

# LAGUNA WOODS MEN'S GOLF CLUB

## HISTORY UPDATE 2000 THROUGH 2012

The Laguna Woods Men's Golf Club is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 10 members. These are "working" positions. Men, who formerly had a Secretary and a staff to do the detail work, frequently find themselves learning to use computer software, and doing the work themselves. Often, they don't possess the required skills, and find themselves "learning on the job". The Board members are all retired. They are all volunteers, and often under-appreciated. Sometimes they battle health problems. Resignations of Board members during their terms of office are not rare. Yet, somehow, the job gets done. Many who have worked within the Boards would describe those who serve as "Heroic"!

This update includes a roster of Board members who served during those years, some of the problems experienced, and some of the accomplishments which moved the Club forward during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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### 2000

President	Bill Carey/Bob Snyder
Vice President	Bob Snyder
Treasurer	Frank Sande
Secretary	Ferd Hall
Handicap/Orientation	Jerry Ryman
Major Tournaments	Verne Smutz
Weekly Tournaments	Bob Burns
Special Events	Jerry Gluck
Rules & Greens	Harry Fleming
Program/Social	Russ Chase
Past President	Chuck Berkowitz

President Bill Carey passed away early in the year 2000, and was replaced by Vice-President Bob Snyder. Jerry Gluck initiated the concept of a Special Events Chairman. Previously, the Member-Guest Tournament and other special events had been planned by a Committee consisting of Board Members and others. The skills and work ethic possessed by Jerry Gluck resulted in a fine year for Special Events. Bob Burns advocated that the Board sponsor a team in the SCGA League. The Board agreed and named Bob Burns as the first Team Captain. The Club Championship was conducted as a "match play" event, which was a choice marked by controversy. The following year, the format was changed to 3 rounds of medal play. President Bob Snyder initiated the "President's Award", and presented the first award to Hal Shulem at the 2001 President's Ball.

This was the Board which changed the By-Laws to allow election of the Club President directly by the members rather than the Board of Directors. The issue had been contentious within the Board, but the change was widely supported and popular among the members.

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2001

President	Bob Snyder
Vice President	Frank Sande
Treasurer	Frank Sande
Secretary	Don Fleming/H. Himmelstein
Handicap/Orientation	Jerry Ryman
Major Tournaments	Verne Smutz
Weekly Tournaments	Bob Burns
Special Events	Jerry Gluck
Rules & Greens	Jack Cunningham
Program/Social	Russ Chase
Past President	Bob Snyder

Bob Snyder had served as Vice-President, and replaced Bill Carey. Bob campaigned for "his own term" as the 2001 President, and was opposed by Bob Burns. Bob Snyder prevailed and served his 2nd term as Club President. Bob Burns was reappointed as the SCGA League Team Captain. The Board was split on whether or not to raise the ticket price of the President's Ball from \$65 to \$70. The price remained at \$65. One issue of historical interest was the question of whether or not ladies should be invited to attend the dinner following the Member-Guest Tournament. The Board was split on the issue, and after a somewhat heated debate, the Board voted to break with tradition and for the first time in history, allowed ladies to be invited to the dinner. Ladies were not allowed to play as guests in the Tournament. That came later.

President Bob Snyder presented the President's Award to Hal Shulem. The Skins Game Man of the Year was Verne Smutz. Tournaments and Special Events were well conducted and successful. The golf Derby was started by Bob Burns.

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2002

President	Frank Sande
Vice President	Jerry Ryman
Treasurer	Brad Bradley
Secretary	Harvey Himmelstein
Handicap/Orientation	Jerry Ryman
Major Tournaments	Tony DiDio
Weekly Tournaments	Bob Burns
Special Events	Jerry Gluck
Rules & Greens	Jack Cunningham
Program/Social	Paul Appelbaum
Past President	Bob Snyder

Frank Sande took the reins as President. Saddleback College golf team started playing in an annual competition with our members. It was proposed that a memorial plaque for deceased members be placed on the golf course. After much discussion, it was felt that the course would soon resemble a cemetery. Instead, a project to plant memorial trees was adopted. In this first year, 11 trees were planted. Since there were 1200 golf carts registered, it was proposed that a project be undertaken to build new golf cart ports. It was accepted, and then rejected due to cost and space. A new green was built for Hole #3 on Course One, and a new tee box for #17. Jerry Ryman urged the Golden Rain Board to consider a new golf facility after a recommendation was accepted to construct a new building by Gate 12 (Clubhouse 7). Signs are being redone. Driving range improvements are under way. A milestone was observed when John Figeira celebrated his 90th birthday. He had shot his age over 70 times.

