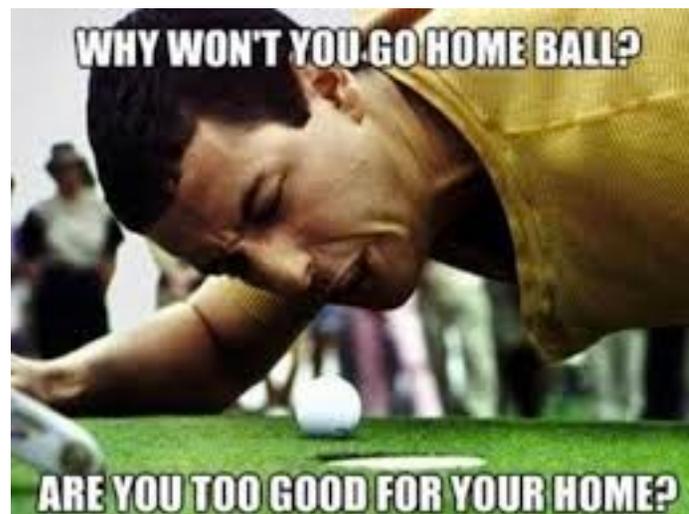
made this year a record-breaker with respect to cart-path-only days as well. After years suffering through 25%-30% CPO rounds, we've had only 3 this year on MGA days and I've tracked only 11 total on the 60 rounds I've played this year. Let's hope this trend continues.

We still have a very active Skins game with 92 members participating. But not having a shotgun start makes it even more challenging to collect and pay out skins money each week. Please remember that the \$5 paid at the pro shop before the round is for the week's game prizes, not skins. You have to seek out the skins collector in the bar after your round or risk being dropped from skins game for the remainder of the season. We've had more than 230 skins earned this year and have paid about \$4,750 in cash for those, averaging over \$20 per.

Our Ringer Tournament finished strong with the leader in the A Flight shifting frequently during the season and two leaders tied for the last several weeks. Those leaders were caught by another on the last day resulting in a 3-way tie for first place. Congrats to Andy Annesi and Tom Harting and Mark Schaffer for finishing tied for first with a very nice 58 Ringer score. In the B Flight, Mark Talbot led though the last several rounds and finished nicely at 62.

The MGA Cup Championship finished strong with a new playoff format and a shortened round count from 16 to 10 because of the course closure. Participation was best ever with 56 players versus 49 at the end of 2018. The new playoff format seemed to work well. Following the FedEx Cup playoff formula, the top twelve finishers in each flight played 3 rounds without a cut during three successive MGA events in October. Players were given playoff strokes depending on their regular season finish: top man had 10 strokes removed from

his playoff total, the bottom 4 men had 0, and the rest received between 2 and 8 strokes. Despite that, or because of that, there was considerable movement among the twelve players over the three rounds. In Flight A, Bob Deuvall who started the playoffs in 4th place (with 4 playoff strokes) overtook Ed Kosteva who started first with 10 strokes to win the flight by 2 strokes with a total net score of 205. In Flight B, Greg Lindsay started in first place and, despite a last-minute scare from a very strong finishing Gerry Sunderland, held on to win the flight by one stroke with a net score of 206. Bob and Greg will take home a very nice cash award of more than \$200 for their efforts.



## The Rules Freak

(Bill Hagel)

### Rules Conundrums of CFN's 6<sup>th</sup> Hole

At first glance, the 6th hole at Cape Fear National doesn't look that hard. A relatively short 328-yard Par 4 from the white tees, it seems like an easy par and a possible birdie. So why then is it ranked 7th on the card for handicapping purposes? Let's explore all the ways you can get yourself in trouble of the 6th hole and how understanding the rules may, or may not, help you navigate this hole.

