



# Tee Talk

Women's Metropolitan Golf Association

SPRING 2020

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Beth Lankler, Editor

## President's Message



The term “unprecedented” doesn’t seem enough to describe the far reaching effects of this pandemic. It has revealed how tightly woven our world has truly become. I sincerely hope you, your families and loved ones are safe and healthy.

There is no doubt that even after the major threat passes, “normal” will be redefined for all of us. Our priority at the WMGA is ensuring the health and well-being of our staff and members. We proactively closed our offices in early March never thinking two weeks could turn into three months. Hats off to our office staff of Sarah, Suzanne and Robbie, who didn't miss a beat going into remote operations.

Many difficult and heartbreaking decisions had to be made as the intensity of the virus' repercussions escalated day to day. We delayed tournament registration, cancelled our Met Rep meetings, as well as an April clinic. We cancelled the Griscom Cup and postponed our other two invitationals. But, the real heartbreaker for the Board was having to pull the plug on Team Matches. Team Matches have been the heart and soul of the WMGA since its inception in 1899. They have been played every year except during WWI and WWII. We will continue to investigate the possibility of different opportunities for team-like play for later in the 2020 season.

My sincere thanks to the WMGA Board of Directors and office staff during this entire crisis. The Board has been in constant communication, discussing the issues and making tough decisions. I greatly appreciate their time and efforts, especially given the personal demands each one of us has. Going to cloud computing last year paid off and now we all know how to Zoom! I was deeply touched to receive a note from past WMGA Presidents thanking the Board for its efforts and responsiveness. They appreciated the Board for the actions and decisions we had to make and reminded us that, as one of the last remaining independent women's golf organizations, it is so much more than team matches...we will get back to playing golf tournaments.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank out-going Treasurer, Barbara Klestadt, and LI District Captain, Diane Galtieri, for their hard work and support in welcoming Skye Gregory and Sheila O'Malley, who have assumed the roles of Treasurer and LI District Captain.

At our Annual Meeting in November, I stated that 2020 was “The Year of the Member.” It still is but has taken on a different meaning. Currently, we are focusing on our tournament schedule to determine what has to be either modified or rescheduled to ensure our continued safety. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we try to piece this all together during this very fluid situation. We are still looking forward to creating new events, like the January TopGolf, Spring Swing Series, and hope to be able to pursue our new Junior Independent Membership.

In mid-February, we implemented several Roundtable Panel discussions to get your feedback. Special thanks to the 25 ladies who participated and provided thoughtful insight. Based on that input, we recently launched a FAQ [Frequently Asked Questions] on our website, as well as “Tournament Descriptions” and “Tournament Roadmap” features. We also created a Facebook Group exclusively for members called the WMGA Membership Exchange.

On behalf of the WMGA Board of Directors, I thank you in advance for your amazing support. This season will be very different as we all have to adapt and modify. We hope that you will join us as we strive to fulfill our mission to bring more women and juniors to this wonderful game called golf.



-Lori Ann Cerullo

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## 2020 Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lori Ann Cerullo, President....Rye Golf Club  
Mary Jo Gray, VP Competitions.....Mendham  
Donna De Marco, VP of Marketing & Communications.....Lake Isle  
Michele LeMoal-Gray, Secretary.....Bellport  
Skye Gregory, Treasurer.....Osiris

### LONG ISLAND DIRECTORS

Shannon Boyle, Initiatives.....The Creek  
Ina Kim-Schaad, Juniors.....Deepdale  
Diane Mock, Foundation Liaison.....Indian Hills  
Sheila O'Malley, LI District Captain.....Cherry Valley-LI

### NEW JERSEY DIRECTORS

Kate Platt, Sites.....Montclair  
Kathy Flicker, NJ District Captain.....Cherry Valley-NJ  
Fiona Miesner, Communications.....Hackensack

### WESTCHESTER/CONNECTICUT DIRECTORS

Wendy Dominick, Team Match Chair.....Powelton  
Heidi Komoriya, Course Ratings.....Trump WC  
Laura Coash, WTC District Captain.....Westchester

