

"The First Junior Girls' Metropolitan Tournament."



There were only eight entries in the First Junior Girls' Tournament sponsored by the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association in 1921. This was the first event of its kind in this country, so the number of entries was not as important as the kind of response the tournament received.

Winner of the tournament was Martha Parker, who scored 102 over the Englewood Country Club course. Maureen Orcutt scored 116 and Rosalie Knapp scored 118.



Martha Parker Amend — 1974

WMGA Junior Champion—1921

WMGA Champion— 1930—1932

New Jersey State Champion— 1927—1929—1930

Women's New Jersey Association Champion—1930

The picture on wall is a painting of the "First Junior Champion" as printed in newspapers in 1921.

"Memories by Martha"

In these days of gasoline shortages, high prices, global crises and general pessimism, it's great to have something to celebrate like our 75th Anniversary. It's greater yet to be asked to write about times past instead of trying to forecast the future.

The seventy five years of the WMGA encompass many changes in our country, our mode of life and our sports. WMGA has employed a wise and firm hand in conducting its schedule which has grown from a few tournaments for a few privileged young ladies at the turn of the century to our crowded courses and events of today.

As I look back to the day of that first WMGA Junior Championship in 1921, I see young girls playing in starched skirts, tailored blouses (sometimes made of silk) with long sleeves with French cuffs and, horror of horrors, high laced shoes. These shoes had spikes and were about the ugliest shoes possible, only out done by the hats. Quite different from the natty costumes worn today.

About 1929 some of the more adventurous among us discarded the stiff clothes and started the fad for knits and comfort. Long skirts were replaced by shorter ones which were followed by shorts, culottes, and the attractive short skirts of today. Quite an evolution!

Our equipment underwent changes just as drastic. Good golf balls in the early days, while not the 'gutta percha' models of the Scotch shepherds, were certainly not the lively ones we know today. If a player were apprehensive about losing a ball at the water hole, she could buy a 'floater'. The 'floater' actually floated on the surface of the pond or brook

and could be coaxed ashore and retrieved. There was no such thing as a manufactured retriever. I still won't carry one in my golf bag! Just a matter of false pride!

The golf clubs were very different too. They were made with hickory shafts and hand forged heads. Perhaps they matched each other reasonably well, and perhaps they didn't. The younger generation might be interested in learning that these clubs had names. They were; Driver, Brassie, Spoon, Cleek, Mid-Iron, Mashie, Mashie Niblick, Niblick and Putter. No danger of having over 14 clubs in the bag. The player learned to play every shot in the game with the clubs he had.

A 'Jigger' was a club used by a few and a 'Bobby' iron was a great weapon against a bad fairway lie. With no watering systems on the courses there were plenty of tough lies.

It sounds from all this that the game was a far cry from what we enjoy today. Well, it was. But it was great fun. No preferred lies, no free drops and I almost forgot about 'stymies'.

If a player was unlucky enough to have the line to the hole blocked by the opponent's ball, you just had to play it that way. You had to take advantage of the roll of the green or put some 'cut' on the ball so that it would curve around the other ball. Or, you might elect to 'Jump' over the offending ball. This was done with the Niblick.

So you see the game was pretty scientific in the 'good old days' and some times when I play 'winter rules' I hear ringing in my memory the wise words of my old Scotch Teacher: "play 'em as they lie, lassie." It's a great way to play and to live.

Martha Parker Amend