



Tee Talk

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE ONE:
2019 Awards Recap

PAGE TWO:
2019 Annual Meeting

PAGE THREE:
Blue & White Cup

PAGE FOUR:
WMGA Super Stars

PAGE FIVE:
Saying Goodbye

2019 WMGA Player of the Year: Ina Kim-Schaad



Ina Kim-Schaad

Ina was introduced to golf by her parents at the age of 6. Her success as a junior golfer was most impressive. In 2000, Ina made it to the finals of the US Girls' Junior Championship. Ina's golfing achievements continued on at Northwestern University where she played at the collegiate level. But upon graduation, Ina put the clubs away and focused on her career in finance for the next 11 years. Her job took her to various cities throughout the world including: Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Hong Kong, and eventually New York. It was only after meeting her now-husband, Ian, an avid golfer himself, that she was motivated to dust off her clubs and start playing again. In the past three years of her golfing rebirth, she has already accomplished so much. Ina has earned wins at the Met Amateur, the Met Stroke Play, the Met Open, and her most recent victory, capturing the title at the 33rd US Women's Mid Amateur Championship, played at the Forest Highlands in Flagstaff, Arizona. In 2020, she will have the opportunity to compete in the US Women's Open as well as the US Women's Amateur and Mid-Amateur. We are so proud of our fellow Board member and cannot wait to see what's next for this incredibly smart, talented and fashionable lady!

2019 WMGA "B" Player of the Year: Eleanor Shih

Eleanor's parents were avid golfers and while she didn't love golf as a young teen, she would occasionally caddy for them. For her 24th birthday, Eleanor's parents gave her a set of golf clubs. She became ignited for the game as she watched Jack Nicklaus capture the 1986 Masters title. That same year, Eleanor entered corporate America; she worked at Citicorp, Deloitte & Touche and Goldman Sachs and she began to participate in various corporate golf outings. When Eleanor married Andrew, she gave him golf clubs as a wedding gift. Eight years and three sons later, Eleanor and Andrew introduced their boys to the game. Golf bonded the family; they spent spring breaks in Myrtle Beach and summers in Vermont. The boys became successful junior competitive golfers and Eleanor the quintessential "golf" mom. Two years ago, Eleanor immersed herself in the game. It was her turn to take lessons, practice and play to lower her handicap and compete. We congratulate Eleanor, an Independent member, for upping her game and playing so well.



Eleanor Shih

2019 Judy Bell Award Recipient: The First Tee of Metropolitan New York

Named after the first female President of the USGA, the WMGA established the Judy Bell Award in 1998, "to recognize significant contributions to the game of golf for women and/or juniors in the Metropolitan area."



Ed Brockner (Exec. Dir.), Megha Ganne and Katie Rudolph (COO)

The First Tee of Metropolitan New York [TFTMNY] was established in 2001 through a partnership of the Rudin Family, the Met PGA and the MGA. TFTMNY, part of the National First Tee network [est. in 1997], is organized as an independent not-for-profit, and is the largest and most successful chapter in the country. TFTMNY serves well over 5,000 youth annually, focusing on girls, minorities and those in financial need, with campus locations in NY: the Bronx, Brooklyn and Long Island, and in NJ: Newark and Plainfield. As the leading youth development and junior golf program in the region, they give lessons not only in golf but life as they integrate these nine core values into all their programs: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy and Judgment. Through *Path to College* education initiatives, TFTMNY prepares participants for high school and post graduation. The WMGA was honored to recognize this important organization and looks forward to growing a partnership to further a shared goal of providing women and girls life opportunities through golf, and overcoming the traditional barriers of participation.

 @WomensMetGolf

 @womens_metgolf

 Women's
Metropolitan
Golf Association



The 120th Annual Meeting of the WMGA was held on Wednesday, November 6th; returning to New York City after an eleven (11) year hiatus. We altered the format by having President Lori Ann Cerullo conduct the business portion of the meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. This session included a report by Val DePiro for the Foundation and the Treasurer's report by Barbara Klestadt. In addition, Secretary, Michele LeMoal-Gray, provided an explanation of our recent Bylaw revisions and conducted the vote on our proposed Constitutional amendments which were unanimously approved. We replaced "brunch" with an enjoyable cocktail hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This wonderful break allowed for socializing, delicious food and drink. The meeting was well attended by members, guests, award winners and honorees from all three (3) of our districts: Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester/CT.

We concluded the evening with our 2019 big winners, our honoree and guest speaker. VP of Competitions, Mary Jo Gray, provided the player introductions. **Ina Kim-Schaad** (Deerpdale) was named our 2019 Player of the Year and **Eleanor Shih** (Independent) our "B" Player of the Year. Their acceptances were eloquent and entertaining; their families beamed with pride.