### OPEN

Membership  
Team Competitions

## 2019 Board of Directors

*Thank you for your service!*



[L to R] Back Row: Wendy Dominick, Donna De Marco, Diane Mock, Kate Platt, Laura Coash, Tara Fleming, Shannon Boyle, Fiona Miesner & Ina Kim-Schaad  
[L to R] Seated:Sheila O'Malley, Heidi Komoriya, Beth Lankler, Mary Jo Gray Lori Ann Cerullo, & Michele LeMoal-Gray & Skye Gregory [Not pictured: Kathy Flicker]



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## Meet Your 2020 Board Members

### Skye Gregory, Treasurer



Skye grew up in Newburgh, NY, and currently lives in Walden. Despite a mother and sister in the law profession, Skye earned her CPA license and works as a senior accountant with National Tax and Financial Services, Inc. She belongs to Osiris Country Club, which is nestled against the Catskill Mountains in the beautiful and historic Hudson Valley area of New York, where she has held the title of Ladies Club Champion. Skye started taking golf lessons when she was 11, but she really caught the bug when her game started taking off! She played in high school at Newburgh Free Academy, during which time she qualified for states every year. Skye has truly enjoyed participating in Team Matches, from the eventful car rides with her teammates, to post golf shopping and the ever delectable chocolate chip cookie for dessert. When not working or playing, Skye enjoys dancing, traveling, trivia with friends, and antiquing with family. Skye is happy to help promote the WMGA and pursue our goal to elevate female involvement in golf and we are so grateful for her expertise.

### Fiona Miesner, Communications Chair

Fiona grew up in New York City; the daughter of Irish immigrants. While her youth was filled with competitive sports, she did not get the opportunity to golf as a child. In 2009, her passion was ignited after joining Hackensack Golf Club (HGC). She quickly got the competitive spirit and is the reigning Hackensack Ladies Club Champion. Not only does she love the game but she loves being involved with the golf community. Fiona has served on the HGC Board of Directors and currently works on its Greens Committee. She served as VP of the Women's Bergen County Golf Association for four years. Fiona currently lives in Bergen County with her husband John and they have three adult daughters. Fiona has been active raising money for breast cancer research and currently works as the Director of Marketing Development for a realtor in Bergen County. We are thrilled to have Fiona as part of the WMGA team.



### Sheila O'Malley, Long Island District Captain



Sheila grew up on Long Island and was a longtime member of North Hills CC (NHCC). She and her husband Neil have four children and live in Garden City. They recently joined the Cherry Valley Club. Although golf lessons were always a part of her childhood, her love for the game came later. Her parents were avid golfers and her father would bribe her with ice cream if she would join him at the driving range. At the urging of her mother, Sheila joined the ladies group at NHCC in her early 20's and once she started playing competitively, she was hooked. She is a six time Ladies Club Champion at NHCC with her most "infamous" winning earned while eight months pregnant with her youngest child. The name Birdie was considered, but Jack, Desmond & Olivia have a sister named Mae instead. When not golfing, Sheila works in the education department of the LI Children's Museum. Sheila was introduced to the WMGA through team matches and we are thankful for the opportunity to have her as the LI District Captain.



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## WMGA Staff

*Working all year round so we can play in season!*



Sarah Relyea, Executive Director

Do you know our Executive Director? If you don't, you should... because she is Command Central at the WMGA! Sarah was born and raised in Bloomingdale, NJ. A real Jersey girl! She first held a golf club at the age of three; a men's 8 iron cut down to size by her Dad. Sarah was hooked and became a competitive junior golfer. She played for the Butler HS boys golf team and was named Captain her senior year in 2009. Sarah embarked on her collegiate golf career at West Liberty University in Wheeling, WV, where she earned a BS in Business Administration with a specialization in Golf Management. She was a starter on the women's team all four years and played an integral role in her team winning the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) Championship in 2010.

