

White Lake Golf Club

December 2007
(Well really October 2007)

Seasons Greeting White Lake Golf Club Members:

Because my fall schedule is booked solid, I'm taking a few spare moments in early October to write this traditional year-end letter. Believe me, its hard to get into the holiday spirit as, at this writing, its 85 degrees on the golf course, Michigan State just lost to Northwestern and the Lake Michigan beaches are packed. By the time you get this, this unseasonal weather will be a distant memory having been replaced by Michigan's traditional seasonal weather. Brrr!!

This past season was, according to your comments, just great—great course conditions, great weather and great events. Topping it off was a never-to-be-forgotten Annual Dinner in late August and those who missed it—well, you really missed it. You truants can take solace in the fact that you saved inches being added to your waist line (the new menu was outstanding), but I'm sure over the holidays you'll catch up with those of us who did partake.

At the fall board meeting, the purchase of a new large pump for our irrigation system and a new greens mower was approved for a total investment of \$35,000. Our old pump was on the verge of failing after years of reliable service. Same too for the greens mower. Also approved was the insulation of the ceiling/roof of the ladies locker room which should reduce the tropical heat in that room in the summer. Ladies you'll have to fry your eggs on some other ceiling!! Finally, because of skyrocketing fuel costs, the increase in the minimum wage and ever-rising health insurance costs, dues for 2008 were raised by \$25.

A recent study by the National Golf Foundation showed that rounds of golf around the country through August were down approximately 1% compared with the prior year—the biggest decline being in August, something we too experienced. In addition, many clubs have openings for members, perhaps a contributing factor to this decline. While we currently have a full roster, past experience shows that we'll lose approximately 15 members this winter for various reasons.] quite

Below is a quote from my last years letter which, I recently found was not read and/or remembered by at least a few of you:

"Finally, and it may come as a surprise to some of you, golf is not a growing sport for as many people leave the sport each year as those who take it up. In addition those who call themselves golfers are playing somewhat less. As a result, almost all clubs in the country have openings in their membership rosters—some aggressively advertising for members. We on the other hand are

among the few which have a full roster. BUT, each year we lose a handful of members for various reasons and while we have a waiting list for Regular Membership, we have none for Associate Membership. Since we operate on a sponsorship basis, we are dependent on you to find and sponsor new members. For the long term viability of our membership and financial condition of the club, we ask that you actively seek out those who would be a good addition to our membership. We have a great product to sell—a fun but challenging course, good course conditions, availability of desirable starting time and most recently, a junior clinic program (loved by the kids and resulting in one family joining this year). By keeping our membership roles filled, we will keep our dues income up which will allow us to maintain our course the way we find it now...."

Yesterday, in talking with one of you, the person thought it was the Board's responsibility to seek out new members—obviously a mistaken impression. Also during a conversation at the Annual Meeting one couple admitted that they never think about it---a "senior moment", perhaps? As mentioned above, each new member adds revenue to our bottom line and vitality to our membership roles.

To serve as a reminder and to make your job easier we are enclosing a copy of our Membership Application Form (more are available from Bill Borgman). As a "sweetener" each sponsoring member and the new member will each receive a free cart rental and also free greens fee for a guest.

As a further inducement, your Board of Directors has unilaterally modified the rules of golf as laid down by the Royal and Ancient Board of Governors and the USGA. These modifications apply ONLY to those members, spouses and families who sponsor a new member. These changes apply to the new member as well--but only during the first year of membership after which time they must qualify by sponsoring someone. These modifications are now in our By-Laws as follows:

A Mulligan is now named a "Revisional Ball" and a Sponsoring Member (hereafter "SM") can take it anywhere on the course (Note-SMs are allowed one Revisional for each year of membership per round). Furthermore when playing a Revisional Ball an SM can use "Choosies" (preferential ball—i.e. take the best one) A "Mass Revisional" is when everyone in the SM's group is displeased with their drives and all hit again without penalty. One of the biggest changes is the "Gilligan" or "Frivolous Ball." If after hitting a displeasing tee shot and an SM uses a Revisional Ball and thereupon hits a plainly laughable shot and ludicrously inferior to the original flawed shot that gave rise to his/her desire to hit a Revisional, the SM may upon declaring her/his intention to abide by "our new rules" and desist from further unserious play, pick up the Frivolous Ball (Gilligan) and play the first ball without forfeiting any residual rights he/she may possess to the replay of another Revisional at some future point during the round. Is that clear???

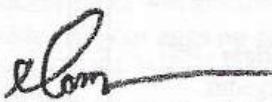
Another change is the "Corrigan"—a ball hit perfectly straight into the woods or water when the SM is aiming left or right to allow for the severe hook or slice usually afflicting their game. The SM may re-tee without penalty. HOWEVER, if in so doing the SM adjusts any corrective alignment to a square stance in the belief that your long established directional error has been unexpectedly and inexplicably cured, you must play that shot regardless of its location. Balls teed ahead of the markers are now called "Moochies" and are penalty free unless you've used a Corrigan or Gilligan on the previous hole. Whiffs are now called practice swings. A topped ball is now deemed to have not been fully put into play and may be replayed without penalty.

