

## SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER



# LIBERTY LAKE/MEADOWWOOD MEN'S CLUB



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - BY TIM NERSINGER

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Hello" and to welcome our Men's Club membership to another exciting year of golf. The 2014 year is upon us, and like the past 2 years I had the opportunity to start my year off in Bandon Oregon. I played all four courses on the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. This year was not like the last two. I played in 40-50 mph sustained winds, and gusts up to 85 mph. The rain did not stop, and it actually hurt your face when it hit you! Needless to say, these rounds were not used as warm up to our opening day at all. Matter of fact, I think I may have to go to "Golf Tech" to get my golf swing back in to shape, because golfing in that kind of weather definitely messes it up. With that said, the Bandon Golf Resort is a great place to golf and I highly recommend it as a golf outing.

Speaking of opening day, our opening tournament is April 12<sup>th</sup> at Meadowwood. It is an 8:00 shotgun start. This year Paul Halttunen has put together an exciting tournament schedule. There are ten tournaments in which four are Majors (Trophy tournaments). Speaking of Major tournaments, the Club Championship is going to be played on both courses again. It just makes sense that the club champion of the LL/MW Men's Club should be someone who masters both courses, plain and simple. A BIG thank you to Bob Scott and Kit DeAndre for agreeing to this.

I would like to thank you all for our quicker rounds last year. I believe the majority of the rounds were finished in 4 ½ hours or faster. But as a reminder, we still need to be conscientious of "Pace of play". I am not going to sit here and list ways to "speed-up play" as there are too many to list. You can always "Google" it. You will be surprised on what you find. I personally think our tournament rounds should be able to be completed in 4 ½ hours or quicker. Remember, the tips you will find have nothing to do with rushing your play, but rather with simply being ready to play. Let's keep our rounds around 4 1/2 hours or faster, and we will have delighted Pro's and a Happy Men's club.

The Board and myself encourage you to support the excellent Junior Golf and Memorial Scholarship programs and ask that each member make a contribution to keep the programs possible. Last year, we were able to contribute \$1,400 to Junior Golf and \$3,000 to the Memorial Scholarship program.

We have a great Men's Club, and we try to make it enjoyable for everyone. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee members and it will be addressed.

Sincerely,

Tim Nersinger, President

P.S. I am going to Phoenix next year



### THINK SPRING!

Opening Day set for April 12th

@ MeadowWood.

8:00 am Shotgun

Get there early!

Remember, get your membership application and dues paid before opening day.

**HANDICAP REPORT -****BY MIKE STEFFY**

Inactivation date. As of March 1, 2014 all members will be inactivated until membership dues are paid. Understand that nothing happens to any of your scoring history, except that you will have no official handicap (NH). March 1<sup>st</sup> is also the first day we can post scores in our region. You can post scores as a guest on the computer of the course you might be playing, but you cannot post online until you are active. Either return your membership form by mail, or turn it in at either LL or MW Pro shops.

The USGA Handicap System: The purpose of the USGA Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. A handicap index is useful for all forms of play, and is issued only to individuals who are members of a licensed golf club. Two basic premises underlie the USGA Handicap system, namely that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review.

Most improved players: This recognition is going to one player from each of the following Handicap groups; 0 – 9, 10 – 19, and 20+. Congratulations to *Steve Seimears, Jr.*, *Brad Wolvington*, and *Ron Schoenberger* for this achievement last season. To qualify this season you must be an active member of our Men's Club and participate in at least 5 of the Men's Club's Tournaments. The most improved player is computed by GHIN based on the Handicap Index improvement during our active season in 2014.

Tournament Point System Update: Only the TOP 5 LOW NET TO THE FIELD in individual events, and the TOP 3 LOW NET TO THE FIELD IN 2 man team events get points (individual =5,4,3,2,1 & 2 man = 3,2,1). The 4 man team events will be exempt. Points are based on the most current 14 tournaments. Members playing in more than 10 events receive off setting positive points. Over the last two years, only a small percentage of members have been reduced, and that list is posted before each tournament for your information. *Keep in mind this is for our tournaments only, and has no effect on your GHIN handicap index.*

Tee it Forward and playing nine holes: Many more members moved up to the Gold Tees last year and their feedback has been very positive. Most commented it made their game more enjoyable. The PGA is also promoting 9 hole golf this year as a way of getting more players involved in the game who might not have the time to play 18. If you do play 9 holes, post those scores too. Consecutive 9 holes will merge into an 18 hole round for handicap purposes. Keep in mind that each 9 most likely has a different slope and CR.