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2003

President	Jerry Ryman
Vice President	Jack Cunningham
Treasurer	Brad Bradley
Secretary	Harvey Himmelstein
Handicap/Orientation	Doug Williams
Major Tournaments	Paul Appelbaum
Weekly Tournaments	Sammy Zaan
Special Events	Don Obal
Rules & Greens	Jack Cunningham
Program/Social	Dave Masters
Past President	Frank Sande

Several accomplishments of the 2003 Board were destined to become “historic” in their effect upon the future. Dave Masters took the lead and was responsible for establishing the Skills Challenge. Don Obal collected more than 5,000 scorecards, which were used to revise the handicap ratings of the holes. It was this Board which finally succeeded in getting a flag placed on the putting green to allow for chipping practice. The “Hole of the Month” idea was originated by this Board.

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2004

President	Paul Appelbaum
Vice President	Doug Williams
Treasurer	Art Bobke
Secretary	Bob Warren
Handicap/Orientation	Doug Williams
Major Tournaments	Roger Landis
Weekly Tournaments	Hank Fordham
Special Events	Dale Woepse
Rules & Greens	Harvey Himmelstein
Program/Social	Russ Chase
Past President	Jerry Ryman

One of the highlights of the year was celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Leisure World. It was celebrated over a weekend with an outdoor concert, displays by various clubs, and a dance at Clubhouse 5. The second annual skills challenge was held. Spectators were treated to the members' golf skills by 20 of the top golfers of the Club. Plans for a new golf building were Okayed by GRF. This approval evoked great controversy via letters to the editor in the Globe. Funds for replacing the macadam cart paths with concrete were approved. A very successful disaster preparedness conference was held. On a positive note, the opportunity to Marshal at the Seniors Tournament at the Newport Beach Country Club attracted a host of volunteers.

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2005

President	Paul Appelbaum
Vice President	Roger Landis
Treasurer	Brad Bradley
Secretary	Ben Stables
Handicap/Orientation	Roger Landis
Major Tournaments	Fred Teixeira
Weekly Tournaments	Ben Benvenuto
Special Events	Dale Woepse
Rules & Greens	Hank Fordham
Program/Social	Harvey Himmelstein
Past President	Paul Appelbaum

Roger Teel became the new Head Golf Professional. A native of Bellflower, CA, he had been the Pro at Upland Hills Country Club and moved here from Green River. His selection was a very popular choice. The second year of the Senior Games was successfully carried out. Clubhouse 7 was finished by mid-July and was quickly put to use by the Bridge players. A new golf cart crossing on El Toro by the Geneva Church was built. An automatic golf ball dispenser was installed at the driving range. After much discussion, controversy, and member voting, the name of Leisure World was changed to Laguna Woods Village. Paul Appelbaum presented the president's Award to Frank Sande. The Annual putting contest initiated by Russ Hackler in 1984 was won by Don Obal.

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2006

President	Roger Landis
Vice President	Jerry Gluck
Treasurer	Won Chang
Secretary	Ben Stables
Handicap/Orientation	Hank Fordham
Major Tournaments	Fred Teixeira
Weekly Tournaments	Ben Benvenuto
Special Events	Dennis McGovern/August Younker
Rules & Greens	Jerry Gluck
Program/Social	Dale Woepse
Past President	Paul Appelbaum

A major change occurred when Greens Superintendent Kurt Rahn was promoted to be in charge of landscaping for the entire Village. He was replaced by Sean Cincotta, Agronomy major from Ohio. The Leisure World News became the Laguna Woods Globe. A new golf building was again proposed and won immediate support. Allen Cadillac who had sponsored the roster book for many years (since 1988) was given a letter of recognition along with many thanks. A golf match between native born and internationally born members was initiated by Roger Teel in the Ryder Cup format.