Other award recipients included Interdistrict Team Match Champion, **Westchester Country Club**. [Players for the Championship round were: Laura Coash, Gail Flanagan, Megan Grehan, Alexis Hios and Connie Marlatt.] The *Joseph J. Lann* Trophy winner, **Alexis Hios** (Westchester CC), was recognized as the player with the lowest gross score in Class A shooting a 68 at the 42nd Stroke Play Championship held at Ridgewood CC. The *Board of Directors Cup* winner, **Kathy Roberts** (Otterkill) was honored as the player with the lowest gross score in Class B with an 85 at the 53rd Senior's B Championship held at Century CC. There was only one hole-in-one this season; it was made by **Denise Martorana** (Southampton) at the Met Am Championship on July 31st at Somerset Hills on Hole 16. Congratulations to all on a fabulous season which we were thrilled to announce did not include a single rainout.

The *Judy Bell* Award was presented by Lori Ann with great pride to the **First Tee of Metropolitan New York** (TFTMNY). Katie Rudolph, COO, accepted the award with inspiring remarks as to their achievements in serving the youth in our Metropolitan area. Listening and watching Katie as she spoke about Megha Ganne, a TFTMNY prodigy, WMGA member and invitee at the meeting, brought prideful smiles to all in the room. Katie also introduced and shared the incredible story of Serah; a beautiful young woman who grew up in the slums of Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya, selected 8 years ago by Rose Naliaka to participate in the Africa Golf Project. Serah has become the third best player in Kenya and after three years of tireless efforts, TFTMNY was able to help bring Serah to the US, where she is now a freshman at Raritan Valley Community College. Wow!



We ended the evening with our guest speaker, Pete Bevacqua, President of the NBC Sports Group and former CEO of the PGA of America from 2012-2018. Those present were truly fortunate to see and hear this charismatic and eloquent speaker. Pete shared his journey on becoming the CEO of the PGA. His love for the game is evident and we were inspired to hear his thoughts on the changes needed for the future welfare of the game; many of which solidified changes made to our own Bylaws to enable future growth and stability.



The Inaugural Blue & White Cup

The Vineyards ~ Riverhead, NY
October 20-21, 2019



We wanted to try something new. Something that allowed our fabulous members to extend socializing beyond the usual post round lunch buffet (*not that there's anything wrong with that!*) The Vineyards Golf Club, one of our newest Member clubs, had offered availability for tournament



play but we were concerned the travel time to Riverhead would prove too great a hurdle for a one day event. But, what if we could make it worth their while, thought Donna DeMarco, our Membership Chair. We could not let this gem of a course slip away! And so, the inaugural Blue & White Cup came to be. The plan: complement competitive

golf (*who wouldn't love a 27-hole Solheim format after a summer of individual events?*) with a great venue, food and drink. We arrived on October 20th, a Sunday afternoon (*no traffic on the LIE*) for a 2:00 p.m., 9-hole shotgun. Everyone was clad in either blue or white apparel. The rain mostly held off until the end of the opening nine holes (*but when do WMGA ladies let a little rain interfere with competition? Never!*) After this better

ball of partners format, the Blue team, led by Captain Tara Fleming, had a one point lead [total: 7½ to 6½] over the White team, captained by Nina Santonocito. We then enjoyed a wonderful evening in the club house. Our hosts went above and beyond with great food, great wine and wonderful hospitality. New friendships forged and old cemented.

Sunday morning~the rain was replaced with some fierce winds, but again, nobody let their competitive guards down. The second 9-hole format was a Pinehurst. The Blue team again prevailed, this time by 2 points [total: 15½ to 12½]. A short break, a little snack and back out. Now, we were on to the singles portion for the final nine. The weather warmed up and so did the White team who won 16 of the 28 points to capture the Cup by 1 point. Final tally: 28½ White Team to 27½ Blue Team. But, it truly was a victory for all who attended; camaraderie and competition at its best. You won't want to miss out on the next one.



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Members who qualified for *(or won)* a 2019 USGA Championship:



U.S. Women's Open

HI Limit: 2.4 No Age Limit
Megha Ganne (Colt's Neck)

U.S. Women's Amateur

HI Limit: 5.4 No Age Limit
Megha Ganne (Colt's Neck)(Round of 4)
Ami Gianchandani (Montclair)
Katie Li (FECC)

U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur

HI Limit: 9.4 Age Limit: Must be 25 on or before opening of tournament
Ina Kim-Schaad (Deepdale)(**Champion**)
Noelle Maertz (Independent)(Round of 64)
Susan Sardi (Cherry Valley)
Kelsey Solan (Independent)

U.S. Senior Women's Amateur

HI: 18.4 Age Limit: Must be 50 on or before opening of tournament
Tara Fleming (NJ National)(Round of 16)
Helen Bernstein (Paramount)
Liliana Ruiz (Trump-WC)
Susan Sardi (Cherry Valley)
Donna Young (Springdale)

U.S. Girls' Junior

HI Limit: 18.4 Age Limit: Cannot be 18 before completion of tournament
Caroline Hodge (Bonnie Briar)(Round of 32)
Megha Ganne (Colt's Neck)(Round of 64)
Eunice Kim (White Beeches)

Do you want to make next year's list? Visit www.USGA.org to register for the 2020 local qualifiers.

