

Judy Bell Award goes to Phyllis Schofield



Phyllis Schofield

The Judy Bell Award, first given in 1998, has had six distinguished recipients to date: Ann Beard, Maureen Orcutt, Renaissance Junior Girls/Walter Frye, Lois McTurk, Ann Probert and Rosemary Mankiewicz.

This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to golf for women and/or junior girls in the Metropolitan area. It was with great pleasure that the 2004 Judy Bell Award was presented to Phyllis Schofield.

Phyllis began her golf career when she and her husband joined Ardsley CC in 1970 and served as Chairman of the Women's Association from 1978 to 1980. She has served as Rules Chairman and Handicap Chairman since 1991.

A long-time WMGA member, Phyllis served on the WMGA Board of Directors

from 1982-86 as Printing Chairman. She has worked tirelessly for the WMGA as a Rules Official, a Referee and is our "proof-reader extraordinaire."

Since 1991 Phyllis has served the USGA on the Senior Women's Committee. She has been a Rules Official at the U.S. Women's Open since 1995, the USGA Girls' Junior Championship since 2003 and has worked at numerous Qualifiers for the USGA. Phyllis currently serves on the USGA proofreading Committee. Phyllis received the Ike Grainger Award from the USGA in 2000.

It is interesting to note that Phyllis and Judy Bell are descended from the same ancestors from England. On Phyllis's father's side was the Reverend Francis Marbury. The Reverend had two daughters, Ann and Catherine. Phyllis is a descendent of Catherine and Judy Bell is a descendent of Ann. And, coincidentally, Ann married William Hutchinson after whom the Hutchinson River Parkway is named. How apropos that Phyllis receive this Judy Bell Award.

Phyllis Schofield Honored by USGA and WMGA by Grant Burnett *Tally Ho!* December 1999/January 2000

At the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association's Centennial luncheon on November 3, Phyllis Schofield received two awards. The first was the WMGA Centennial Service Award that was presented by Bridget Shanley Lamb, President of the WMGA.

In presenting the award, President Lamb said, "The first individual award is presented to someone who was involved with the production of the Centennial Book, an absolute oracle—Phyllis Schofield. Not only is Phyllis the finest proofreader I have ever encountered, her sense of literary style and grasp of the language of golf is impeccable. She worked until very recently for Isaac Grainger, a former president of both the USGA and Chemical Bank, from whom she learned the nuances of the Rules of Golf and the intricacies of the USGA. The WMGA was fortunate to have her as Printing Chairman, responsible for the TSB for five years, and she continues to make herself available for consultations. She has been to the USGA Rules School at least 10 times and, this year, served as referee in the finals of our Match Play Championship at Shinnecock Hills. She currently serves on the USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship Committee. Phyllis, your devotion to golf and your willingness to assist the WMGA in every way possible make you deserving of this Centennial Service Award."

The second award is the prestigious Isaac B. Grainger Award, created in 1995 (on Mr. Grainger's 100th birthday and in the USGA's Centennial year) by the United States Golf Association to honor USGA volunteers who have unselfishly served the Association for 25 years or more. Isaac "Ike" Grainger passed away on October 12 at age 104. Mr. Grainger was president of Chemical Bank from 1956 to 1960. At the time of his death, he was still a director of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company and Smith Barney Managed Funds. The photo you see here of Mr. Grainger and Phyllis was taken at Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington, North Carolina on January 13, 1995, at his 100th birthday celebration.

For all his business expertise, however, Mr. Grainger was best known for his knowledge of and devotion to the game of golf. He served the USGA in many capacities—secretary, vice president, then president—and was an acknowledged expert on the Rules of Golf, serving as chairman of the USGA's Rules of Golf Committee from 1948-53 and vice chairman of the Rules Committee for the Masters Tournament from 1965-82. He held memberships in several golf clubs, including Montclair Golf Club, Pine Valley Golf Club, Augusta National Golf Club, and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. He even assisted President Dwight D. Eisenhower with his short game at the White House.

When he reached the mandatory retirement age in 1960, Chemical Bank provided him with a "secretary for life." That secretary was Phyllis Schofield. Phyllis tells it better: "I began working for Mr. Grainger in December 1955 when he assumed the presidency of Chemical Bank. He was just concluding his two-year term as president of the USGA. He then resumed membership on the Association's Rules of Golf Committee. Because much of my work with Mr. Grainger revolved around the Rules and Decisions, I became interested in them. I continued working for him for forty-five years. He always considered that his greatest contribution to golf was as Chairman of the USGA Committee which went to London in 1951 and collaborated successfully with the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in creating a uniform code of Rules."

Phyllis continues, "I was appointed a member of the USGA's Senior Women's Committee in 1991, but in view of my long-term involvement with Mr. Grainger and his affiliation with the USGA, Jim Grainger, his grandson, suggested to David Fay that an exception should be made to the criteria."

David Fay, Executive Director of the USGA, presented the award to Phyllis at the WMGA Centennial luncheon. It is well deserved. As most Ardsley golfers know, Phyllis is an authority on the Rules of Golf. Ike Grainger was respected and venerated for his accomplishments and the way he lived his life—the same as he played golf—by the rules, with honor and integrity. He was conscientious and loyal right up to the end, calling Phyllis at least twice a day from Wilmington. You can attribute the same qualities to Phyllis. During the summer, she has gone into Manhattan two or three days a week to work in the office provided by Chemical (now Chase.)

It is said of Ike Grainger that he went to sleep every night reading the rules of golf. We suspect that Phyllis does the same. Congratulations, Phyllis. We take vicarious pride in your achievements.



Phyllis Schofield with Grainger at his 100th birthday celebration in 1995.