

Golf Committee Report, October 2011

The golf committee met Saturday September 24.

2011 golfing schedule was reviewed with record of tournaments and players provided by Seth. Tournament attendance was up for the year. However, rounds played are down by more than 1,000 rounds due to record setting rainfall. The shortfall will continue and increase even more through the date of this board meeting.

Cart revenue will be down substantially, because even as some rounds were played under very wet conditions, it was by walking golfers since cart use had to be prohibited. The final numbers are not yet recorded but we can expect 10% loss compared to 2010.

Per board direction, there will be focus on pace of play control throughout 2012 season. A 20 point "bullet" check list has been presented in the newsletter and a poster size reproduction has been produced by Seth and will be posted on the pro shop bulletin board. All rounds will be timed. Gentle supervision and suggestions will be presented to players who continuously take longer than 4:15 to play. Actually 4 hours is realistic but a slight 15 minute buffer will be allowed until players have been educated. Our ultimate goal is 4 hour or less rounds.

Throughout 2011 season the club has faced complaints of "too many tournament" and that was because on tournament days certain tee times are blocked, and/or shotgun starts are used, limiting when and where a non-participating golfer can get tee times. Several adjustments will be entered in 2012. Some Tournaments have been removed : 1)two Friday Stag Days; 2)Hickory Stick; 3)Battle of the Lakes. We also will combine men and women championships to be played on the same weekends, thus taking five other dates off the annual calendar for tournament play. Autumn leaves tournament had to be cancelled because of lack of sign up. We will attempt it again in 2012, maybe for the last time. It is late in September and doesn't affect many tee times.

EMCC hosted a very successful pro-am tournament in 2011, played on the first Friday of August. The date for that event is not selected by us, it is assigned by NCPGA as available for them. We shifted Lake Makoma tournament away from that date in 2011 and may have to again in 2012 depending upon what date is opened to us by NCPGA. This tournament is very important in providing recognition for EMCC to the rest of the section. It is our chance to show off our club. We hope to have our total 2012 schedule published by end 2011.

We are going to move the maximum handicap for ladies up to 40 from 36 due to the number of players we host who really have a higher handicap than 36. We will not dictate that to the women's golf association, but will use it for EMCC hosted lady net events. The ladies club may follow suit, but that is not known at this time.

A new plaque will be acquired for women's stroke play championship, which was a new added event in 2011.

The open driving range was very well accepted in 2011 and will continue in 2012. There is a long range proposal for physical changes to the practice area, but finances may dictate when that can happen.

For the first time in more than 70 years (actual year not known) we hosted a junior championship that came off exceptionally well. It hosted 33 youths. Therein lies our future. Seth is to be thanked for the success of that event.

The pro shop, led by Seth, and all his staff assisting, have done a superlative job throughout 2011. They were constantly limited by rainfall, but that just increases the telephone activity (read complaints) and adjustments for scheduling. At this writing Seth believes both Matt and Jenna will return in 2012. Seth's contract now in place reaches to 2014. We are lucky to have the quality leadership and training that Seth has brought to us.

The pro shop will close October 30 and then the course will become officially inactive. What does that mean to our membership? It means that scores attained while practicing on our course may not be entered for handicap purposes. The club will remain on inactive status until Saturday April 1, 2012, when the club will officially open for the 2012 season.

Golf Committee: Sherwood Schoch, Chair; Art Pursel, Co-Chair; Dick Gleockler; Frank Hoopes; Jan Shoemaker; John Jankus; Betty Underwood; Linda Hutchinson; John Huhn; Scott Fletcher; Bill Hutchinson; Louise Rubel