Speed up Pace of Play: Play ready golf! Enough said. Get moving out there.

Repair ball marks on greens: Fix your ball mark, *and one other*, on each green. This will make play better for all and keep our greens in better shape.

Casual Golf Days: Check the WSGA web site for the 2014 dates and courses. These events are open to any active member and give you a chance to play some courses you might not otherwise be able to get on.

Handicap Revisions: Updated revisions for peer review are posted at each course on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Post as soon as you play: Preferred method is to post at the course you play when you finish your round. It is ok to use the internet, or if you don't have it yet, get the following app:

WSGA Ghin app for smart phones: This is a very useful app for posting scores, checking your current HI, looking up the CH for the course you are playing, and tracking your most recent scoring history. Recommend you put it on your phone (just search for the Ghin app) Thanks to WSGA for making it available.

E-Mail address: It is important that we have your current e-mail address on file. If you are not getting the e-revisions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, then we don't have an email address for you, or your e-mail address may have changed. Please make a note on your membership form if your e-mail has changed.

Cell phones: We would like to update our files this year for these phone #'s.

Have a great season, play fast, and when you get a chance give a word of thanks to our Golf Professionals, Course Superintendents, and their crews for the great job they do for all of us.

Questions or comments regarding any of the above, or any Handicap issues, please feel free to contact me (509-981-6688). There are forms at MW by the computer to fill out and leave with the Pro Shop.

## NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND BY-LAWS SECRETARIES REPORT—

BY RON SCHOENBERGER

I am sure you will agree, the quality of those who serve as officers, directors and committee chairmen of the Liberty Lake/MeadowWood Men's Club determines the success or failure of our organization. Over the years, we have been very fortunate to have excellent leaders. To keep the LLMW Men's Club strong, every member should accept the responsibility of doing what they can to enhance our club's leadership.

As chairman of the 2014 nominating committee it is my responsibility to announce to the membership, we have the following positions open for election this year:

- Secretary, two (02) year term.
- Handicap Chairman, two (02) year term.
- Tournament Chairman, two (02) year term
- At-Large Director for a three (03) year term.

The election will be held August 23, 2014 at the MWGC at 7:30 a.m. You must be a paid member and present to vote. Nominations from the floor may be made at the time of the meeting/election.

If you have a candidate you wish to nominate to any of these positions, please contact me or any officer, director or committee chairman.

Ronald G Schoenberger, Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT —

BY GARY HANN

Along with this newsletter you will find the **2014 membership application** form. You may mail it in or drop it off at either pro shop when they open. Our membership (including associates) in 2014 was 471. There is an increase in the 2014 dues from \$60.00 to \$65.00 due to the increase in the fee charged for each handicap by the Washington State Golf Association. As an added note: The WSGA will be supplying each club with a new computer for handicap posting sometime during the upcoming season. Also, please pay your dues before the Opening Day tournament. Both home and cell numbers on the form help us contact you--if needed--at tournament time.

A reminder: **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY** on the membership application. Junior members: remember your application needs to be the green form which you can pick up in either pro shop. Please include your date of birth on the applications.

Be sure to take the opportunity to contribute to Junior Golf and the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Last year \$1515 was contributed to Junior Golf and \$1353 was added to our Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In 2014 the Men's Club added \$8,777 to tournament prize money. So you will want to take note of the tournament schedule for 2014 in this newsletter and plan for the season ahead. We will be printing tournament schedule cards that will be available at the pro shops.

If you would like to be a **sponsor for our tournaments** there are spaces available on our banner. There is a banner for each clubhouse. Your tax deductible donation is \$250.00. Please contact Gary Hann at 290-5062 if you can support our club in this way.

Hope to see all of you on the golf links, and bring a friend along to help build our membership.

**TOURNAMENT REPORT —****BY PAUL HALTTUNEN**

Greetings to all LL/MW Men's Club members!

I thought we had a successful tournament season last year, and I am looking forward to another great year!

We have a variety of tournaments as always, with single flighted tournaments as well as some fun formats in the 2-man and 4-man team events. We've tweaked the schedule a little this year with the main goal to schedule most of the 2-day tournaments in the spring and fall, not in the middle of the summer. I am always open to hear comments, and lot of our members mentioned how hard it was to take 2 days during the busy summer months to play in a weekend tournament and still have time for family activities. A rundown of this year's schedule is included in this article. We will also be printing cards with the schedule that will be available at the pro shops.

