

Topstone Men's Club – Executive Board Meeting Minutes for 2007

January, 10 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:05 PM.

Board Members Present; Al Cusson, Paul Resetarits, Bob Steben, Kevin Anderson, Rick Frechette, Kieran Curtis, Mike Sapere, Rick Owens, Tom Kirby, Phil Richards, Ray Solomson, John Sawka, Jim Timpano, Casey Morris

Motion to approve minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Resetarits seconded by Jim Timpano. The motion passed Unanimously.

New Board Members: Two new board members were welcomed – John Sawka and Jim Timpano.

Professionals Report: Casey – Was able to collect all but 40.00 from owing members. Also, there will be new golf carts this year.

Membership Correspondence: There were a couple of letters from disgruntled members about being forced to play in the Rain to get their rounds in. It was agreed that Topstone has one of the most liberal policies when it comes to weather related issues. We were also told that there may be a few people coming to Topstone from other clubs. Tentative opening day for Topstone is March 15, 2007.

Membership Report: Rick Owen - Renewal Applications already went out. We are advertising in Ct Lifestyles for new members,

Tournament Committee: Al Cusson – There was discussion on “experimenting” with other types of tournaments such as best 15 holes or something similar to that. Al will be in touch with Blackledge and Quarry Ridge for interclub tournament dates. There was discussion on bringing Blackledge inter-club match to earlier in the year. There was a consensus that Member-Guest tournament is not working out cost-wise as the men's club has been subsidizing this. Kieran Curtis made motion to remove member-guest tournament. Some people suggested it be moved to a weekend day shotgun. It was suggested to bring this up at a banquet to get the member's input. The motion was adjusted to officially strike the member-guest tournament but to appeal to the membership to try to get 120 plus commitments for people to play, than make a decision whether or not to hold the tournament. Phil Richards seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Web Page Administration: A motion was made by Phil Richards to change Web Hosts. It was seconded by Rick Owens and approved unanimously. Phil will make required changes to Website. Another motion was made by Phil Richards to purchase new software to aid in Website administration. This was seconded by Al Cusson and was unanimously approved. The License would be under Topstone Mens Club.

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Handicap and Rules: Nothing to report this month.

Treasurers Report: Ray Solomson filling in: Went over 2006 Budget but still in good shape. Passed out 2007 budget. Went over each income and expense item.

Old Business: Discussion on purchasing tees for Men's club. Casey mentioned that new tees would not be rated. Discussion about possibly moving existing tees for the men's club. Discussion about lifetime members. There was a motion to bring Gary Devaux and Dave Zider to honorary membership for 2007. Rick Owens made motion and Phil Richards seconded it. It was unanimously approved.

New Business: Discussed at large board assignments. Tom Kirby volunteered to keep different stats which includes rounds played and ringers. John Sawka is in charge of food and Banquets. There was a discussion on forming a subcommittee to the tournament committee for working on the inter-club matches.

Spring Banquet is 3/14

Next Meeting: 2/7/07 6pm at a place to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00

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February, 7 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Present; Al Cusson, Paul Resetarits, Rick Frechette, Kieran Curtis, Mike Sapere, Tom Kirby, Phil Richards, Ed Murphy, John Sawka , Rick Owen.

Also present were Casey Morris and Gary Deveaux

Motion to approve minutes: A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Ed Murphy, seconded by John Sawka. The motion passed unanimously.

In the absence of Bob Steben, I agreed to take the meeting minutes. I apologize in advance for any shortcomings.

Professionals Report: Casey indicated he would like to propose starting week day events for anyone who would like to participate. These would not count as men's club events towards your 10 round minimum but offer prizes for those looking to play during the week.

He discussed offering separate pools for skins/kickers/and CTP. Also discussed was the possibility of having 1 or 2 mixed scotch events during the season.

A new fleet of carts will be in for the 2007 season.

Membership Communications: Rick indicated that past member Lou Desario may want to rejoin Topstone. Lou had left to join Manchester CC. Lou was a past Board Member for the Men's Club.

Rick Owen read a memo from past member Gene Flynn, who is retiring from golf at the highest Amateur ranks available at Topstone. He wished to thank the board.

Membership Report: As of the meeting date we have 170 members registered. This consisted of 162 returning and 8 new. Based on past history, we were running about 70 registrations behind previous years for the same time period.

It was agreed to strike out the question. "Will you be over 50 by..... Date" on the Membership registration form.

Tournament Committee: The schedule was complete except for the dates for the Interclub matches. These dates would be set by month end to allow for the schedule to go to print in time for the banquet.

Also discussed were a variation of 4 Ball formats to add some new tournaments to the schedule. Suggested was a Progressive format in which every six holes, a combination of the low, low 2, and low 3 scores would comprise the team score for the hole. This format keeps every one in the foursome involved in the hole rather than picking up.

