Looking Forward…

Wow…it’s cold. As we watch the thermometer struggle to get above zero, we can’t help but look forward to the green grass, sunshine, and great camaraderie of the 2015 golf season. To help kick off the season, come visit us at the Chicagoland Golf Show at the Rosemont Convention Center from February 27th to March 1st. We will be in booth 1520.

Presidential Press

NIMAGA Members,

Hopefully you have renewed your membership and saved yourself a few bucks in the process. We hope to see some warmer weather soon and not have a repeat of last spring’s golf conditions. The upcoming golf season has many changes starting as soon as next weekend. We will have a booth at the Chicagoland Golf Show in Rosemont, in the hope we can attract more golfers to our organization. If you plan on attending the show and can help us in the booth please e-mail me fiarito98@comcast.net

We continue to work on those issues like slow play that have pushed some from our organization and hope even more changes will continue to retain and attract new golfers.

The Dome Night will not be held at White Pines it has been moved to Addison Links and Tees where the first event was held last year. The date is Monday, March 9th at 6:30. The cost is yet to be determined but the pizza, pop and golf is set in stone.

The NIMAGA Cup will now be a draft situation similar to the NFL Pro Bowl and The NHL All-Star game. Each team of 12 will be comprised of 4 players from each division (Trevino, Player and Palmer). The matches will all be played within divisions. The top 12 point earners will receive invitations to be in the draft any openings will go to the 13th point earner and so down the line. The three captains will be the top point earner from 2014 in each division. This year's event will be at Maple Meadows and the draft party for those in the 36-man field will be announced in April.
All events will have a closest to the pin contest in each division. A $35 gift card for Golfsmith, Golf Galaxy, or PGA Superstore will be awarded to the winners at the event.

We have changed the Patriots Day Classic event to two one-division events at two very good courses- Old Oak in the South and Randall Oaks in the Northwest. We realize during the fall there are more conflicts and for some Saturday is the better day and others Sunday works better. This change will allow flexibility in both the location and the day. Since they are separate events a member could play both events if they so choose especially with NPC berths still available.

We thank you again for your commitment to our organization and welcome any ideas to improve or concerns you may have.

Frank R. Fiarito
NIMAGA President

2014 MATCH PLAY

On a cool and sunny morning last Saturday at Harborside on Chicago’s South Side, the Finals of the 2014 NIMAGA Match Play Tournament were contested on the Port Course. Leading up to the first tee on Saturday, both John Lemm (+6) and George Zdarsky (+8) were feeling pretty good about their chances against Dave Dianovsky and Dan Dorr, respectively. It wasn't meant to be though as they both got outplayed by some really steady and stellar golf by Dave and Dan. In the Jones Division, Dave Dianovsky led throughout the entire match and finished off former Champion John Lemm on the 15th hole 5 & 3. Dan, having a career NIMAGA season, was never behind in his match against George nor up by more than two. The match was tied after 18, and on the first playoff hole, Dan Dorr secured the Hogan Division Championship with a very nice par.

Congratulations to Dave Dianovsky and Dan Dorr for a great tournament! They will each receive a Championship plaque, $140 in NIMAGA Certificates, and got the gratis round of golf at Harborside. For finishing in second place, John and George also got the gratis round and a $90 NIMAGA Certificate.

Thank you to Ken Koranda, Doug McKirahan, and Dan Montgomery for joining Carl Movrich in the group prior to the Finals matches. Carl won the mini-match play event.

Also winning NIMAGA Certificates in the season long MPT Tournament were:

Quarter-Final Winners ($55 each)
Carl Movrich
Dennis Samoska
Adam Russell
Dan Farinosi

Second Round Winners ($25 each)
Thanks again to all the participants for another successful NIMAGA Match Play Tournament. Feel free to reply with any comments or suggestions to maybe make next year’s tournament even better. Special thanks also go out to Shawn Pipes for all the timely MPT updates on www.nimaga.org.

HANDICAP RULE EXPLANATION

In an effort to establish and maintain parity in NIMAGA Tournaments a handicap policy has been established by the Board of Directors. All members will have a NIMAGA Tournament handicap which will be calculated from participated NIMAGA Tournaments “Only”. The NIMAGA Tournament handicap will be posted on the Web-site on the 1st and 15th of every month during the NIMAGA Tournament Season.

In addition to their USGA handicap, members will also carry a NIMAGA Tournament handicap. This Tournament handicap will be based solely on golf scores that are recorded in regular NIMAGA Tournaments including Tournament of Winners, Mid-Week and The Seniors Tournament. The tournament handicap is calculated at 96% and takes the best 3 scores of 6 tournaments played to establish the NIMAGA Tournament handicap. The member will use the lower of the two handicaps (USGA or Tournament) when playing in NIMAGA Tournaments.

Rules Corner

Question: My ball marker is about two inches in diameter, which I admit is larger than normal. My playing partner makes fun of me, calling it “the pizza pan” and a “land Mine”, and insists that it is illegal. Is he right?

Answer: While your bag-tag-size ball marker is hardly petite, it is perfectly legal. Rule 20-1 suggests marking your ball with a “small coin or other similar object”. The Rules place no limit on the size, so go big with your marker if it makes you happy or gives you confidence(luck). Just remember to move your manhole cover to the side if it is in your partner’s line.

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Golf is so popular simply because it is the best game in the world at which to be bad. ~A.A. Milne
I'm hitting the woods just great, but I'm having a terrible time getting out of them. ~Harry Toscano

One of the most fascinating things about golf is how it reflects the cycle of life. No matter what you shoot — the next day you have to go back to the first tee and begin all over again and make yourself into something. ~Peter Jacobsen