Roger Landis and Jerry Gluck began working toward the development of a web site for the Club. The site was actually established in 2007 by Tom Kiklas. John Toellner donated a computer program for organizing tournaments which was used by Tom Hall until 2009, then replaced by the Tournament Manager Program. Jerry Gluck computerized the Membership Manual. Roger Landis presented the President's Award to Tom Hall. Roger Landis initiated the Home and Away event with Costa Mesa Senior Men's Club. The event has since become a tradition in the Club. The Appreciation Day Tournament was initiated at the suggestion of Doug Williams.

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2007

President	Jerry Gluck
Vice President	Frank Sande
Treasurer	Boots Brown
Secretary	Ben Stables
Handicap/Orientation	David Talcott
Major Tournaments	Fred Teixeira
Weekly Tournaments	Gerry Heuer
Special Events	Fred Peters
Rules & Greens	Ben Benvenuto
Program/Social	Frank Sande
Past President	Roger Landis

During 2007, Jerry Gluck and Roger Landis put a great deal of effort into developing a proposal to replace the current golf building. The project had begun in 2006, and was part of a 15 year effort by golf club members, which was eventually realized when a new building was constructed during 2011. Jerry Gluck realized the potential benefits to the Club of developing a web site, and was instrumental in making it happen. It was Jerry who located Tom Kiklas, who became the Club's first Web Master. Larry Rygalski volunteered to work with Tom and the two began an historic development of the web site which serves the Club today. Larry took over as the Web Master upon Tom Kiklas' death in 2010.

The terms of Ben Stables, Ben Benvenuto, Fred Teixeira, and Roger Landis expired at the end of 2007. Two Directors resigned prior to the end of 2007, setting the stage for an election in which there were 5 vacant Board positions to be filled in the October election.

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2008

President	David Talcott
Vice President	Gerry Heuer/Verne Smutz
Treasurer	Boots Brown
Secretary	Bob Cunningham
Handicap/Orientation	Mike Smith
Major Tournaments	Murray Schenker/Dan Davis
Weekly Tournaments	Gerry Heuer/Verne Smutz
Special Events	Tom Newman
Rules & Greens	Fred Teixeira
Program/Social	Ron Clarke
Past President	Jerry Gluck

After one year as Handicap Chairman, David Talcott ran and was elected as Club President for 2008. David and other members of this Board were relative newcomers to the Club and were faced with immediately replacing 5 Board members who had retired or resigned at the conclusion of the 2007 year. The year got off to a rocky start when two newly elected Directors resigned within weeks after assuming their duties, and were replaced by Mike Smith and Tom Newman.

In the Foreword to the updated history for 2000-2010, we commented that some Board Members can accurately be described as “Heroic”. The term was never more appropriate than when applied to President David Talcott! After surviving the resignations of two Directors early in the year, he was faced with the resignations of two additional Directors in August. Those two individuals were replaced with Dan Davis and Verne Smutz.

This was the Board which first established a “Competitions Committee” to oversee the inter-club competitions program. David Talcott also came up with the idea of having the Hooks ‘N Slices column in the Globe Newspaper written by a team of writers, rather than an individual writer. To accomplish that, he established the position of Hooks ‘N Slices Coordinator, and appointed Verne Smutz to the new position. In October, Weekly Tournament Chairman Verne Smutz introduced the first Flight Competition.

The Board was also called upon to deal with a very unpleasant racial incident in which a Caucasian Club member verbally and physically attacked a group of Korean-American members. After conducting a hearing under the provisions of the Club By-Laws, the Board suspended that individual for the balance of the year.

Fremont Savings had been contributing a small percentage of interest earnings, based on deposits of Club members. The program was successful enough over the years that the Fremont contribution had risen to \$2,900 per year. When that program ended, the Board found it necessary to raise the dues from \$45 to \$50 for 2009, to compensate for the lost revenue.