Web Page Administration: Phil Richards: Our account has been switched to Go Daddy as the host of our website. Phil has entered into a contract with a significant cost reduction. We will have a 3 year agreement for \$125 total for the

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3 years. There will be no change to the URL. The transfer should be complete by end of February.

The web page has also been updated.

Handicap and Rules: No Report.

Treasurers Report: Ed Murphy provided a report using an average membership of 355 members. The report is only preliminary until we have a better definition of the total membership. Expenses will need to be reviewed throughout the year to match with the final membership numbers so as not to run the similar deficit intentionally administered in 2006.

Superintendent Report: Gary Deveaux graciously attended the meeting. Items to be addressed this season include replacement of the 150 yard bushes with vertical standards in mid fairway. Sand in the bunkers will be replenished with a possible lowering of some of the high face bunkers as was completed on 18 last season. The cart path to the rear of 14 green will also be repaired.

Discussion was held regarding the play from blue tees, or the movement of blues up or whites back. Gary and the ownership needs to be concerned with the public play behind the men's club but will review the movement of the tees providing more variety of lengths.

Opening day for the course will be in the March 15th time frame depending on the whims of mother nature.

Communications: Advertisement for membership has been place in the South Windsor Life for the February, March and April issues. We will be indicating "No Waiting List".

Bag tags for new members are available from our last purchase.

The web site is seeing a considerable amount of traffic.

New Business: John Sawka has taken care of the spring banquet at Maneeley's scheduled for March 14th. The menu was discussed including some alternatives for new items this year. We need to remember to take out any trash/cardboard we bring in this year to avoid a considerable fee. As always, board members need to arrive early to help out at the registration table.

We will also have a guest speaker, Ian Baxter, from the First Tee Program to speak at the banquet.

Paul Resetarits proposed a motion to allow each member to once a year bring a friend to any of our tournament events excluding trophy events. This was seconded by Al Cusson. Discussion ensued regarding the payout to members, entry fee for guests, and the policing or tracking of who has brought their one Wild Card Guest for the year. The motion was passed but need s further discussion regarding the control of tracking guests.

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A second motion was proposed by Phil Richards to set the tournament entry fee for guests entering our events at \$10. As we pay out over \$7 per person, it seemed prudent to have the guests fee sufficient to cover the costs of payout. The motion passed with 1 in opposition.

Mike Sapere agreed to organize the raffle for the banquet. There has been ongoing discussion regarding the make-up of the raffle prizes; one large versus several smaller significant prizes to attract ticket sales. Mike will meet with Casey to put the package together. This will probably be discussed further at the March meeting.

Next Meeting: 3/7/07 6pm at the South Windsor Community Center in the conference room.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30

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March, 7 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:15PM.

Board Members Present; Al Cusson, Kevin Anderson, Ed Murphy, Rick Frechette, Bob Steben, Mike Sepere, Rick Owen, Jim Timpano, Tom Kirby

Motion to approve minutes: Voted unanimously. Good job by fill-in, Al Cusson

Member Correspondence: Nothing to report

Membership Report Update: To date, we are down about 100 members. Passed out forms to show renewals and new members compared with last year at this time. Membership continues to go down. Several suggestions were made on how to attract new people. One suggestion was to offer a 9 hole evening league as an extension of the men's club.

Handicap & Rules: Nothing new to report.

Web Page: Nothing to report

Tournament Committee: Al – Forwarded final printing of tournament card to Kieran for printing. Still trying to finalize inter-club matches. Getting communication from the other courses seems to be difficult. Discussed moving the Blackledge interclub tournament to June.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Murphy – Discussed 2007 Budget at length. Went over some cost cutting options. The success really rides on the club's ability to get renewals and/or new members. Also, went over details of the board insurance policy.

New Business: A suggestion to have 1 large prize to motivate more people to buy more raffle tickets at future banquets. Discussed prizes for the banquets. First Tee speaker not able to make spring banquet. The donated clubs and golf equipment will be delivered to the First Tee program.

Next Meeting: April 4 , 2007 at 6pm – Topstone Grille

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45

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April, 4 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:10 PM.

Board Members Present; Al Cusson, Rick Frechette, Bob Steben, Mike Sepere, Rick Owen, Jim Timpano, Tom Kirby, Kieran Curtis, Phil Richards, John Sawka

Motion to approve minutes: Made by Jim Timpano, seconded by John Sawka.

Membership Correspondence: Received a letter from a returning member (From a few years ago) that he feels he should pay only 160.00 as opposed to 200.00 new member fee. Board concurred that the fee structure is 200.00 with a discount of 20% (40.00) for a returning member in good standing.