Success at the State Level

New Jersey State Golf Association

NJ Women's Public Links

Champion: Anina Ku
(Neshanic Valley)

NJ Women's Amateur

Champion: Anina Ku
(Neshanic Valley)
Semi-finalist: Ami Gianchandani (Montclair)
Semi-finalist: Allison Herring (Jasna Polana)
Quarter-finalist: Noelle Maertz (Independent)



NJ Women's Mid-Amateur

Champion: Noelle Maertz
(Independent)
2nd: Tara Fleming (NJ National)
T3rd: Donna McHugh (Upper Montclair)



NJ Women's Senior Amateur

Champion: Tara Fleming

(NJ National)
2nd: Sue Dahabsu (Colt's Neck)
3rd: Donna Young (Springdale)
T4: Sue DeKalb (Bella Vista)
T4: Frances Gacos (Copper Hill)



NJ Women's Four-Ball

2nd: Fran Gacos (Copper Hill) & Hartley Zook

New York State Golf Association

NYS Women's Amateur

Champion: Jennifer Rosenberg
(Glen Oaks)
3rd: Alexis Hios (Westchester)



Did you know:

90% of Fortune 500 CEOs are golfers.

25% of the 25 million golfers (US) are top management executives.

Your life expectancy increases if you play golf.

Global Golf Post: All Amateur Team 2019

Women's Mid-Amateur: Ina Kim-Schaad
Second Team: Tara Fleming

In keeping with our tradition, a generous contribution has been made by the WMGA to the employee holiday funds of our 2019 host clubs to show our appreciation for their partnership.

Wishing All a Very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Retiring their Blue Blazers....

A special thank you to Barbara and Diane for their hard work and dedication to the WMGA. You will be missed!



Barbara Klestadt, Treasurer [WMGA & WMGA Foundation] [2015-2019]



Diane Galtieri, Long Island District Captain [2018-2019]

Gone but not forgotten:



Erin Noonan

Erin lost her hard fought battle with cancer on July 17, 2019. Erin was a long-time member of the WMGA through Woodway CC where she earned 17 Ladies Club Championship titles. Erin served on the WMGA Board from 2015-2016 as the Westchester/CT District Captain. She was also the Myra D. Paterson Captain from 2005-2007 and Westchester Tournament Co-Chair from 2006-2012. A masterful gardner, floral arranger but most importantly, a woman of great heart for her family and community who will be sorely missed.



Stella Oliver (friend) & Helena

Helena Lee

Helena passed away suddenly on December 21, 2018 just a few months short of her 80th birthday. She and her family have been members at Tamarack CC for 26 years. She was a 3 time Ladies Club Champion at Tamarack, including last year. An accomplished artist, her beautiful paintings of peonies (her favorite flower) have been published in books and also hang in our clubhouse. Helena was very devoted to her family, always making time to spend with her nine grandchildren. A regular at the WMGA team matches, Helena's competitive spirit and warm heart are deeply missed.

Ch... Ch... Ch... Changes.....

Constitutional Amendments

At the Annual Meeting, the following amendments were unanimously approved to our Constitution:

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS *New*

The Constitution may be amended or revised by two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting of the Association duly noticed and held, provided written notice of any proposed amendment or revision shall have been given to all Accredited Delegates and Board Members at least thirty days prior to the meeting, or, without such notice, by unanimous consent of the Accredited Delegates and Board Members present.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Modified*

The management of the Corporation and the Association shall be entrusted to a Board of Directors which shall consist of five (5) Officers and not less than nine (9) and not more than twenty (20) additional Directors and shall be such a number as shall be fixed by a majority of the entire Board of Directors.

Maximum Handicap Index Raised from 23.0 to 25.0

The WMGA has increased the maximum Handicap Index requirement from 23.0 to 25.0 for membership eligibility. Remember "once a WMGA member, always a WMGA member" so as long as you keep your membership status active, you are grandfathered in. Meaning, even if your handicap index has increased beyond 25.0, you will remain eligible to play in both Team Matches and WMGA tournaments.



Wear the WMGA logo proudly...

When ordering uniforms for spring Team Matches, consider adding the WMGA logo to your attire. We can provide the official WMGA logo artwork necessary to proudly display your membership to this great organization.

Simply contact the office for more information.