

2010 Golf/HRT Committee Meeting Minutes

**Ford's Colony Country Club
Golf/HRT Committee Meeting
February 2, 2010**

Present:

Margaret McMillan (for Mary Anderson), Bob Brennan, Kathy Ahern, TC Sessoms, Gale McCune, CCMA rep., Ward Grant, Chair.

The meeting began at 9:10 am. Members were introduced and contact information shared.

Local Winter Rules were addressed. Bob Brennan presented the existing rules and his suggestions to make our Local Rules more compliant with the USGA requirements. Considerable discussion ensued. After the discussion, Bob agreed to take the input and reformat into a workable document for further review by the Golf Associations. They will have to agree before adoption. Once adopted, the rules will be posted in the Scorecard and on the MGA and LGA bulletin boards.

March Golf Seminar. Historically hot dogs and beer have been provided by the club, however this year they have agreed to subsidizing 1/3 with the remaining 2/3 covered by the golf associations. After a cost estimate for approximately 100 attendees is provided by the club it will be presented to the MGA and LGA for final approval. If there is considerable expense, which is doubtful, an additional fee will be charged to each attendee.

TC showed us the all-inclusive Club Golf Calendar, which will be subject to revision based on outside outing sales. This will be posted in the Scorecard as a link and will be kept up to date.

Next meeting TBD, depending on agenda items

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

**Ford's Colony Country Club
Golf/HRT Committee Meeting
March 1, 2010**

Attendance: Gale McCune, Kathie Ahern, Margaret McMillen, Bob Brennan, Ward Gran

Old Business: Final review of Local & Winter Rules: Discussion took place in regards to specific wording from the [USGA](#) and local interruption. Bob pointed out that reference hyperlinks to the USGA will be provided for clarification and there will be uniform formatting. There was some discussion regarding interpretations of the in-bedded ball rule and stones in the bunker. It was agreed that Mr. Clyde Luther who will be heading up the upcoming VSGA Rules Seminar will be asked for clarification. It was recommended and agreed to that Local Rule #12 - "players competing from different tees": include bronze tees.

There was a brief discussion concerning physical and medical conditions precluding compliance with Winter Rule #1, "relief from temporary conditions." These cases will be handled on a case by case basis by the rules committee.

Pending minor changes the local and winter rules will be presented to the respective Ford's Colony golfing memberships, the MGA and LGA, and included in appropriate web sites and hard copy.

New Business: A short discussion took place concerning the request for walkers to be cautious in where they move their hand carts. With the wet conditions damage is taking place around the tee boxes and greens. Although a reminder is going out in the "scorecard," this is an ongoing problem year round and both the MGA & LGA were urged to have continuous reminders to their members with a process of self policing.

The upcoming VSGA Rules Seminar has reached capacity for sign ups. We have approximately 103. Final arrangements have been made with the Club House Staff for seating, food and beverage. The hot dogs, chips, coffee and tea will be complimentary with a cash bar for [soft drinks](#), beer and hard liquor. A check off list for sign ups will be monitored at the door to comply with the \$5 per member charge requested by the VSGA.

Ward Grant

**Ford's Colony Country Club
Golf/HRT Committee Meeting
May 3, 2010**

Attendance: Gale McCune, Bob Brennan, Mary Andersen, Vic Andersen, T.C. Sessoms, Brett Roberson & Ward Grant

Bob Brennan reported that with the help of T.C. Sessoms all courses have been checked for correct markings. Where needed corrections were made and all courses are ready for upcoming tournament play.

Bob also reported that there has been a MGA policy update for competing from different tees. This update will be placed on the MGA website.

Mary Andersen made a formal request on behalf of a LGA 18 member to review the bronze tee placement on hole 11, Black Health Golf Course. Concern was expressed that the tee box placement forced those hitting from the bronze tees to not only hit over water but over a bunker as well to reach the green. The silver tees are placed to the left of the bronze and afford a shot only over water and not a bunker. The request was to blend the bronze tees with the silver tees.

After review by the committee with input from T.C. Sessoms this request was rejected. Based on distances from the bronze vs the silver tees to the green, as well as slope rating for the hole, the committee felt there is an appropriate handicap adjustment offsetting this degree of difficulty. It was also noted that on other holes the bronze tee placement often offered advantageous tee box placement providing course balance. There has been a blending of tees on the Blue Heron Course but that was a total course adjustment and the committee does not want to make piecemeal adjustments on other courses.

T.C. Sessoms and **Brett Robertson** discussed staffing for all golf operations. The Club now has a full contingent of golf professionals. T.C. Sessoms, Brett Robertson, and the newest golf pro, Randy Greco, from Raleigh, North Carolina. With this staffing the Golf Academy will be able to handle all requirements for individual and group lessons as well as any other functions developed to promote the Academy. T.C. reported that the academy has been a success going from a beginning membership of 14 members three years ago to a present day membership of 170. Brett reported that clinic offerings have received very favorable responses.

