



NIMAGA NOTES – Mid-August 2017

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Cup is Half Full

I wanted to pass along condolences on behalf of all NIMAGA Members to Jim Cuny, Tom Gearhart and Dave Sloan on the passing of their fathers these past two months. I was touched by some of the stories that Dave shared about his dad it reminded me of my father. My dad was my golf buddy and the reason I started playing. Although at Ravisloe he could not answer former President John Brdecka's question of how I became a lefty. I miss my dad tremendously during the summer when we would play together often and share stories of our rounds good or bad. Please take the time to drop a note, make a call or share a conversation with Jim, Tom and Dave. I'm sure their dads had some presence in their golfing career.

Society in general seems to be leaning toward the negative so I'm here to tell you that NIMAGA has a lot of positive happening and that is not FAKE news. I will start by saying our membership numbers are down from last year and close to what we had two years ago. That in itself is totally overshadowed by the positives. Through June our tournament numbers are up which is great considering some members who play most if not all events have played few in 2017 (I have one played one due to health issues rather than 6 or 7). The number of slow play penalties is significantly down opposed to past years which is a great improvement. That along with pace of play are two of the biggest reasons guys do not rejoin NIMAGA according to past surveys so Thank You to our members for working on READY GOLF!

The one area which is not measurable but I can clearly identify through 2017 as being outstanding is attitude. Here are three:

1. Shepherd's Crook – the course itself did not guide us at all (but I later found out from another course they followed protocol recommended by the USGA) during the multiple lightning delays. We were faced with a difficult situation having two foursomes in Palmer that had not started or finished the 9th hole. Despite the delay and uncertainty there were no complaints, gripes or outbursts which made it more difficult for the tournament directors. The bar and patio was actually full of great conversation and most importantly guys who were patient and respectful.
2. Responsibility – this year more than any other year I can recall guys have been giving the course and directors a heads up when they will not be playing the day of the event or days prior. Running an event is not easy and when we have this information it makes our job much easier to adjust the field. Please continue to do this when possible if you have no numbers respond to our text messages and call the course it does make a difference.

3. Volunteering – Despite not being able to play I have scored 5 events and at each one I have encountered countless members who are willing to step up and offer to help. No matter what it is we APPRECIATE it. We are a not for profit organization no one gets paid a salary or stipend. There is a lot of working in making an event run smoothly and quickly. Writing scores on the board, taking the skins envelope for a couple of groups, bringing in the closest to the pin, Helping officiate a playoff these all matter and do help us. For each of you have offered and to me it is enough to fill a field – a big Thank You.

I close on a personal note due to a bulging back I have not been able to play but once and if not for the positive encouragement of my competitors Bill Powers, Greg Cornwell (who I met for the first time) and Doug Peters I would not have accomplished my goal of finishing 18 holes. I played horribly one of my worst rounds in years but in the end it was more important to see the sportsmanship these three gentlemen showed me especially the last few holes. I had my own gallery and it felt great despite the back pain. To all of the members who continue to shower me with well wishes, recommendations and prayers it is the reason I stayed with NIMAGA these many years. Golf competition is number 2 the friendships are clearly number 1. A sincere THANKS to all of you and my fellow board members who have picked up the slack. I hope in the last couple of months to make my goal better play rather than just finishing.

At the July board meeting a former NIMAGA President and honorary board member shared his concerns about the Low 2017 membership numbers. Almost in the same breath he encouraged and challenged the board to make changes on how we service our members. We as a board do a great job but there is always room for improvements. With your help and feedback we expect to see those membership numbers grow in 2018. Please feel free to make any suggestions and we hope at our November meeting to share some of our changes in 2018.

SPECIAL THANKS

NIMAGA would like to thank all of those members who participate on tournaments days in any way they can. Whether it is collecting for skins, helping out with scoring or just lending pitching in wherever needed – we thank you.

NIMAGA would also like to thank Doug Peters for distributing NIMAGA informational sheets to numerous area courses in an effort to attract new members. Way to go Doug.

CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

NIMAGA is an organization run by volunteers. We all have a stake in keeping NIMAGA alive and flourishing. If you know someone who may be interested in tournament golf, let them know about your experience in NIMAGA. The more members we have, the more beneficial it is to everyone.

NEW DIRECTORS

NIMAGA has 2 new directors for 2017. Here is a short bio for each of them.



Tom O'Brien Age: 46 Year Joined: 2012

In the fall of 2011, Tom was playing Klein Creek and joined up with another single on the back nine. The other single told him about NIMAGA and how much fun it was. Tom thought it would be cool to play competitive golf and see how well he could do. He checked into NIMAGA before the beginning of the next season and signed up. Tom thinks the best part of NIMAGA is all of the new people he has met, and always looks forward to the events so he can catch up with the guys he talks with regularly and those he has not seen in a while.



RAY RIEMER Age: 60 Year Joined: 2002

Ray has been golfing for just over 20 years. He became interested in tournament golf and was introduced to NIMAGA by Doug Peters, a former co-worker of mine and NIMAGA member, about fifteen years ago. Ray rarely miss NIMAGA events and he enjoys the friendly competition. After participating in NIMAGA for all of these years, it is important to Ray to volunteer his time in support of this organization. NIMAGA is run by volunteers and Ray is of the opinion that everyone's contribution makes the organization stronger.

ASK A MEMBER – 5 QUESTIONS



STAN HILTY

Year Joined: 2017

1. What is your favorite golf course to play?

I must say having played there twice in the past two years, my favorite is now Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, MI. - from my perspective great scenery, amenities and an all around challenge.

2. What part of your game do you practice the most?

My most needed help on the course, to which I address the most, is my short game 100 yards and in.

3. Any holes-in-one or other memorable golf shots?

Sorry to say No hole-in-ones, but my most memorable shot was my son's first birdie at age 7 ...Fox Valley par 3 143 yards ...he hit a 3 wood to within 6 inches, but my personal best shot was an eagle, playing with my son, on #10 par 5 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago 150 yards out with a 9-iron.

4. Any hobbies?

Other than golf, I will spend my other free time landscaping around the house and I enjoy the yard work.

5. Favorite vacation destination?

I will take to the Mountains any time.



RICK IVANAITCH

Year Joined: 1995

1. What is your favorite golf course to play?

Right now my favorite course to play is Oak Grove. Located just outside Harvard, it is a challenging course run by Golf Visions. It is secluded, with no homes on the course. It is well kept with large greens and a lot of deep rough. It has one tricked up hole, #11, but the rest of the course is great.

2. What part of your game do you practice the most?

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3. Any holes-in-one or other memorable golf shots?

My only Hole-in One came in a NIMAGA event. In the April event of 1997, I aced the 4th hole at the Indian Lakes East Course.

4. Any hobbies?

I am an avid reader and rare book collector. One of the few things I like better than golf is reading.

5. Favorite vacation destination?

Golf vacations. I love traveling to play golf. One of my favorites is the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama.



NEIL MELTZER

Year Joined: 2012

1. What is your favorite golf course to play?

On northshore in Chicago area my favorite course is Stonewall Orchard. I need to venture out more because I know there are many more excellent courses around Chicago to many to name here. Maybe you should get each member to tell you which course they like so the rest of us can be introduced to a course we wouldn't have thought to play.

2. What part of your game do you practice the most?

I need to practice my short game and putts the most, but since I have no idea what I am doing, right or wrong, I don't practice because I am afraid I only reinforce my bad habits. Plus I like being out on the courses practicing as I play even if a few dollars are at stake among friends.

3. Any holes-in-one or other memorable golf shots?

In April several years ago I had a hole in one while playing with my son. 140 yard two bounces and in the cup, which was in the front of the green. I also remember my first eagle on a par four from about 170 yards while in Florida. I have done that one other time from even further out.

4. Any hobbies?

I play racketball, and snow ski. Recently I have the pleasure of chasing after 6 grandchildren ages newborn to age 5 1/2. But I leave the diaper changing to others, if I can. Then I go home and take my own nap.

