



Upper Peninsula Golf Association

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Minutes of the 2019 U.P.G.A. Annual Meeting
October 26, 2019
Terrace Bluff
10:00 A.M. EDT

Clubs in Attendance:

Oak Crest, Little River, Riverside, Pine Grove, Terrace Bluff, Irish Oaks, Indian Lake, Garden Golf, Stony Point, North Shore, Gladstone, Marquette, Hunters Glen and Escanaba Country Club.

Additions/Deletions/ Corrections to Agenda:

Define 2nd week of August for the UP Championship.

Approval of 2018 Minutes:

Motion by Riverside, seconded by Indian Lake – motion carried.

Membership:

There were forty-nine clubs that paid 2019 dues. Crystal View, Hiawatha Sportsman's Club, Les Cheneaux and The Rock at Drummond Island did not pay, while Garden Golf and Stony Point were new clubs added to the Association. Hiawatha agreed to pay after a call with the manager and the golf manager but never sent a check. The Rock had contacted the secretary/treasurer about continuing their membership and offered to pay the 2019 dues. They were told to wait until next year to continue membership.

Correspondence from Bob Norton at The Oaks at Kincheloe was available to attendees. He shared his concerns about the UP Championships held in the Eastern region, about clubs not honoring the 25% reduction in green fees for players from member clubs and about golfers participating in the championships without actually belonging to member clubs. Because of those concerns he was reluctant to continue membership in the Association, but agreed to continue as a quiet member. Reinke read his response that was sent to Mr. Norton which listed the UP Championships that had recently been held in the Eastern region, detailed the philosophy of the 25% reduction in green fees for members, addressed the issue of non-members playing in the tournaments and encouraged him to be a vocal participant and not a quiet member of the Association.

Finance Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Reinke gave an overview of the U.P.G.A. finances, and offered to give a detailed explanation of all revenues and expenses. Member dues totaled \$6,125.00. That amount divided by the \$125.00 dues per club = 49 clubs. Under expenses, the stipend for the secretary/treasurer is \$10.00 per club for a total of \$490.00.

Marquette pays \$125.00, not \$250.00 since both clubs are part of Marquette Golf Club. Stony Point and Garden Golf are under the same LLC, so they paid \$125.00, not \$250.00 North Shore, although purchased by the same gentleman that owns Stony Point and Garden Golf, paid \$125.00 in dues because the club is under a different LLC.

The UPGA sent six golfers to the G.A.M. Junior Invitational. Four of them returned reimbursement receipts and checks in the amount of \$300.00 were sent to the parent/guardian. Two never asked for reimbursement.
The Association is in sound financial shape.

Report of the U.P. Senior Tournament: (Pine Grove)

Jim Markell gave the report for Pine Grove. There were 133 participants and the pace of play was "ridiculous," with six hour rounds. He also commented that he witnessed many high-caliber golfers pick up the ball (not hole out.) As a committee, they didn't want to disqualify players for that infraction as it would have meant approximately 80 players would have been disqualified.

There was considerable discussion about how to handle infractions in the future. Following USGA rules must be a point of emphasis.

After qualifying, there should be flights of twelve, with adjustments made to the last flights if necessary due to the number of golfers. Pine Grove created one flight of twelve and eleven flights of eleven. This created a problem because the tournament is supposed to pay half the field. There was discussion concerning the payment of half the field and whether it should be less than half to increase the payout for the winners. No action was taken to change the payment of half the field.

Team champion was Pine Grove.

Report of the Junior Committee:

Marc Gilmore gave a report of the Jr. Tour events. 37 golfers participated in the Tour Finals held at the Heritage course at Marquette. This was the 8th year of the Jr. Tour and Marc is looking forward to the 9th. 2019 had more clubs hosting Jr. events (ten) than ever before.

There was discussion about creating an easier way to get medals to the host clubs, although the current system did work. Think about shipping medals to the host clubs in advance. No decision was made. Reinke read a note from Ty Kretz (Little River) thanking the UPGA for the opportunity to attend the G.A.M. Jr. Invite.

Sault Ste. Marie did not send the reimbursement of \$5.00 per player for hosting a Jr. Tour event.

Report of the U.P. Championship Tournament: (Terrace Bluff)

Tony Pouliot gave the report for Terrace Bluff and commented that the tournament went well. The tournament had 73 players in six flights representing 18 U.P.G.A. member clubs. The pace of play was fine, averaging between 4 hours and 4 hours and 15 minutes, avoiding the 6-hour rounds that have plagued the tournament in the past. Course was set up easy, not caring if winning scores were under par. Dinner was served to 58 of the 73 players.

Positive comments were offered as to the condition of the course and how well-run the tournament was run.