It was also reported that we will have two interns working in the pro shop one from Penn State and the other from Arizona State. Another intern has been added to outside operation working with Keith Wolf. A Mr. Jason King from Hilton Head will be here for the summer providing multiple services including ranger activities if needed.

A Mr. Kevin Lambert has been hired to act as a starter on Black Health and provide ranger coverage as needed. He will also be assigned responsibility to maintain the upper driving range when he has down time.

Including Mr. Rick Lou, this will give us a total of three rangers that will be available. T.C. urged the committee to have members call the pro shop when they are faced with slow play and every effort will be made to get a ranger on the scene to move play along.

Finally, a young lady, Noel, will be working in the pro shop with responsibility of working with soft goods and helping women customers.

T.C. indicated that he felt that soft good supplies will not be a problem in the pro shop but hard goods will remain a challenge. They are currently in negotiation with suppliers.

Ward Grant

**Ford's Colony Country Club
Golf/HRT Committee Meeting
June 1, 2010**

Attendees: Gale McCune, Bob Brennan, Mary Andersen, Vic Andersen, Kathie Ahern, Ward Grant, T.C. Sessoms

Agenda Items:

1. Water Availability and maintenance of water stations – T.C. reported that there are now 6 water stations available on the Ford Colony Courses. This is in addition to the water fountains located at restrooms and in separate locations. There is also a continuous effort to have the course rangers provide water and ice as they make their rounds. The club now has enough water coolers so that the water coolers are rotated by the rangers each day including weekends and these coolers and nozzles are sanitized with hot water and Clorox. The committee expressed their thanks for T.C. and his staff for their efforts especially with the hot days of summer upon us.
2. Black Health starter assignment- T.C. reported that the starter on Black Health would be on site for non-member and member tee times but not on MGA / LGA play dates. T.C. reported that since there has been a starter assigned to Black Health there has been no reported efforts of golfers sneaking on to the course from the parking lot area. The starter will also have oversight for maintenance of the upper driving range and act as a course ranger for Black Health as needed.
3. Handicap Adjustments – T.C. provided the committee with an information sheet , **see attachment**, and copies of sec. 10 of the USGA Handicap handbook citing procedure and steps in calculating a players handicap index. Special emphasis was given to **What does “R” mean when it shows up on a players handicap report** and procedures for review if warranted by T.C. and the HRT Committee. The Committee also discussed what is appropriate procedure for handicap adjustments for players with special circumstances e.g. health issues, injury, etc. It was agreed that decisions would be made on a case by case basis. Players with developing physical disabilities such as arthritis have different criteria than those who suffer injury or have surgery that restricts play for hopefully the short term. It was noted that for some players with long term restrictions moving from gold to silver tees or silver to bronze tees with adjusted handicaps would be the most appropriate recommendation.

It was agreed that the representatives from the respective golf organizations, MGA, & LGA 18 and 9 holers would take information back to their respective groups and emphasize the importance of posting scores showing it as a statistical benefit vs. a penalty based on how USGA handicap indexes are set. This is especially true where tournament rounds are involved. It was not clear whether tournament scores are applicable to the 9 holers but T.C. would check and inform Kathie Aherns.

T.C. noted that it was within the power of the HRT Committee to penalize those club members who routinely did not post their scores in the computer system. It is hoped that with the information provided today to the MGA and LGA 9 & 18 representatives when

taken to their membership compliance will take place. The respective organizations would want the opportunity to police their own membership before any action was necessary by the Committee.

A request by Jane Davis for review of her adjusted handicap rating due to tournament scores was given a quick review. Ms. Davis's GHIN report had been provided by T.C. to the Committee. Since the first of the month computer adjustments for Jane showed only a one stroke reduction over her normal handicap, the Committee agreed that the system based on T.C.'s explanations was working and no further action was needed. Ms Davis was notified by the Committee chairman.

The Committee adjourned at 5:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by Chairman, Ward Grant

HRT Committee Meeting August 2, 2010

In Attendance: Mary Andersen, Vic Andersen, Bob Brennan, Mike Butler, Gale McCune, Chairman: Ward Grant , also golf pros Brett Anderson & Brandon Greco

Agenda Items:

Bob Brennan reviewed additions & changes to Local Rules #2 and #10

-Local Rule 2: The netting separating the driving range from hole #1 on Blackheath will now be designated as a fixed object. Golfers will have two choices for balls that come to rest against this netting, declare an unplayable lie or use stroke and distance for their next shot. Balls that come to rest on the other side of the netting will of course be declared out of bounds. White stakes define out of bounds beyond the netting. (It was brought to the attention of the committee that additional white stakes are needed to the right side of the green on #1 and beyond. The professional staff has been made aware.)