5. Favorite vacation destination?

No specific place I go back to. But I have had the pleasure of playing golf in Ireland and Scotland, and went on a safari. For family ski vacations I can't beat snowmass in Colorado.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SPRING THAW – 4/15/2017

Palmer Division

Gross Kirk Blakely

Net Dave Minor

Player Division

Gross Steve Schumm

Net Dan Dorr

Trevino Division

Gross Ken Koranda

Net Mike Zdarksy

MAY JAMBOREE – 5/6/2017

Palmer Division

Gross Michael Henry

Net Dave Dianovsky

Player Division

Gross Tom Jenks

Net John Serola

Trevino Division

Gross Mayur Patel

Net Kevin Stough

NIMAGA CUP – 5/24/2017

Red Team

David Broadhorst (capt)

Doug McKirahan Jeff Toth

Wayne Kencharek Dan Dorr

Dick Freund Ray Riemer

Robert Westburg Ken Koranda

Sal Zaoksek Perry Variano

Dan Plens

JUNE MIDWEEK – 6/14/2017

Palmer Division

Gross Kirk Blakely

Net Bill Powers

Player Division

Gross Jeffery Gilman

Net Neil Meltzer

Trevino Division

Gross Dennis Samoska

Net Rick Leiber

APRIL MIDWEEK – 4/26/2017

Low Division

Gross Greg Cornwell

Net Dave Dianovsky

High Division

Gross Roy Robbins

Net Paul Bibler

MAY MIDWEEK – 5/15/2017

Low Division

Gross Keff Korkus

Net John Snow

High Division

Gross Robert Yedinak

Net Dan Dorr

SUMMER CLASSIC – 6/4/2017

Palmer Division

Gross Michael Henry

Net Dave Dianovsky

Player Division

Gross Jeff Toth

Net Alan Rehm

Trevino Division

Gross Wayne Richards

Net Chester Zigler

JUNE SENIOR OPEN – 6/27/2017

Low Division

Gross Mike Lyman

Net John Snow

High Division

Gross Neil Meltzer

Net Ray Riemer

JULY CLUB CHAMP – 7/15 & 7/16/2017

Low Division

Gross Jim Morrow

Net Mayur Patel

High Division

Gross Al Leitschuh

Net Carl Movrich

JULY MIDWEEK – 7/25/2017

Low Division

Gross Kirk Blakely

Net Dave Sloan

High Division

Gross Carl Movrich

Net William Schultz

AUGUST CLASSIC NORTH – 8/5/2017

Low Division

Gross Dave Minor

Net Mayur Patel

High Division

Gross Mike Zdarksy

Net Robert Westberg

AUGUST CLASSIC SOUTH – 8/6/2017

Low Division

Gross Kirk Blakely

Net Rolando Leyva

High Division

Gross Doug McKirahan

Net Wayne Richards

UPCOMING EVENTS

NIMAGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – 8/26 & 8/27/2017

Entry Deadline – 8/19/2017

Qualified Golfer's Only

Bartlett Hills Golf Course

TWO-MAN BETTER BALL – 9/10/2017

Entry Deadline – 8/29/2017

Hilldale Golf Course

For those of you that are going to register online for the Two Man Better Ball, remember to include your partner's name in the Special Request Section.

If already registered and forgot to include your partner's name, please send an email to admin@nimaga.org

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE - 9/23/2017

Entry Deadline – 8/30/2017

Limited Field

Evergreen Golf Club

Elkhorn, WI

HANDICAP REPORTING

As a member of NIMAGA, it is imperative that you report all of your scores, independent of all the NIMAGA regular tournaments, timely and accurately to the Interstate Handicap system. In Handicap Reporting Match Play Tournament, the MPT Leadership are posting scores, not the members. The winner is to confirm the scores with his opponent and submit those scores as soon as possible. This helps to insure that the handicaps are as current as possible, and the field is level for all players.