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2009

President	Verne Smutz
Vice President	Tom Imler
Treasurer	Jerold Saltz/Don Durbin
Secretary	Glenn Collins
Handicap/Orientation	Mike Smith
Major Tournaments	Dan Davis
Weekly Tournaments	Marc Bayer
Special Events	Tom Imler/Marc Bayer
Rules & Greens	Fred Teixeira
Program/Social	Fred Yune
Past President	David Talcott

At the Board Organization meeting in December, 2008 Verne Smutz presented a plan for 50-50 raffles at the 2009 General meetings. 50% of the proceeds would be awarded to the holders of winning tickets; the remaining 50% would go to support LWMGC Teams. This was approved by the Board and became the first official plan designed for member support of the Interclub Competition program.

January of 2009 saw several Board decisions of somewhat historic importance: (1) The Board began development of a Policy and Procedures manual, with Glenn Collins taking the lead on the project. (2) Verne Smutz developed the first complete Program Budget for the Club and submitted it to the Board for approval at the February meeting. (3) The final Fidelity Tournament was conducted on January 14. The Board voted to discontinue that event for future years. (4) The Board approved the Derby as an official activity of LWMGC. (5) David Talcott was appointed to represent the LWMGC on the Ad Hoc Committee to oversee planning and construction of the new Golf Building.

Jim Barton was selected as the New Member Orientation Chairman. Verne Smutz wrote a "New Member Orientation Manual" which was approved by the Board for use in the program.

The Board recognized that the Club has many documents of really "historic" significance which need to be organized and protected. Club minutes, financial records, and other documents need to be safely stored in a place where they can be accessed by future Board members. Dan Davis suggested the "Carbonite" system of on-line document storage, which is available at a minimal cost (\$50). The Board approved this program.

In February, 2009 the Board established a \$5.00 fee for Tournament "no-shows". Handicap Chairman Mike Smith implemented a new device supplied by SCGA called an index label machine. The device prints labels showing the current handicap status for a member. Verne Smutz initiated a series of meetings with the Presidents of the four Laguna Woods Golf Clubs.

March, 2009 - The Board established a list of "Competition" Tournaments to be used by the Competitions Committee in selecting team players. Those tournaments are: All Flight Competitions, President's Cup (first round), Club Championship (all three rounds), Best Score Nassau, and Eclectic (first round).

April, 2009 - The Board, working with officers of the other golf clubs, organized a plan to cooperate and work together on projects of mutual interest. The driving force behind this plan was a common desire to support the construction of the new golf building. An organization was formed called the Community Golf Committee (CGC), and the first meeting was held on April 21, 2009. Members of the group would attend community Board and Committee meetings, and cover "candidates nights" to evaluate candidates relative to their positions on golf issues. David Talcott of LWMGC and Gaye Thomson of the Ladies 18-Hole Golf Club were named Co-chairs of the group.

Major Tournament Chairman Dan Davis presented a list of major tournaments to be posted by members as "tournament scores" for purposes of the SCGA handicap program. The following list was approved by the Board: Eclectic (first round), Club Championship (all three rounds), Best Score Nassau, and President's Cup (first round).

Jim Stewart attended the June Board meeting and presented a fund raising plan which would solicit sponsors for the Club in return for ads in the membership manual, and links on our web site directly to the sponsor web site. In the past, the Board had sponsors to help fund the membership manual. The exciting and historic nature of Jim Stewart's presentation was that sponsors would actually sponsor the "Club" rather than just the "Member Manual". That concept allowed the use of sponsor funding for an array of Club activities.

At the August, 2009 Board meeting the Board voted to change the Club Fiscal Year from the Calendar year to an October 1 thru September 30, fiscal year. Treasurer Jerold Saltz resigned in August and was replaced by Don Durbin. Dan Davis presented an idea for the "first ever" post tournament celebration for the Club Championship Tournament. The plan was approved and funded at \$300. The Board voted to continue membership dues at \$50 for the 2010 year.

Marc Bayer presented a plan for a Tournament Players Club (TPC) which represented an historic change in the management of the Weekly Tournaments. Instead of collecting money weekly from tournament participants, interested players would join the TPC and pay an annual membership fee of \$20, or purchase a "player's card" at five plays for \$10. The Board approved a special annual rate of \$15 for members signing up at the October 9 Membership Meeting.