Brian Douglas was crowned the champion while Terrace Bluff captured the team championship.

Discussion/Action: Club Expenses for U.P. and U.P Senior Championships

Secretary/Treasurer Reinke stated that for the Senior Championship, the host club is allotted \$3.00 per entry for expenses which include the championship trophy and postage and copying costs for mailing the poster and entry forms to member clubs. He reported that he creates the poster, the entry form, the team forms and mailing labels, then sends them to the host club for mailing to the clubs. He feels this is inefficient and offered to take care of copying all documents and mailing everything to the member clubs at U.P.G.A. expense. All thought this was a good idea.

For the Senior Championship the \$3.00 club expense will be removed and added to the prize money. Additionally, the host club will be responsible for purchasing the champion trophy but will be reimbursed by the U.P.G.A. up to \$150.00. Any cost over the \$150.00 will be the responsibility of the host club.

Motion by Oak Crest, seconded by Gladstone: Motion carried.

For the U.P. Championship \$3.00 of the \$6.00 allotted for club expense will be removed and added to the prize money. \$3.00 will remain for club expenses because of the tee prize. The U.P.G.A. will reimburse the host club for the champion trophy up to \$150.00.

Tournament Financial Reports

There was no interest in adding a more detailed financial report from the host clubs of the U.P. Senior Championship or the U.P. Championship.

Future U.P. and Senior U.P. Sites:

The 2020 Senior U.P. Championship will be held at Terrace Bluff on June 15 & 16. The U.P. Championship will be held at Riverside during the week of August 11. Riverside wishes to hold the tournament Thursday through Sunday, August 13-16.

There was the annual discussion of changing the tournament from four to three days without consensus. At some point, the tournament will need to change due to declining participation.

There was correspondence from Wawonowin requesting their club be put on the rotation for hosting the U.P. Championship in 2026 and to retain their hosting of the Senior Championship in 2023.

Since both tournaments are scheduled through 2025, no sites for 2026 were discussed.

Approved tournament hosts:

U.P. Championship

2020 Riverside
2021 Indian Lake
2022 Pine Grove
2023 Portage Lake
2024 Marquette
2025 Escanaba Country Club

UP Senior Championship

2020 Terrace Bluff
2021 North Shore
2022 Indian Lake
2023 Wawonowin
2024 Little River
2025 Highland

Web Site:

Reinke reported that there will be a minimal increase in the hosting costs for next year. A page was added to the web site to reflect future tournament locations and another page has been created to reflect past U.P. Championship winners, runners-up, host clubs and team champions. Currently the page reflects the previous eleven years and eventually will include a printable document that includes the entire history of the tournament.

Election of Officers:

Dale Ward's tenure as president is up this year and he will not seek reelection. He was applauded for all his work over many years for the Association. Motion by Little River to nominate Mia Broullire from Indian Lake for the position of president, seconded by Marquette. Motion carried. Tony Pouliot will remain Vice President and Glen Reinke will remain as the Secretary/Treasurer.

New/Old Business:

Dale Ward will check to see how much room is in the trophy case at Oak Crest to add a plaque that will include the 2015-2019 and future winners of the U.P. tournament. Dale reported that Timberstone, which houses the U.P. Hall of Fame, is not interested in housing the existing plaque.

Sweetgrass had inquired about advertising on our web site. There was no interest in setting up the web site for advertising purposes.

Sweetgrass also contacted the U.P.G.A. about our possible involvement in a cash tournament which is going to be held the first part of May. Jeff Rae reported that the tournament is full and the G.A.M will oversee the event, with no involvement from our Association.

Members were reminded not to schedule tournaments which compete with the two U.P.G.A. championships.

Reinke suggested that in the future, the stipend for the secretary/treasurer position should probably be made a flat dollar amount rather than the \$10.00 per club that it is currently. Motion by Oak Crest to make the stipend for the secretary/treasurer a flat rate of \$1,000.00 per year, seconded by Pine Grove. Motion carried with Reinke casting the only no vote.

Dale Ward had previously made a comment that the U.P.G.A. is a non-profit organization. Reinke feels that is not the case because no annual report from the Michigan department of finance or revenue has been received by the Association. It was suggested to speak with a tax attorney or

accountant for information about a tax-exempt status and for information regarding the interest we earn on the checking account.

The Constitution states that the U.P. Championship will be held the second week of August. Reinke wanted clarification as to what defines the second week. It was stated that it means the second **full** week of August with a Sunday designated as the start of a week.

Adjourn:

A motion by Oak Crest, seconded by Irish Oaks to adjourn. Motion carried.

Glen Reinke
U.P.G.A. Secretary/Treasurer