For her undergraduate degree, Sarah was required to complete a 400-hour internship. Being familiar with the WMGA through our junior golf, Sarah drove up to our office in Elmsford and asked then Executive Director, Nancy Early, if she could intern in the summer of 2012. Following this unpaid internship, Sarah applied and was granted the USGA P.J. Boatwright Internship. After doing a stellar job as an intern, the WMGA quickly hired Sarah as Communications Associate in 2014. Sarah earned her MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson in 2015, which was also the year she was promoted to Tournament Manager. When Nancy retired in 2017, Sarah was the logical replacement to take over the reins.

As Executive Director, Sarah gives her all to serving our incredible community of women, but more significantly, Sarah recognizes the importance of keeping the WMGA strong as we are one of the few remaining dedicated women's golf associations in the country. Sarah truly believes and pursues our mission to foster women's amateur golf and grow the game for junior girls. In early May, Sarah was recognized by her peers and elected to serve as President of the Women's Golf Alliance, a national network of golf administrators.

Sarah has accomplished so much in the last nine years and we are beyond grateful for her dedication to the WMGA. We are also thrilled for her and her fiance, Justin, who will be married at the end of the summer.

If you have called the office and had the good fortune to hear a lovely brogue, you have spoken to Suzanne. Not only does Suzanne support the WMGA as a member, but she joined our staff in 2019 and her work has been invaluable.

Suzanne was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and studied textile design in Galashiels, Scotland. She arrived in the Big Apple in October of 1985 to work with a Scottish mill selling men's sportcoats and suit fabrics. She remained in the textiles industry on and off for 33 years with her last job ending in the commercial upholstery business. Shortly after arriving in America she met and married a Canadian, Tim, and they have raised their two children, Samantha and Jack, in the first town they settled in after moving out of Manhattan. Both of her children were heavily involved in sports, and Suzanne loved travelling to their tournaments and chaperoning events. Volunteering for the schools they attended was a large part of her life while they were growing up, but there always had to be some days left totally free and reserved for golf!

Suzanne is a member of Lake Isle in Westchester. She joined the WMGA in 2009 and has loved every event in which she has participated, including victories at the 2014 & 2019 Myra D Paterson Invitationals, the 2015 & 2016 Better Ball "B" Championships with Theresa Pisacreta and the 2016 "B" Stroke Play Championship. She's been a winner on the course and an even bigger winner for our organization.



Suzanne Longlade, Office Manager



Robbie Irwin, USGA P.J. Boatwright Intern

Robbie recently joined the WMGA staff and we are thrilled by his expertise. Robbie grew up in Scarsdale, NY, and graduated from Elon University in 2019. He majored in Public Policy and has an interest in environmental work. Robbie is an avid athlete. He played basketball and soccer in high school and is currently learning to play golf. He spends many afternoons chipping in his backyard! Robbie is proficient in Mandarin and traveled around Western China during his college studies.

Robbie has quickly become an invaluable addition to our organization. He handles a majority of our back-office technical infrastructure, such as our website, Golf Genius, social media accounts and our new YouTube WMGA Communications Channel. He will be with the WMGA until November, as he will be involved in the preparations for the 2021 season. We are indeed lucky to have Robbie as part of our team.



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## New Features

### WMGA Membership Exchange

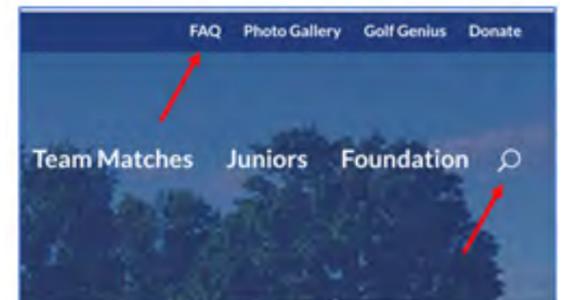


Are you looking for a partner for a tournament or can't find the email for that lovely woman you competed with in last year's event? No need to call the WMGA office! Instead, look for the Membership Exchange on our WMGA Facebook page. This new tool allows for secure communication with other members of the WMGA community. By posting a message you can communicate with other WMGA members listed in the exchange. You can then send private messages to individual members without having to know their email addresses.

