

# **2011 Golf/HRT Committee Meeting Minutes**

To: HRT Committee Members and CCMA Board Members  
From: Ward Grant , HRT Committee Chairman  
Subject: Minutes HRT Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**New Business:**

Welcomed new Committee Members, **Henry Theloosen**, Liaison from CCMA, **Joan Golliday**, Handicap Rep. LGA 18, **Judy Joppa**, Handicap Rep. LGA 9, and **Chuck Avery**, club member. Also in attendance were Bob Brennan, Vic Andersen, and T.C. Sessoms.

New members were provided with a brief orientation to the committee referencing Sec. 8 of the USGA Handbook for Handicap Committee responsibilities.

Guidelines for handicap adjustments based on disabilities or exceptional tournament performance were provided to the new members and a brief discussion of the process took place.

USGA Handicap System Handbooks were requested for new members and T.C. Sessoms offered to obtain them if possible.

**Old Business:**

Local rules specifically winter rules were discussed with clarification given by Bob Brennan & T.C. Sessoms. Questions were answered concerning interpretations of **Relief from temporary Conditions, Winter Rule #1, the Leaf Rule, Winter Rule#2 and Casual Water or Snow in a Bunker, Winter Rule#4**. These rules are officially in place between November 1<sup>st</sup> & end of February. Conditions before and after these dates may make it necessary to apply these rules as needed.

It was urged that golfers review these rules. They are available either through the MGA web site, [www.fcmgagolf.org](http://www.fcmgagolf.org) or “**From The Shop.**” Reminders will also be given through the MGA to its members as they play year round weather permitting.

A question regarding the authority of the local tournament director to elect to use or not to use Fords Colony Country Club local winter rules and the posting of scores based on weather and course conditions was discussed. It was reemphasized that the tournament director is indeed given authority to use winter rules but no authority is given in regards to posting of scores. That decision would lie with the pro staff. T.C. Sessoms indicated that in keeping with the VSGA requirement that Fords Colony players are required to post year round and if the course is open by the pro staff and maintenance than posting will take place. The winter rules are in place to help give necessary relief.

**New Business:**

T.C. Sessoms was asked about plans from the pro shop regarding 2011.

1. 2011 Ford's Colony Golf Calendar was being finalized. As soon as it is complete a copy will be sent to the HRT Committee for review and then made available to the membership for their planning purposes.
2. 2011 Golf Academy activities calendar is in preparation
3. The existing golf professionals were planning on staying through 2011.
4. Similar to 2011 the number of starters and rangers will be adjusted to meet the demand of the golf season.
5. 3 golf interns will be brought in for 2011. Two will be here for 3 mo. & one for 6 mo. A request by Henry Theloosen was made to T.C. to consider a weekend golf tournament activity that would be designed for club members who work during the week and unable to participate in the weekly MGA play.

Meeting closed at 9:55 AM

Submitted By,  
Committee Chair Ward Grant

## HRT Committee Meeting Minutes 3/07/2011

In Attendance: Bob Brennan, Joan Golliday, Chuck Avery, Vic Andersen, Henry Theloosen, guest, John Tinker, T.C. Sessoms, Ward Grant

**New Business:** T.C. Sessoms discussed his recent attendance at a VSGA Rules & Handicap Seminar. T.C. indicated that Ford's Colony is 100% in compliance with all VSGA rules and handicap requirements. Review by the VSGA included the club's local rules, application of handicaps and the make-up & function of the club's HRT Committee

Bob Brennan was recognized for his continued effort at updating and maintaining the club's local rules. He also makes a special effort in conjunction with the pro staff in keeping the course markings correct. The consistent monitoring of the MGA and LGA 9 & 18 handicaps by those responsible was also acknowledged.

T.C. indicated that Ford's Colony is one of the only clubs in the area that has a cooperative effort between the pro staff and the individual golf organizations in setting up play days, coordinating these play days and handicap applications. At other clubs the golf organizations operate as separate entities.