September, 2009: Tom Hall, Terry Holloway, and Warren Han had been evaluating several tournament software packages and recommended the purchase the "Tournament Manager" software in September, 2009 at a cost of \$150. The selection was approved by the Board.

The nominating Committee of Dick McGrath and Hashim Khidir presented the following slate of candidates to the Board for election to a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2010: Marc Bayer, David Talcott, and Tony Tarvin.

The SCGA is converting to the GHIN handicap system beginning in 2010. David Talcott is developing plans for training of our members, and the conversion process.

For the first time in history, ladies who had assisted in conducting Club activities were invited to play in the Appreciation Day Tournament and attend the dinner.

At the November 17 Board meeting, Marc Bayer presented and the Board approved a plan for Quarterly Wednesday Tournament Scrambles. Marc also initiated the idea of annual "Flight Competition" awards. There are 5 Flight Competitions, with the awards being based on the player's three best rankings during the year. The program was funded with \$700 for awards.

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2010

President	Verne Smutz
Vice President	Marc Bayer
Treasurer	Don Durbin
Secretary	Tony Tarvin
Handicap/Orientation	David Talcott
Major Tournaments	Dan Davis
Weekly Tournaments	Marc Bayer
Special Events	Bob Figeira/Jim Stewart
Rules & Greens	Fred Teixeira
Program/Social	Fred Yune
Past President	Verne Smutz

One of the most popular activities of the Club has been the Scotch Cup match with the Costa Mesa Senior Men's Golf Club. In 2010, President Verne Smutz initiated contacts with the Presidents of Canyon Lake C.C., and the Navy Golf Course Men's Club, hoping to establish two additional Home and Away matches with those Clubs. Through the efforts of Verne and Vice-President Marc Bayer, that goal became reality in 2010. The first "Navy Match" was played in October, and a match with Canyon Lake was scheduled for March of 2011. Both matches use the same fun and interesting Scotch scoring system as the Scotch Cup match.

SCGA installed a new handicap system called GHIN. An Ad Hoc Committee was established to guide planning of the new Golf Building. Past President David Talcott, serving a second term on the Board as the Handicap Chairman was also the Club Representative to the Ad Hoc Committee. David continued as the Club representative to the SCGA, and provided commendable leadership while serving in these three positions. Verne Smutz selected David to receive the "President's Award" at the 2011 President's Ball.

The Information Technology Committee was established to guide the Board in decisions relating to technology. Members of the first "IT" Committee included Marc Bayer, Don Durbin, Tom Hall, Dave Postier, Larry Rygalski, Verne Smutz, and David Talcott.

At the suggestion of Fred Yune, the Board approved purchase of a plaque for the winners of the President's Cup. The Board purchased "Signup Solutions", software which allows on-line signup for events, and allows use of credit cards. The mailing of an election newsletter was discontinued and replaced by an e-mail version of the newsletter. Fred Teixeira, Greens and Rules Chairman completed 6 years of service on the Board.

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2011

President	Marc Bayer
Vice President and Major Tournaments	Bill Blaine
Treasurer	Don Durbin
Secretary	Tony Tarvin/George DeBlois
Weekly Tournaments	Terry Holloway
Special Events	Jim Stewart/Rich Gash
Handicap and Orientation	Dave Talcott
Greens and Rules	Mike Walo
Programs / Social	Fred Yune
Past President	Verne Smutz - Resigned in March

Much of the year focused around the construction of the Village Greens which replaced the Golf Starter Building. Marc Bayer, Bill Blaine and Mike Walo expended much effort in ensuring that the LWMGC would be provided with adequate space and time in order to conduct our business, as well as having space provided to be able to continue honoring our Past Presidents and Club Champions.

The membership manual was enhanced by providing additional space to provide advertising for our many new sponsors. Much thanks to Jim Stewart who was the spearhead. Jim's untimely death deprived us of his great skills and insights.

Tom Hall's goal of having tournament results posted on the website was realized, due to an enhanced website that was coordinated through Don Durbin's efforts.

We initiated an annual match with Irvine Junior College's Golf Team.

The initial 2 day Member-Member Tournament followed by a luncheon after the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of play became our season ending event and was well received by our membership.