This feature was based on feedback from surveys, round table panels and direct conversations with our members. To join, just log into Facebook and search for WMGA Membership Exchange and request to "Join" our group. The WMGA office will verify that you are a member and accept you into the group. Then you can start posting and communicating with other WMGA members!

### Website FAQ and Search capabilities

Based on feedback that members were having difficulty navigating our website, the WMGA staff has introduced new features to help you find information more quickly. We implemented a keyword search feature accessed by the magnifying glass on the right hand side of our homepage. Second, for those common questions the office fields, we created a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) feature. It is an interactive questions and answers section broken down into seven topics. Several of the answers provide direct links to the information you may be looking for. The FAQ is located in the top row of our homepage.



### Swing Series



The WMGA's *Swing Series* was created when local governors issued orders for people to stay at home. Since we could not actively participate in our golf events, we brought golf to our membership. Over a two and a half week period, we scheduled four 30-minute, interactive video sessions. A meet and greet with LPGA Hall of Famer, Patty Sheehan, kicked off the series, followed by an instructional session with Sharon McQuillan, a local PGA and LPGA Teaching Professional, offering helpful swing tips. The series continued with Brian Harrington of Harrington Performance demonstrating golf fitness exercises, and then Emily Cohn of Enhanced Mindset Consulting, LLC, brought it to a close with mindset strategies.

If you missed the series, or would like to rewatch any of the sessions, visit our website home page and select Swing Series under Headlines. You will be directed to our YouTube WMGA Communications channel, where all four sessions can be accessed. Based on feedback, we are looking at continuing the Swing Series with other golf-related and relevant sessions...so stay tuned!



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## 2020 World Handicapping System ~ Some Key Changes

Old	New
No limit to how much an index can increase	Hard Cap-no more than a 5.0 increase
Index is based on the average of your 10 best multiplied by .96	Average based system of the 8 best differentials
Handicap Allowance recommendations by gender	Handicap Allowances are the same for both genders
5 Scores needed to establish an index	3 scores needed to establish an index
Men 36.4 Women 40.4	54.0 index limit
Equitable Stroke Control	Net Double Bogey [see below]
Indexes updated on the 1st and 15th of each month	Daily revisions

### Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

When adverse weather conditions or abnormal course set-up causes scores to be unusually high or low on a given day, a PCC will adjust Score Differentials to better reflect the player's actual performance. This requires at least eight acceptable scores submitted by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below on day of play.

**Remember - Players should submit their scores as soon as possible after the round is completed and before midnight.**

### Hole Not Played

When a player does not play a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is Net Par.

~[Par + any handicap strokes player is entitled to receive based on Course Handicap]

ex.: A hole being declared out of play by the Committee for maintenance or reconstruction purposes. Or stopping play because of weather or darkness.

### Guidelines for Most Likely Score

When a player starts, but does not complete a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is the Most Likely Score.

Position of the ball	Strokes to be added
On the putting green within 5 feet of the hole	Add 1 additional stroke
Between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player
Beyond 20 yards from the hole	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player

### What is Net Double Bogey?

**PAR** [of the hole] + **2 STROKES** [double bogey] + **ANY HANDICAP STROKES** [dots]

For example:

Annie has a Course Handicap of 14. On a par 4 hole, with a Stroke Index of 8, Annie's maximum score would be 7: 4 (par) + 2 (double bogey) + 1 (stroke received) = 7.

Beth has a Course Handicap of 26. On that same par 4 [Stroke Index of 8], Beth's maximum score would be 8: 4 (par) + 2 (double bogey) + 2 (strokes received) = 8.

Cathy has a Course Handicap of 6. On that same par 4 [Stroke Index of 8], Cathy's maximum score would be 6: 4 (par) + 2 (double bogey) + 0 (strokes received) = 6.