T.C. & his staff's continuous cooperation and guidance is appreciated.

**Old Business:** Bob Brennan indicated that all changes to local rules have been posted to the MGA web site [www.FCMgagolf.org](http://www.FCMgagolf.org) and "From The Shop." Handicap adjustments applicable to the MGA inclusive of blended tees have been posted to the MGA Web Site. In a separate discussion with T.C., he indicated that the new golf pro., Eric Minnick, was now on board. Also, three interns are still slated to join Ford's Colony for the upcoming season.

Meeting was closed at 9:45 AM

Submitted By:  
Ward Grant Chairman

# HRT Committee Meeting Minutes 5/02/2011

In Attendance: Bob Brennan, Judy Joppa, Joan Golliday, Chuck Avery, Henry Theloosen, Chairman: Ward Grant

**Old Business:** No old business was discussed

**New Business:** Brandon Grecco provided information in regards to status of golf operations inclusive of the pro shop and golf academy while the transition to Affiniti takes place.

1. With T.C. Sessoms gone Brandon is the only remaining fully certified golf pro. Brandon and Eric Minnic are presently covering golf operations. Brandon has attempted to provide direction and coverage as best he can until new management is in place.
2. Brandon initiated interviews and hiring for the pro shop to provide adequate coverage. Two new hires were made. Noel will be leaving the pro shop.
3. At present time payments to vendors is in a wait mode. No payments are going out .
4. Although Brandon fully expects new management to honor Golf Academy commitments he has been told issues pertaining to the Academy need to be reviewed. Brandon has continued to provide golf instruction.
5. Affiniti will provide an orientation on Wed. May 4th for all non management staff members. Affiniti's objective is to retain all qualified employees who choose to remain. Their continued employment will be based on performance under new management.
6. Three Interns for golf operations will still be coming to Fords Colony.
7. Brandon indicated, based on his discussions with Affiniti, that they have goals based on sound business plans with emphasis on training to make Fords Colony a profitable well run golf operation. The ultimate objective is for Prudential to sell the operation but Affinity hopes to remain as manager. Brandon is looking forward to establishing structure and consistency versus the present management model.
8. The Committee thanked Brandon for taking time to meet with us and for his help during the transition period.

A review of the HRT Committee priorities with new management and review of the Member Flexibility Spreadsheet was completed by Committee Members.

**Specific to the HRT Committee:** It was felt that new management needs to address course markings and distances. Bob Brennan reported that some of the course markings have been moved or are missing and that some tee box markings are incorrect. Discussions concerning local rules and our compliance with VSGA would also be a priority.

**Member Benefit Flexibility Spreadsheet:**

## **Golf Operations – Selected issues**

Golf Courses available 7 days/wk – Understand need for revenue from outside play but how much before it infringes on member play. Please have adequate notification for members. Should Mon. be a closed day? Other courses do close Mon. but they are private.

54 hole championship golf maintenance issues – **Very High priority**, need to fix drainage, and areas around greens a problem with plastic barriers now pushing out of ground.

Association Play 6 days a week - Adjust according to reasonable amount of outside play

Members Designated Courses – **Very high priority**

30 day “tee time” – **Very high priority**

Members driving range – Lacks consistent maintenance

Rangers – **Very High priority**, need consistent policy, training of rangers and compliance by members

Walking & walking fee – Negotiable for purposes of faster play. If requirements to ride on golf association play days, than adjustment of walkers fee. Strong feeling this benefit should not be removed.