Art, Buzz, Carmine and Dennis are playing in the lead group when they get to the sixth hole. Buzz is taking a while in the 5<sup>th</sup> hole rest room so Art decides to tee off. He tops his tee shot and dribbles it into the penalty area (PA) in front of the tees. Buzz finally shows up and hits a high fade right of the fairway bunker on the right side of the hole, it may be okay, or it may be on Cape Fear National Drive. Carmine pulls his drive left and it goes screaming toward the left fairway bunkers. Dennis crushes his drive but it's only 5 feet off the ground and it runs like it stole something out of sight after cresting the hill in the middle of the fairway. Here are the conundrums; what are the options available to each player:

- Art finds his ball in the PA, somewhat playable but with an awkward stance.
- Buzz doesn't find his ball after an 11-minute search, but he is not certain if it went OB.
- Carmine finds his ball buried in the front side lip of the fairway bunker.

- Dennis finds his ball 3 feet into the PA beyond the fairway.

#### Options:

##### **Art can:**

- Play his ball from the PA. Remember as of the beginning of the 2019 season year this is no longer a No Play Zone (Rule 17.1), or
- For one penalty stroke he can take penalty relief by going back to the original teeing area and tee the ball up anywhere in that area (Rule 17.1d(1), or
- For one penalty stroke he can take back on the line penalty relief by dropping his ball in a relief area created back on a line that extends from the hole through the point where his ball last crossed the boundary of the PA (Rule 17.1d(2)).
- Art CANNOT take lateral relief from the PA because this is a *Yellow* Penalty Area.

##### **Buzz can:**

- Trudge slowly back to the tee and play another ball (Rule 18.2); or
- Drop his ball in a relief area created from the point where he determines his ball was lost (ball reference point) to the point two-club lengths onto the fairway that is nearest to this ball reference point but not nearer to the hole (fairway reference point). He can drop his ball anywhere in that very large relief area (Local Rule E-5). Buzz cannot estimate his ball reference point to the point where his ball last crossed the OB boundary line (on the 6th hole defined as the public road) because it is not known or virtually certain that his ball went OB. He also cannot take unplayable ball relief because he didn't find his ball.

## Carmine can:

- Try to play his ball as it lies.
- For one penalty stroke, go back to the tee and put another ball in play (but why?)
- For one penalty stroke, take unplayable ball relief and drop his ball in a relief area in the bunker two-club lengths laterally from where his ball was unplayable, not nearer the hole. (Rule 19.2c, or
- For one penalty stroke, take back on the line relief on a line from the hole through where the ball was unplayable, dropping anywhere in the bunker on that line (19.2b).
- For two penalty strokes, take back on the line relief outside the bunker (Rule 19.3b).

## Dennis can:

- For one penalty stroke, take stroke & distance relief from the original tee (but why?)
- Take back on the line relief as described in 1c above.
- Dennis cannot play his ball as it lies because this is a designated No Play Zone (NPZ). He also cannot use the dropping zone (DZ) on the other side of the PA because his ball went into the NPZ on his tee shot.

After deciding what to do, here is the result of their decisions:

- Art re-tees and hits his next shot well but it rolls onto the bridge in the PA.
- Buzz swings and misses and picks up his ball.
- Carmine decides to take two-strokes outside the bunker and his next shot goes way to the right of the green. He never finds his ball.
- Dennis drops his ball on the fairway but tops his next shot into the PA.

Now what are their options?

## Art can:

- For one penalty stroke, use the Dropping Zone on the other side of the PA; or
- For one penalty stroke, try to take back on the line relief from where his ball last crossed the PA boundary (but why?);
- Art cannot play the ball from the bridge because the bridge is in a NPZ.

## Buzz can:

- Take his ESC and trudge to the next tee looking for balls along the way.
- Quit and go to the bar and drink. Note: If this were a real tournament where ESC was not the maximum score as in the MGA – Buzz would have to keep playing or be disqualified.

## Carmine can:

- For one penalty stroke, play another ball from where he hit his last ball (stroke & distance)
- For two penalty strokes, invoke Local Rule E-5
- Carmine CANNOT use the DZ as that is only for balls that go into the Yellow Penalty Area/No Play Zone.

## Dennis can:

- For one penalty stroke, play another ball from where he hit his last ball (stroke & distance)
- For one penalty stroke, use the Dropping Zone on the other side of the PA.