The past few years we have promoted the "play it forward" philosophy and when we've had 3 or more flights, the third flight played from the gold tees. We plan on keeping this in place this year as well. We've had many positive comments from those who have played this way in past tournaments. This is a great way for those of us getting a little older and a little shorter off the tee to participate, compete with others of equal ability and prolong our enjoyment of the game and competition.

Last year's overall attendance numbers were down a bit, averaging 65 players per tournament. Entry fees totaled \$12,600. Combined with the Men's Club contributions of \$8,800, a total of \$21,400 was paid out to players in pro shop credit, divided between the two pro shops. Individual and team skins money was paid out in addition to the tournament credits. So there is plenty of opportunity to compete for fun, and a little something extra.

To qualify for play in LL/MW Men's Club events you must be a paid Men's Club member for 2014 (or associate) and have a valid handicap. Sign-up sheets are posted at the golf course where the tournament is scheduled, three weeks in advance of the tournament date. When you sign up, please enter your first name, initial and last name. If you sign up an entire group, please notify the other players so they know that they will be participating. We ask that you check in at the scorers table at least 45 minutes prior to your tee time. If you have signed up for a tournament and have to withdraw, please call the pro shop by midweek to cancel.

Following is a summary of this year's tournaments:

**April 12 – Opening Day At MeadowWood GC:** Our annual opening day tournament has the largest participation year in and year out. Play will begin with a shotgun start at 8:00 am. Format will be flighted individual. With this being the most attended tournament of the year, and the fact that it is a shotgun start, you are strongly urged to arrive well ahead of time in order to pay your entry and greens fees. Please have your membership dues paid in advance so that you are reactivated in the GHIN system so that your handicap is up to date.

**April 26-27 – Spring MeadowWood Best Ball :** This is a popular 2-man best ball event that was sponsored by Mobile Corral for 30 years, then in the last few years by Mr. Denny Waltermire as the Hallmark Hyundai and Mike's Bar and Grill. Unfortunately, Denny passed away this last winter. Bob Scott has assured us that MeadowWood would host an event this weekend. This is not an exclusive Men's Club event. Watch for more information on this at the MeadowWood pro shop this spring.

**May 3– Two Man Best Ball/Chapman/Scramble (6-6-6) At Liberty Lake:** This is a popular event with the format changing every 6 holes. Maximum team handicap 7 stroke spread. Saturday tee times.

**May 17-18 – ABCD Scramble At MeadowWood:** This is a popular 4-man team format. Teams are determined by individual's handicap with the #1 'A' player teamed with the last 'B', 1<sup>st</sup> 'C' and last 'D' player, and so on. Entry fee is \$35, paid in advance to the MeadowWood pro shop or myself. We will start taking entry fees anytime after opening day with a deadline of May 15. No refunds after that date. This is a great tournament that allows members to play with others that they normally might not get a chance to play with, make new friends and have a great time. Saturday 8 am shotgun. Sunday tee times.

**.....TOURNAMENT REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**June 7-8 – Four Man Scramble At Liberty Lake:** This time you get to pick your own 4-man team, but each team must have a combined minimum team handicap of 40 to qualify. Saturday and Sunday tee times.

**June 14-15 - Liberty Lake Amateur:** This tournament is open to the public (not exclusive Men's Club event) and is flighted by handicap. You can enter and pay your entry fee at the Liberty Lake pro shop.

**June 28 – Independence Cup At Liberty Lake:** Format is flighted individual and is a trophy tournament. Saturday tee times.

**July 12 – Yellow Ball At MeadowWood:** Format is four man team Yellow Ball and concurrent flighted individual. Trophy awarded for the lowest team score. So there is no confusion, each player must provide their own yellow ball or balls for this event. An actual yellow ball must be played on each player's yellow ball hole. Saturday tee times.

**July 26 – President's Cup At Liberty Lake:** This trophy tournament is flighted individual. Saturday tee times.

**August 16-17 – MeadowWood Amateur:** This tournament is open to the public (not an exclusive Men's Club event) and is flighted by handicap. You can pay your entry fee at the MeadowWood pro shop.

**August 23-24 – Memorial Club Championship At Liberty Lake and MeadowWood:** This is our club championship and we'll play Saturday at Liberty Lake and Sunday at MeadowWood. I am excited about the change in this tournament as we will rotate annually and finish at alternating courses. Prize money will be at the finishing course's pro shop. Saturday's round will be preceded by our annual election of Men's Club board members. Format is flighted individual.

