

THE JUDY BELL AWARD

At the Annual Meeting, held at the New York Athletic Club on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, Lois McTurk was honored as this year's recipient of the Judy Bell Award. In presenting this prestigious award, President Nancy Paton cited many of Lois' extensive accomplishments as well as her long-term service to golf.



President Nancy Paton presents the Judy Bell Award to Lois McTurk

Rules Official at the U.S. Women's Open, the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship and the Curtis Cup Matches. Meanwhile, Lois became interested in course rating and pioneered the introduction of the Slope System for women in the Met area. She became a charter member of the USGA Women's Handicap Procedure Committee, where she helped draft

In the late 1950s Lois took up the game to avoid being a "golf widow". A mutual respect for the rules and traditions of the game soon found both Lois, and her husband Bill, involved in committee work as members of Sleepy Hollow Country Club, in Tarrytown, NY, most often as Chairmen. Lois authored the club's comprehensive "Caddie Training Manual" which subsequently became the model for the MGA's caddie training program.

Luckily for all of us, the WMGA also recognized her talents and elected her to serve on the Board from 1979-1984 as Chairman of Interclub Team Matches, 1st Vice President and Tournament Chairman, and as President from 1983-1984. Her expertise on the rules was noticed nationally and she became a member of the USGA Senior Women's Championship Committee and the USGA Women's Committee and served as a

the first course rating manual for women. Lois' husband, Bill, is well known for his expertise in course rating, but, behind every good man there is a terrific woman! And, in this case, it was Lois who stimulated Bill's interest in course rating.

In 1997, Lois and Bill were awarded the MGA's Distinguished Service Award for the generous donation of their time and effort to golf in our area. In the *Met Golfer* article recognizing their distinction, Ann Beard was quoted as saying "It is very unusual for someone who entered the game relatively late, and who was basically a club golfer, to become an expert in so many fields and rise to such prominence nationally. But Lois' keen mind and unique interest in every facet of the game, coupled with boundless energy, has been a great asset to the USGA, and to the game."



Lois McTurk surrounded by Past Presidents Valerie Lazar, Rosemary Mankiewicz, Dot Paluck, Barbara Candee, Ellie Lazare, Brigid Lamb, and Ann Beard

LOUISE SUGGS

Following the business portion of the Annual Meeting, Rosalie Roth introduced guest speaker Louise Suggs, a woman we have all admired, particularly for her extensive accomplishments in the world of women's golf. Her wonderful story telling concerning her experiences on tour and the many famous personalities she met was very entertaining. Her honesty and sense of humor kept us all laughing.



Louise Suggs, center, with Rosalie Roth, outgoing WMGA Board Member and Nancy Paton, President

Before becoming a professional, Louise Suggs had a brilliant amateur career. She won the Georgia State Amateur Championship twice, captured the Southern Amateur twice and is a three-time winner of the North/South. Ms. Suggs won the 1946 Western Amateur Championship and Western Open and successfully defended both titles the following season. She won the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship in 1947 and in 1948 added the British Amateur Championship, then topped off her amateur career by representing the United States on the 1948 Curtis Cup Team.

Professionally, Louise Suggs has won 58 golf events, eleven of which were major championships, including the US Women's Open in 1949. In that event she set a record for margin of victory (14 strokes) and a 72-hole scoring record of 291. In 1957 she was the winner of the Vare Trophy. She was the LPGA's leading money winner in 1953 and 1960 and in '53 broke her own 72-hole scoring record by shooting 288 to win the Tampa Open. In 1961 she was the first LPGA player to win a tournament three consecutive times at the Dallas Civitan Open.

Ms. Suggs founded the LPGA and served as its President from 1955-1957. She was one of six inaugural inductees into the LPGA Hall of Fame, having been inducted into the Hall of Fame of Women's Golf sixteen years previously. In 2000, the LPGA announced creation of the Louise Suggs Trophy, to be presented annually to the Rolex Rookie of the Year. She was also awarded the Patty Berg Award that year.

Louise Suggs started playing golf at the age of 10 under her father's influence and it was shortly thereafter that Bob Hope nicknamed her "Miss Sluggs". More recently, Ms. Suggs raised the United States flag at opening ceremonies of the 2000 Solheim Cup in Scotland, and was recognized during the LPGA's 50th Anniversary in 2000 as one of the LPGA's top 50 players and teachers.

After her thoroughly enjoyable presentation, Ms. Suggs answered questions. She was asked how players of today compare with those of her era. She responded that today's women are very well prepared for tournament play, but she will still match her sand wedge against anyone's!