On the Tee Sheet I have an asterisk (*) next to my name, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? That means you did not meet the minimum number of scores reported requirement for that tournament, so you will win no more than a \$15 minimum prize. NIMAGA uses the revision date prior to the tournament entry due date. So for example the tournament entry due date for the Freedom Open was June 30th, we used the June 15th revision date to see if you reported at a minimum four scores. For the Club Championship, the tournament entry due date is July 27th, NIMAGA will use the July 15th revision date, and your minimum number of score requirement is six scores. REMEMBER ALWAYS REPORT YOUR NON-TOURNAMENT SCORES.

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 USGA Handicap and a NIMAGA Tournament handicap which will be calculated from participated NIMAGA Tournaments "Only".

The NIMAGA Tournament Handicap will be based solely on golf scores that are recorded in regular NIMAGA Tournaments, including Mid-Week Tournaments, the Seniors Tournament and the NIMAGA Players Championship. The tournament handicap is calculated at 96% and takes the best 3 scores of 6 tournament rounds 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 and is identified with the letter "t" next to the member's handicap in the Tournament Pairings Sheet (i.e. 16t).

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

Frank's golf season has been limited due to back issues but he decided to move forward and sign-up to play at Orchard Valley. The last revision was June 15th and at that point I played two rounds in Florida in mid-March and two nine hole rounds locally. Frank had three rounds and no tournaments which made me ineligible for full prize if he played well (which he did not). We have eligibility requirements to encourage golfers to post outside scores (which they should be doing all the time) and to prevent someone from manipulating their handicap. Having a high handicap and not posting any scores with "no" score limits can put any golfer in an advantageous position (from a NET perspective). Our job is always to ensure integrity of the field.

The board has the ability to make posted score limit changes when rough weather over a long period of time prevents local play. We have also changed the posted score numbers specifically this year when we had a later start to the season. We don't and won't consider any member such as myself on a case by case basis we are consistent that the rules apply to all. Frank's next event is at Balmoral Woods and once again he will not be fully eligible but that is okay for him in his current state. Frank loves the game, competition and most of all playing with most of the members. He hopes to play well enough to get minimum prize money and most of all finish so by the time he gets to August, he's playing for all the marbles not just a few.

RULES CORNER

A few rules dealing with relief:

Unplayable Lie

Option 1 - Take two (2) club lengths relief, no closer to the hole and assess a one-stroke penalty

Option 2 - Replay the shot from the original position, incurring a stroke and distance penalty

Option 3 - Take the ball back as far as you want, keeping the point where the ball lays between you and the hole, incurring a one-shot penalty.

Improving Your Swing Path

You cannot bend, break, or hack anything growing or fixed if it improves your lie, your stance, or your area of intended swing. The penalty for doing so is loss of hole in Match Play or a two-shot penalty in Stroke Play.

Unplayable Lie in a Bunker

Option 1 - Take a drop of no more than two (2) club lengths no closer to the hole, but still in the bunker, incurring a one-shot penalty

Option 2 - Replay the shot from the original position, incurring a stroke and distance penalty

Option 3 - Go back as far as you like in the bunker and drop, keeping that spot where your ball laid between you and the hole. This incurs a one-shot penalty.

Casual Water

Find your nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole where neither you or your ball lie in water that can be seen without pressing your feet up and down. You may then drop your ball within one (1) club length from that point, no nearer to the hole at no penalty.

Removing Loose Impediments

If, in moving loose impediments, you accidentally move your ball, you must return the ball to its original position and penalize yourself one (1) stroke.

Ball on a Cart Path

You are entitled to free relief. **Step #1** - Determine the “nearest point of relief”. This is the point where the ball would lay affording the player both swing and stance from the cart path.

Step #2 - you are entitled to one (1) club length relief from the point where the ball would lie once full relief is taken.

Step #3 - After dropping, the ball may roll up to two (2) club lengths no closer to the hole.

How to Drop the Ball

After determining the nearest point of relief, you may stand outside the drop area, no closer to the hole, and extend your hand to the side dropping the ball from shoulder height. The ball may roll up to two (2) club lengths no closer to the hole. If the ball rolls farther than that, you must re-drop. If, after dropping two times, the ball continues to roll past two (2) club lengths, you must place the ball where it first touched the ground.