Handicap service fee – acceptable

Free Storage of clubs. – No strong feelings either way

Access to member’s parking lot – Strong feeling that this is a necessity

Annual dues discount 75 yrs. Etc. – **High priority** / Very strong feeling that it be maintained

Reduced fees for family – Strong feeling that it is nice perk

### **Benefit – Dining**

Members discount on all F&B – Open to removal of alcohol

### **Communication**

Member publications – Excellent communication but some duplication

Meeting closed at 5:00 PM

Ward Grant  
Chairman

## HRT Committee Meeting Minutes, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM

In attendance: Ward Grant, Bob Brennan, Mary Andersen, Vic Andersen, Joan Golliday, Judy Joppa, Henry Theloosen, Club Pro's, Dan Elliott, & Brandon Greco

**Old Business:** A request was made to Dan Elliott to review Susan Britcher's handicap index. Her index was modified in June per her request due to recovery from knee surgery. This adjustment was made by Dan from an index of 20 to a 24.4 based on five scores posted after her return to play. Upon checking her Sept. index & scores the computer now lists her index at 18 but her scoring average is 96.8. Dan said he would follow up.

**New Business:** A request was made by Rick Jackson for a handicap adjustment based on medical recovery from two hip replacements. The committee has approved this request and asked Dan to follow up. Rick needs five scores posted upon his return to play. As of Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> four scores have been posted. An e-mail was sent to Rick informing him of the committee's decision and his need to post one more score before Dan completes the adjustment.

**Local Rules/ Winter Rules:** Information was requested on the repair status of the courses and proposed work on selected bunkers. Will it be necessary to use "Ground Under Repair"? Dan Elliott and Brandon indicated the following:

1. Repairs to the courses following the hurricane are being completed and there should not be a need for using "Ground Under Repair Rulings." This of course will be under continued review.
2. Dan was unaware of a Sept. schedule being set up for repair of or replacement of selected bunkers that might impact play. We deferred the issue to the Green's Committee. If such repairs are being done, it will be up to the Pro shop and the MGA/LGA 9 & 18 on a case by case basis to invoking the "Ground Under Repair" rule.
3. Greens recovery was listed as the most pressing concern at the moment. Despite a concerted effort by all involved the greens are very slow in their recovery. Affiniti has brought in an agronomist to help with the local effort and they feel the greens can be saved but real recovery will not take place till cooler weather arrives. Until then they will continue to use small tine aeration and seeding. Discussion of course closings took place or using the two putt rule on the most stressed greens to help. Dan and Brandon said limited play is ongoing and that the two putt rule was probably not necessary at this point.

Discussion on course markings took place with Bob Brennan indicating that a review of all course markings was something to be considered because of the hurricane and follow up repairs. Dan agreed but indicated it was not the highest priority. Bob Brennan will continue to check and document where there is the most need. Bob also indicated that a number of reflectors on the 150 yd markers are missing. Dan indicated that new flags and flag sticks are being brought in and the reflectors on the 150 yd markers might get replaced at that time.

The VSGA will not be coming to Fords Colony for course evaluation till 2012. This objective of that visit is to review Blue Heron. We requested that they look at all the courses with emphasis on correcting distance discrepancies.

Clarification on setting 9 and 18 hole handicaps was requested by Judy Joppa, 9 hole handicap & rules chairman. Clarification was made by Dan referencing section 10-5 from the USGA Handicap System.

Question was posed as to what the membership can do to help the Pro Staff. The response was to have patience. There will be some short term challenges but both Dan & Brandon felt that things were moving in the right direction and members should be seeing improvements. Having hurricanes in the middle of the process is not helpful but it is being handled.

Dan did indicate that there will no doubt be frustration this fall in regards to member play because of bookings made by prior ownership that must be honored. Tee time availability before 10:00 AM will be a problem especially in October. Dan promised that he and the pro staff will create a better system for the following year recognizing that the membership should receive the highest priority. Acknowledgement was made to the continued need for outside revenue.

Dan indicated that he and the staff are setting up a better system for tracking player's tee times and that overall member revenue for golf is up. Brandon indicated that he is also developing a better billing system for the golf academy. An end of year billing system was recommended. The previous system was inaccurate with no way to police who was using the academy. Brandon indicated that new ideas for utilization of the academy are being developed.

Meeting was concluded at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by HRT Chairman: Ward Grant