**September 6 – Four-Man, 1 Gross, 2 Net At Liberty Lake:** Format is four man team score, using one gross plus two net scores. 8:00 am shotgun start.

**September 13-14 – Two Man Team At MeadowWood:** This two man (maximum 7 stroke handicap spread) consists of a front nine Best Ball and back nine Chapman on Saturday, and a front nine Scramble and back nine Scotch-ball on Sunday. Saturday and Sunday tee times.

**September 20-21 – Fall MeadowWood Best Ball:** The format is two man with a maximum 7 stroke spread. Again, this is not an exclusive Men's Club event and is open to all amateurs with valid handicaps. Entry forms are available at the MeadowWood pro shop.

**October 3 – Men's Club Banquet:** If you missed it last year, you won't want to miss it this year! The Men's Club banquet on Friday night is followed by a true ABCD draw, with several of our pro's taking part. This is a great time with dinner, prizes and the excitement of drawing for teams in the 4-man scramble!

**October 4-5 – ABCD Scramble at Liberty Lake and MeadowWood:** Jon Solberg does a fantastic job of running this tournament and is an appropriate finish to our Men's Club tournament season bringing together our members and pros from both courses. We've had some truly great finishes in this event with the excitement building until the very end!

On behalf of your Men's Club Board of Directors, we want to thank you for your past and continuing participation and support of our tournaments. If you haven't before, come on out and play because these tournaments are what your Men's Club is all about. See you on opening day!

**THE PRO'S REPORT.....LIBERTY LAKE**

From the Golf Shop:

As winters grip begins to loosen we look forward to a season of golf and camaraderie. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable off season. It's March and as they say it can often "come in like a lion and out like a lamb" that seems this years case! I'll start by announcing that Dave Mallrie will be returning as the PGA Assistant Golf Professional, also on staff will be PGA Golf Professional Tim Parsons, PGA Professional Don Rasmussen and PGA Professional Don Bails. Our Bistro will be managed by Rhonda Robinson and her great staff. The Golf Shop will be well stocked for all your golfing needs, and there will be many items marked on sale to start the new season. We look forward to seeing all our members this spring, as always our goal is that myself and my staff can make your experience at Liberty Lake Golf Course that much more enjoyable, have a great golf season!

Kit DeAndre

PGA Head Golf Professional

Liberty Lake Golf Course

**THE PRO'S REPORT.....MEADOWWOOD**

I'd like to welcome everyone back to the 2014 season. By the time you read this I hope the snow is gone and we'll be playing golf. I am happy to say that most of the staff at MWGC will be coming back for the 2014 season. Assistant Pro's Chris Curran and Nick Knight in the pro shop and Mo Vasquez managing the Restaurant make my job really easy. Along with the returning employees we look forward in serving you in the matter in which you are accustom.

The pro shop will again be filled with the top of the line equipment . Obviously we don't have the space to bring everything in, but if there is something we don't have, good chance we can order it for you at a competitive price. We will again be fitting Titleist, Cobra, and Taylormade clubs. We also will have a selection of Adams fairway and hybrid clubs, along with YES and Odyssey Putters. Try the Bushnell Tour V3 Rangefinder with the JOLT technology, best rangefinder on the market.

The MW/LL Men's club has set a great schedule, so come out and participate and meet some new friends. We also have the Spring Best Ball (April 26-27), Meadowwood Amateur (August 16-17), and the Fall Best Ball (September 20-21). Over the winter we lost a good friend and member in Denny Waltermire. Denny sponsored the Spring Best Ball for the past few years using his businesses Hallmark Hyundai, Hallmark Suzuki, and Mikes Bar & Grill. His friendly demeanor and love of the game will solely be missed.

So if you want to get the year started in the right direction, give us a call for a lesson. Chris, Nick, and myself are all available, so give the pro shop a call.

Another way of improving your game is your physical fitness. Brandon Blank, Director of Golf Performance at the U-District, is a qualified TPI (Titleist Performance Institute) Trainer. Anyone interested in improving their game should give Brandon a call.

Here's to a Great Season,

Bob Scott, Head Professional

MeadowWood Golf Course

**FROM THE GOLFER'S BEST FRIEND...THE SUPERINTENDENTS**

Welcome to the 27<sup>th</sup> golfing season at MeadowWood Golf Course!!

