



Metropolitan Golf Writers Association NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

SEND IN YOUR NEWS AND NOTES

All members of the MGWA who may have items for our newsletter are urged to e-mail them to **Chuck Stogel** (chstogel@aol.com).

SAVE THE DATE: MGWA AWARDS DINNER JUNE 23

Our 63rd MGWA National Awards Dinner has been scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2014, returning to the Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY. The date immediately follows the U.S. Women's Open at Pinehurst, NC.

The 2014 presentations will have a distinct Garden State flavor, with the New Jersey PGA section receiving our Distinguished Service Award and Knickerbocker CC, Tenafly, NJ, which will be celebrating its centennial season, getting our Club of the Year award. Stay tuned for several major award announcements in the near future.

The MGWA Executive Committee announced that president **Bruce Beck** and vp **Ann Liguori** will serve as co-chairs for the 2014 awards dinner. Additionally, our Board re-hired **Bruce Smith** as marketing director.

MGWA DONATES \$16,000 TO CHARITIES

Among actions taken at its December meeting, the MGWA Executive Committee approved giving \$4,000 to each of our four charitable beneficiaries: the respective Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester/Fairfield caddie scholarship programs, and the MGA Foundation. Proceeds for our charities are raised via the MGWA National Awards Dinner, in-season meeting/outings and other special events. Over the years, the MGWA has donated more than \$1.25 million to our beneficiaries.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP, PROPOSE NEW MEMBERS

Membership renewal forms for 2014 have been sent to all current members. Deadline for renewals is Jan. 15. The brief renewal form, accompanied by either check or credit card info, should be mailed to our office, attention **Kate Keller**, MGWA Executive Administrator, 49 Knollwood Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523.

The MGWA Exec Committee approved the same dues structure we had this past year: \$75, regular member; \$100, associate member; \$25, retired member.

Additionally, the MGWA is seeking prospective new members. All it takes to obtain an application for a new member is to provide Kate Keller with a name and mailing/email address, or have any prospective new member contact Kate.

Membership applications are reviewed by a three-person Membership Committee, comprising **Peter Morrice**, **Bill Pennington** and **Ralph Wimbish**.

If there are any questions, please contact Kate Keller (914-347-4653; kate@metgolfwriters.org).

PEOPLE, PLACES, ETC

Max Buckley, recently presented with the Met Golf Assn.'s Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year award for 2013, announced he will turn pro in 2014. Winner of the New York City Amateur, Mittelmark and Nassau Invitationals, the Arcola Cup, and part of the victorious duo in the Anderson Memorial, Buckley's first pro event will be the Met Open Aug. 19-21 at Trump National-Bedminster. The 23-year-old from Rye, NY, who will continue to compete as an amateur for half of next season, also was second at the Ike and third in the Westchester Open . . . **Mike Ballo Jr.** of Stamford, CT, **Sunny Kim** of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, and **Chris Scialo** of New York, NY, all came up short of the top 46 finishers in the six-round Final Stage qualifying Dec. 12-17 for the 2014 Web.com Tour season. Ballo is winner of the 2009-10 Ike championships; Kim won the 2004 MGA/Met Life Boys title; and Scialo is a past winner of the Brae Burn Invitational and Arcola Cup . . .



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PEOPLE, PLACES, ETC

Heath Wassem, head pro at Fenway GC, Scarsdale, NY, has been elected president of the Met PGA, succeeding **Brad Worthington** of Brooklawn CC, Fairfield, CT. MGWA member **Brian Crowell** of GlenArbor GC, Bedford Hills, NY, was named secretary . . . Newly named head pros at area clubs: **Lee Kaiser**, Long Island National, Riverhead, NY; **Chris Marinaro**, Muttontown, East Norwich, NY; **Frank Mattei**, Bonnie Briar, Larchmont, NY; **Andy Richardson**, Milbrook, Greenwich, CT . . . **Joe Louis Barrow Jr.**, the MGWA Gold Tee Award winner in 2010, was hospitalized in late November with a "hemorrhagic stroke." The medical team treating him was optimistic about a full recovery absent any complications.

NEWSLETTER LOOKING FOR 'MEMBER SPOTLIGHT' CONTRIBUTORS

We are seeking members to provide an article for our "Member Spotlight" segment in our 2014 roster of MGWA Newsletters. Each issue we would like to run a brief feature, with photo, spotlighting one of our members. We encourage you to contribute, tell us about yourself, what you do or have done, anecdotes about events, perhaps opinion on a topic, just about anything and everything. These are self-written pieces, providing specifics of your own choosing. The "Spotlight" articles generally run 500 to 700 words, but can be slightly more or less. We ask for one or two photos, which can be a headshot plus a photo of yourself at an event or location or with others. For examples, please see the "Spotlights" in previous newsletters on our web site (www.metgolfwriters.org). If you'd like to recommend someone for a "Spotlight," please contact that person and urge them to contribute. All articles and photos should be e-mailed to our MGWA Newsletter editor, **Chuck Stogel** (chstogel@aol.com). If there are any questions, or for more info, just ask.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS CAPTURES TEAM SHOOTOUT

Our final gathering of the 2013 season took place this fall at Metropolis CC, Greenburgh, NY, with more than 50 attendees. The club and its staff, under the supervision of general manager **Tracy Fraus**, was supremely gracious. Our gathering was treated to wonderful clubhouse amenities, superb food & beverage, and a very challenging golf course.

Founded in 1922, the club's original course was designed by golf pro/architect **Herbert Strong**, with subsequent expansion and renovation by **A.W. Tillinghast**, **Joe Finger** and **Ken Dye**. The layout is currently undergoing a substantial upgrade, including considerable restructuring on a variety of green complexes and the removal of hundreds of trees. Architect **Ron Force** is supervising the current course project.

"With the competition for membership in this area, for clubs to stay viable, keep existing members and attract new members, you have to put your best foot forward, which is your golf course," Metropolis president **Barry Winograd** conveyed to our MGWA attendees. "Our Board approved a broad master plan, which will also feature improvements to our first-class tennis facilities, our buildings and all of our grounds."

The annual MGWA Team Shootout, with its two net best balls of foursome format, served as our final competition for the season. The team called Great Expectations, comprised of **Paul Lieberman**, **Jon Peisinger**, **Drew Greenland** and **Bill Fullard**, narrowly won the title at 16-under par. Second place at 15-under, on a match of cards, went to the Mixed Media foursome of **Adam Balkin**, **Steve Paulus**, **Jane Dally** and **Sarah Lane**. Finishing third were the Berger Kings, who had won the event the previous three seasons: **Dan Berger**, **Jon Olson**, **Eric Berger**, **Joe Ruggiero**. Nearest to the pin winners were **Ralph Wimbish** and **Doug Goodman**.

Our MGWA Activities Committee has confirmed locations and dates for our first three meetings in 2014: April 28, Knickerbocker CC, Tenafly, NJ; May 12, Bethpage Black, Farmingdale, NY; July 28, Baltusrol GC (Upper), Springfield, NJ. Other sites and dates have been identified, but need to be confirmed. Stay tuned.

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

--- www.metgolfwriters.org ---



2013 MGWA Team Shootout champs, Great Expectations:
Drew Greenland, Jon Peisinger, Bill Fullard, Paul Lieberman