Don Goldberg presented a plan to honor our WW II veterans and in coordination with Joe Rainey and the American Legion, we had an Honor Guard present our proud members who served our country so valiantly, as the introduction of the President's Ball.

Roger Teel, who was exemplary in maintaining golf services, during a year without a Clubhouse, and Tom Hall, in honor of all his service as our scoring guru and chairman were Co-Men of the Year

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2012

President	Marc Bayer
Vice President and Major Tournaments	Bill Blaine
Treasurer	Don Durbin
Secretary	George DeBlois
Weekly Tournaments	Fred Yune
Special Events	Rich Gash
Handicap and Orientation	Dave Talcott
Greens and Rules	Mike Walo
Programs / Social	Jim Brown

The major focus of the year was overcoming a GRF's member's demand that Green Fees be increased to \$20. After much negotiation with GRF we were able reduce the increase to become a Greens Fee of \$10, which was a modest \$2 from the then prevailing \$8 18 Hole Greens Fee. The major lesson learned was that the Club has to maintain an active role and interest in the governance of the Village or we will deserve what those who govern put in place.

The Board needed to spend a great deal of energy in dealing with a major distraction caused by a former president of the Club. That matter was concluded with a written apology from that party.

For the past two years, the Board and Club members were becoming increasingly upset with what was considered to be "sandbagging" by a portion of the membership. In an effort to curtail that we established a tournament handicap based upon scores only from Club events. There was a great deal of consternation as well as difficulty in administrating the program, so we eliminated the tournament handicap at the end of the year, The attention brought to posting all scores did bring about a feeling that sandbagging had been significantly curtailed.

A detailed Power Point presentation was developed by Mike Walo and presented to the Greens and Racquets Group and the Community Activities Committee of GRF in order to initiate a plan to develop a short game practice area to replace the paddle tennis area within Gate 12. Hopefully this has set the stage to bring us a much needed enhancement to our practice facilities in the years to come.

New Membership tags were designed and distributed to our members.

The Club initiated a Swap Meet where members could display and sell/trade their unused golf equipment.

The staircase leading from the Pro Shop to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor became the home of our Past President and Club Champion pictures. They became an attractive enhancement to the Village Greens.

Our monthly Membership meetings became much more interesting by the addition of Power Point presentations of rules and matters of interest by Mike Walo. Mike's presentations became

the highlight of our monthly meetings (along with the free donuts and coffee provided by the club).

We made, under the direction of Mike Walo, great strides in setting forth our Policy and Procedures and incorporating them as permanent records residing on our computer server.

Don Durbin continued to enhance our club website which has now become the focal point of all club activities.

The President's Ball again included the ceremony by the American Legion honoring our WW II Heroes.

The President's Award was presented to Dave Postier for his tireless efforts to support the Club in many matters, particularly the improvements he incorporated in Membership Manual

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2013

President	Bill Blaine
Vice President	George DeBlois
Treasurer	Don Durbin
Secretary	Mike Walo
TPC	Fred Yune
Major Tournaments	Jim Brown/Don Fleming
Special Events	George DeBlois/Allen Shirley
Handicapping	Jeff Shetler
Programs	Tony Tarvin

During 2013 the most dynamic accomplishment of the Club was the reestablishment of the Memorial Tournament along with the choice of the LW Foundation as our designated charitable recipient. George DeBlois headed a committee which organized the tournament, garnered sponsors and were able to present the Foundation with over \$13,600. Additionally, the club established a regular contribution to the Foundation from funds honoring past members and donations of winnings by individual members.

Progress continued with updating our computer capabilities and uses of electronic notifications, scoring, organizing tournaments and conducting the business of the Club.

Several significant changes were made to the Major Tournament array. In the Club Championship the Scratch Flight was opened to anyone and no one, regardless of their index will be made to play in that flight. The Member/Member was changed to a 2-day better ball with the winning net team being sent to an SCGA tournament. Also the lineup was changed to eliminate Scramble tournaments and replace them with other formats.

During the year George DeBlois resigned and Jim Brown moved away. They were replaced by Allen Shirley and Don Fleming, respectively.