All paved and unpaved roads adjacent to Ford Colony courses are defined as “Out of Bounds.” (USGA Definitions)

-Local Rule 10: The wetland between Hole #11 and #12 Blue Heron has been revised from an environmental area to a lateral hazard, and as such, is marked with red stakes without green tops.

The area between Blue Heron #15 and Black Heath #14 is also considered an environmental area, where marked with red stakes with green tops.

The area between Blackheath #14 and #15 as well as the entire left side of Blackheath hole#15 continues as an environmental area, defined by red stakes with green tops, and entry to this area to retrieve a ball, or play a stroke is prohibited.

These additions and changes were approved by the HRT Committee and will be posted on line in the MGA website and by T.C. Sessoms in the designated local rules for Fords Colony.

Pros Report: Brett Anderson and Brandon Greco were asked to discuss ongoing programs by the pro staff and status of overall golf staffing.

A 10 week program called “Beginners’ golf Program” was offered in June and July to all Ford’s Colony residents. Classes three days a week with 15 participants was available. It was advertised in the Talk of the Colony & was an overwhelming success with all classes filled. An awards social will be held Fri. Aug. 6th for the participants. Gary Huneycutt who will be in attendance is working on a strategy to convert as many as possible over to some form of golf membership. It was suggested by the committee that representatives of the nine holers, the MGA & LGA, especially the 4 tees, might wish to attend and provide information to anyone interested. Gale agreed to talk to Greg to see if this was feasible. Because of its success, another program for 6 one hour classes will be offered beginning in September.

A junior golf program was offered this summer. In June 23 attended, July had 35 and in August there are 70 kids attending. The cost was \$75 for one and \$125 for two participants. It was advertised in Talk of The Colony and the Virginia gazette. The

attendees were taught all aspects of the golf game including the rules and proper etiquette.

Brandon reported that club repair and spike replacement is offered by the club and is being well received.

Staffing: Our intern from Penn State is completing his internship. The intern from Arizona State will be here till Oct.

There are two full time rangers. Because of excessive heat and reduced rounds in July the starter/ranger on Blackheath has been asked to provide water services for members. Once there is an operational need back on Blackheath, a starter will again assume duties. The pro shop remains fully staffed and Noel will remain as a permanent staff member depending on monies available.

Upcoming Events: Advance notice for the Member Guest, at \$695 has gone out and 30 teams have already signed up.

It was requested that twilight golf be made available again for the remainder of the summer and early fall.

The Committee thanked Brett and Brandon for their efforts and responsiveness to the members needs.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ward Grant
HRT Committee Chairman

HRT Committee Meeting November 2, 2010

Members in attendance: Bob Brennan, Mary Andersen, Kathie Ahern, Gale McCune, Chairman, Ward Grant & Head Pro T.C. Sessoms

Agenda:

Winter Rules: As of Nov. 1, The” Leaf Rule” & “lift, clean and place” policies are in effect subject to course conditions and TD decisions.

Based on VSGA regulations, all golfers must post their scores throughout the winter.

Proposed New Local Rule #16: *Through the green, newly sodded areas, usually defined by white paint, are considered ground under repair from which play is prohibited. If a player’s ball lies in the area, or it interferes with the player’s stance, or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under rule 25.*

This rule change was reviewed and approved by the committee. It will be added to the Ford’s Colony Local Rules. These local rules can be found on the MGA Web site, www.fcmgagolf.org, or the club web site, “From the Shop.”

Local Rule #14: “Relief From Interference by an Immovable Obstruction “was discussed and it was agreed the wording could be used to cover the green edging material that separates the greens from the collar grass where it interferes with a putt. Please note the obstruction must be within two club lengths of the ball.

Yellow to Red Stake adjustment: Appropriate yellow to red stake adjustments for Black Heath #5 on the right side of fairway and on Marsh Hawk #17 right side of green past the sand trap have been made.

T.C. discussed manpower adjustments for bag boys, starters, marshals & starters with appropriate reduction as we move into the winter season. T.C. indicated this is a normal process and manpower would be again adjusted as we go back into the spring season. He also indicated that as of Nov. 15th the rotation of closed courses for a month at a time would begin. Blue Heron will be the first course closed.

When asked about concerns by CCMA members that club cleaning equipment and a clock might have been stolen from the upper driving range, T.C. indicated that nothing was missing. The equipment is normally brought in and stored after 4:30 to prevent theft.

Meeting adjourned