As golf balls are now very expensive we have come up with the "Two Dollar Ball" rule or protection against a double penalty. If an SM is playing a brand new ball and hits it into an unfindable location, you can hit another without penalty, as the lost new ball is penalty enough. If the "ground in flight" (i.e. divot) taken at the time a ball is struck comes to rest at a point nearer the hole than the lie ultimately occupied by the ball itself, the ball may be retrieved and replayed without assessing a stroke or incurring a penalty provided that the "ground in flight" is properly replaced—a bonus for those who take care of our course.

A "nonconforming shot" (AKA "foul ball") is a shot that behaves in a bizarre manner, has surprising characteristics in flight and travels in a direction not straight toward the green. Obviously such behavior in no way is attributable to the player and it is obvious that the ball has some hidden defect or damage. The shot may be replayed without penalty. A version of this is the "Oh damn it" or "ball renounced in flight". An SM who hits a long, high shot that immediately travels in a clearly undesired direction may disown the ball while it is still in flight and must INSTANTLY tee up and hit another without assessing a penalty for the first shot. BUT he/she must remain in continuous motion throughout this procedure, thereby establishing that both shots took place during a single unbroken period of ball-striking during which he/she hit duplicate balls concurrently using a dual movement and a double-action swing, rather than hitting a pair of individual balls consecutively with two separate and distinct swings (no I can't repeat it as I'm out of breath just writing it). Because an "Oh damn it" or "ball renounced in flight" requires coordination, dexterity and quick mind some of us may not be able to use it and instead will opt for the "foul ball" rule.

This attempt at humor hopefully will remind you that new members are everyone's responsibility. Selling White Lake Golf Club is NOT a difficult task—we've got a GREAT product. Think of your friends—do 'em a favor and invite them to apply. Good hunting and of course, best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season. Have a good winter—see you in the spring.

Sincerely,



Don Hummel, President

Congratulations to our 2007 Tournament Winners!!

Club Championships

Men's Seniors
50-59
Eduardo Bedoya

60-69
Frank Lundell

70 and Over
Fred Loy

Men's
Champ Flight -
Scott Volkmann

1st Flight -
Denny Kroll

2nd Flight -
Marv Dixon

3rd Flight -
Dave Martin

Juniors
Age 15+ -
Chad Sage

Ladies 18 Holers

Champ Flight -

Karel Bailey

1st Flight -

Jane Henderson

Second Flight -

Marianne Newman

Ladies 9 Holers

Champ Flight -
Mary Dykema

Ladies Guest Day
Champ Flight
Mary Ann Bard
Ruth Kramer

1st Flight
Stocky Holly
Maria Nicholson

2nd Flight
Amy Brown
Jessica Sharp

Men's Member-Guest
Champ Flight
Bill Benedict
Mike Nolan

1st Flight
Rocky Freed
Jack Seaver

2nd Flight
Charlie Deupree
Dennis Adama

3rd Flight / Overall Winners

Tom Mallory
Tom Hakes

Member - Member

Champ Flight
Jerry Kendall
Mike Summers

1st Flight
Jim Hegedus
Jimmy Hegedus

2nd Flight
Harold Closz
Casey Closz

White Lake Challenge

Joel Hanichen
Andy Buckner
Mike Buckner
James Cowan

Lou Iverson Memorial

1st
Jim Hegedus
Jimmy Hegedus

Mixed Event

June
Andy & Teri Buckner
Bruce & Jan Potter

July
Eugene & Kathy Franks
Craig & Barbara Wikander

July
Dave & Sharon Benner
Wayne & Cory Essebaggers

August
Scott & Holly Jakel
Lowell & Binki Thalman

Wed. Night Cook-Out

June
Steve Miller
Dave Ellis
Norm Mikkelson
Dave Burell

July
Bob Nelson
Glenn Gambel
Norm Mikkelson
Jack Alexander

Aug
Jerry Brichan
Sam Haber
Jack Alexander
Don Hummel

White Lake Player of the Year

Randy Fielstra

Hole-in-Ones

David Miller #11 5/2/07
Mike Collett #11 5/11/07
Dave Benner #15 7/3/07
Frank Lundell #17 8/14/07
Ken Enders #3 8/29/07
Chris Gotaas #15 10/6/07

The Closer

Greg Brown
Chuck Majeski

3 Queens and a King

1st
Karel Bailey
Doris Schilleman
Judy O'Brien
Dave Benner

White Lake Open

First Flight

1st Jordan Gosselin*
Joe Balaskovitz*
2nd Chuck Majeski*
Rick Jones*
4th Matt Hanichen*
John Lundell*

Second Flight

1st Andy Hanichen*
Joe Abdelkader*
2nd Frank Lundell*
Rick (Tom) Jones*
4th Chris Gotaas*
Ben Vanderwest
5th Al White*
Doug Raeth
6th Dick Forton*
Jim Benedict*
7th Justin Abdelkader*
Ryan Reid

* WLGC Member