By this time, it's been 35 minutes, and the group behind them which is made up of Tom Handler, Ron Martin, Gary Cassista and Greg Lindsay is seething and ready commit quadruple homicide. And their call into the CFN clubhouse goes unanswered. But hey, that's golf in Brunswick Forest.

## World Handicap System (WHS) About to Go Live A Quick Primer

You may have heard rumors about upcoming changes to how handicap indexes and course handicaps are calculated. Well there true and they are about to go into effect in January. The USGA and R&A are making the changes to consolidate the six different handicap systems used around the world. Each is well developed and successfully provides equity for play locally, but each of the different systems produces slightly differing results. The WHS unifies the six systems into a single system, but what will it mean to you?

### Your New Responsibilities

The Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is changing. Currently there is a number of strokes cap on any hole played (i.e. 7 if your course handicap is between 10-19 or 8 if it is between 20-29). The new cap will be net double bogey on any given hole. So, for example, if your course handicap is 18 – you get one stroke on each hole, so all Par 4's are net Par 5s. Therefore, your ESC for all Par 4's (when your course HDCP is 18) is 7 – net double bogey. But your net double bogey on Par 3's is 6. If your course handicap is 1 – your ESC is straight up double bogey on every hole except the 8<sup>th</sup> hole (at CFN) where your ESC score is 8 (net double bogey). If your course handicap is 19 – then your ESC on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole is 9 strokes. This may take some getting used to but eventually the math should become easier.

You are required to report your ESC adjusted score contemporaneously (Buzz - that means ASAP after the round). This is because your handicap index will update every day (at midnight I assume). So, for example – if you play two days in a row, you could have a lower index on the first day than on the next day (or vice-versa)

### Behind the Curtain Changes

Handicap Indexes (HI) will now be based on the average of the best 8 differentials of the last 20 rounds. In the old system it was best 10 of 20 and there was a .96 multiplier, which will no longer be used. A differential for any one round is calculated by ESC Score – Course Rating x (113/Slope).

How they calculate course handicaps will also change, factoring in Course Rating and Par.

Old System: Course HDCP = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating ÷ 113).

New System: Course HDCP = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating ÷ 113) + (Course Rating – Par).

Applying Course Rating minus Par within the Course Handicap calculation will allow players to compete from different tees without any adjustment – unless a difference in Par exists.

There are other minor changes that I won't get into now, the most interesting being the statistical adjustment of a differential if scores on a given day on a given course are unusually high or low. But for now, I recommend just concentrating on your responsibilities as outlined above to implement the new handicap system.

Submitted by Bill Hagel



## The Game

(Joe Rychalski)

I will tell you ... honestly, I never ever thought I'd be doing the things I've been doing for the past few months for the MGA! But boy ... It's been a blast.

Really. Everyone has been so thoughtful and nice, complementing me on how well things are going, but I have been having a lot of fun trying to help make the MGA self sufficient and have gotten a lot of help from the Board and membership. Thanks! We were really spoiled in the past, but I think the recent ownership changes, and running the games ourselves will help to make us a stronger club in the long run.

We've been able to set up an Offseason League with 125 players, including over 30 newbies, that are able to sign up online and have available to them information and statistics for the rounds they've played in that league throughout the season. Bob Axelrod and I are spending the winter trying to see how much of what Bob has done manually over the years (can I get a round of applause for Bob) and have it generated from Golf Genius.

Throughout the season, we now have an Official Scorer for the round. Each week either myself, Bill Hagel, Keith Blankenbicker, Bob Axelrod or Bob Deuvall will set up the round, pairings, game and then audit, score and payout the winning's from that weeks round. The one thing we've all agreed upon as a result of all this work ... you guys can't ADD!!

All of these changes will help make the 2020 Season a lot more fun and interesting. We've got some ideas on new tournaments, events

(co-ed!) and changing up pairings for 2020. If you've some recommendations on other stuff you've done in prior lives, see one of the guys or myself at the bar and let's see what we can create together.

Hit 'em straight!