It looks like the course has come through winter in good shape. We were able to spray fungicides on all of our greens, tees, surrounds and fairways last November so the turf damage from disease will be minimal. We still have some aerifier plugs on the fairways that will need to be drug and mowed to break up. We weren't able to start the fairway aerification process last fall until after the course was closed for the season and unfortunately, Mother Nature didn't allow us to finish the process.

Our big capital expenditure project for this year will be new white sand in all the bunkers. This is estimated to be a \$300,000 investment in the golf course that will take several months to complete. Our plan is to excavate about two bunkers a day, staying about a week ahead of the crew that will fill the bunkers with new sand. Given this schedule, we are estimating that we will have about ten bunkers a week in "ground under repair" status, with a free drop, while transitioning in the new sand. The new sand should start to arrive around the first week of April after the road restrictions are lifted. Excavation will start a week prior, weather permitting. Thank you in advance for your patience during this process, the inconvenience will be well worth it!!

As the season gets into full swing it looks like Mother Nature still likes to remind us that an "average year " is just the mean of the extremes!! With the wear and tear on the turf so evident at this time of year, it's appropriate to have a few reminders of how you can help:

**Please use the 90 degree rule while driving your golf cart.**

**Please observe the cart signs and cart lines and keep the carts on the paths around greens and tees. Yes all four tires!!** We have live water sprinklers in these areas that are very fragile and don't respond well to being ran over by a golf cart.

Thanks to all those members who carry a seed/sand container on their carts to fill divots. If you need one for your cart we will gladly supply you one. The seed / sand mixture for the containers are available on the #1 and #10 tees.

We are fortunate to have a lot of members who take pride in our County courses and help keep them pristine by repairing ball marks, raking bunkers, replacing divots and observing the cart rules. With your help we can continue to keep the greens fees inexpensive while providing a high quality course.

Thanks,  
Mike Kingsley, Superintendent  
MeadowWood Golf Course



**FROM THE GOLFER'S BEST FRIEND....THE SUPERINTENDENTS**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the beginning of what we hope will be another great year for golf at Liberty Lake golf course. Judging by the enthusiasm I experienced during the Spokane Golf Show this year my crew and I are excited about getting things underway. You also might say we have a little cabin fever going around the shop and need to get out soon or things could get ugly.

We are continuing to make adjustments to the golf course on a year to year basis driven by feedback from our golfing community. A few changes we are planning this year (time and staff permitting) is to modify an additional bunker or two, continuing to keep fescue areas playable when golf shots go astray, and thinning some brush starting from the left side of 13 and continuing around 13 green, behind 14 tee, around 15 green (including marmot rock at the point of 15) and to the back of 16 green, this also entails taking down a few large pine trees. I believe with these adjustments and golfers continuing to play the tees that best suit their game we will continue to make Liberty Lake golf course the best it can be. Another change that we are working on is to construct a new storage building to protect our valuable equipment from the outside elements and improve the ability to access equipment when needed. Moving equipment in and out of our existing facilities can be quite a chore. If you have ever played the game of Tetris which is similar to a building blocks game that you fit pieces together in a way that produces the most efficient use of space, that is what every evening is like at our shop when you try to fit two golf courses worth of equipment into a very small area.

The invasion of poa annua (annual bluegrass), quarter size spots of different colored grass throughout the bentgrass green surface, continues in 2014 and we will do our best to manage this issue to make the putting surfaces as smooth as possible. This transition is inevitable due to the abundance of poa seed on the rest of the golf course (i.e. surrounds, fairways and rough). A few of maintenance practices we will be trying this year to make greens smoother will be lighter more frequent top dressing, less use of the planet air, which is the knife aerator we started using last season, more rolling less mowing, and using a variety of chemicals to suppress poa seed head production.

Before I wrap things up I would like to extend my appreciation to my full time crew which includes, Jacob Tritt; my assistant, Chris Stenson; irrigation specialist, and Tracy Bockstruck our equipment manager along with a very good and experienced seasonal crew, these guys make my life a whole lot easier and make your golfing experience the best it can be. Also, I would like to thank Kit DeAndre and his staff for all they do to keep our golfing community happy and coming back for more. I am looking forward to a great 2014 season and hoping the weather will cooperate to get this year started as soon as possible. See you on the golf course.

Sincerely,

Todd Harper

Liberty Lake Golf Course  
Superintendent