Discussion ensued and board sits by it's policy. This person is considered a new member and should pay 200.00. Another member wants a refund due to a medical condition. The board decides the outcome on a "case by case" basis. It was agreed by the board that by the bylaws, a person can join when he reaches the age of 18.

Membership Report: - Rick Owen – Membership up to 329, only off from last year by 2 members. There are 55 new members so far in 2007.

Handicap & Rules: Nothing new to report.

Web Page: - Phil Richards – We are officially on our new server. Discussed some stats with regard to people on our website. Some of these seem high

Tournament Committee: Al – First few tournaments have light turnouts due to weather. Ringers started weekend of 4/7 – 4/8. Still trying to move the Blackledge interclub tournament to June.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Murphy – Passed out updated budget. With discussion, it was agreed that it is imperative to keep membership numbers up to keep the budget positive. This will avoid taking monies away from tournament payouts to meet budget goals.

Advertising: Last ad is coming in South Windsor Lifestyles in May. Discussed tracking how new members joined Topstone.

Professional Report/Update: Topstone was approached to take part in the world scramble. Discussion ensued on whether we should get involved this year or next. It was tabled till next meeting. Gary Devaux is starting to get course improvements done and the shop is stocked.

There was also a discussion about promoting the Willowbrook driving range for our members.

New Business: There was a discussion on honorary memberships. The question is, "What are we waiving?". Rick Owen made a motion for Any honorary

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membership to pay as they go (For Tournament fees). Kieran Curtis seconded it and was passed without abstention. There was a discussion if past presidents should be granted honorary memberships. This will be tabled to another meeting.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2007 at 6pm – Topstone Grille unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45

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May, 2 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:10 PM.

Board Members Present; Rick Frechette, Bob Steben, Mike Sepere, Jim Timpano, Tom Kirby, Kevin Anderson, Ed Murphy

Motion to approve minutes: Made by Jim Timpano, seconded by Ed Murphy

Opening Remarks: Mike put together a spreadsheet of members by town and another one by year joined. There was discussion. This could help us with our future advertising efforts. There was discussion on whether or not to poll non-returning members to survey why they are no longer members. The computer has s been installed with all new software loaded.

Membership Correspondence: None

Membership Report: - – Membership up to 352, including honoraries.

Handicap & Rules: May 15 is cut off for handicaps by the CSGA.

Web Page and Membership Communications: – Looked at by-laws and had discussion. Agreed to a couple of minor modifications. One was about posting minutes on the website. Another discussion about the membership Voting and approving changes to the By-Laws at the Fall Banquet.

Tournament Committee: Team match play is assembled with a large turn-out and no byes.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Murphy – If we pick up another 6 members, we will be at budget. There is 1000.00 in the hole-in-one pool and 760.00 in ringers. Discussed Banquet at Maneeleys VS Topstone. It was agreed there is not enough room at Topstone. Also discussed the idea of saving money by having a social with appetizers instead of a banquet.

Old Business: It was agreed to table other issues when there is a better turnout – probably next meeting.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2007 at 6pm – Topstone Grille unless otherwise Notified.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45

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June, 6 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:10 PM.

Board Members Present; Rick Frechette, Bob Steben, Mike Sepere, Jim Timpano, Ed Murphy, Phil Richards, Al Cusson, Kieran Curtis, Rick Owens, Paul Resetarits

Motion to approve minutes: Made by Jim Timpano, seconded by Mike Sepere

Web Page and Membership Communications: – Will put out E-Mail to introduce Steve Barrett as he comes on board for the Topstone staff. The website will summarize winners for 2-Ball and Father's day tournament, and total number of people in the men's club. It may be possible to put brackets on the website for match play. There was discussion on setting up an online directory for purposes of coordinating a match during match play.

Tournament Committee: For match play, several people have not made the first round end date. It was agreed to extend this by one week. There will be no extensions for the first round after this. Ringers – 88 signed up so far, no complaints. New sand traps were installed. For these traps, it is lift, rake and drop. If ball gets lost in the soft sand, it is treated as a lost ball.

Professional Report: Casey introduced Steve Barrett to take Paul Banks place. He comes from Blackledge. Bunkers are being redone and the 150 Yard bushes have been pulled. Sprinkler heads are being re-measured. Tee times will be posted online. There was a discussion on members signing up and not showing up for a tee time. If someone signs someone else up, and that person doesn't show up, that person is still responsible for their tee time.

Treasurer's Report: A spread sheet on payouts was passed around and had discussion. Also, the budget was discussed.

Membership: 369 Total, 79 new members and 290 returning members.

Old Business: Had discussion on who and if there should be more honorary Members.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2007 at 6pm – Topstone Grille unless otherwise Notified. PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING IS IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH!

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45

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July, 25 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:15 PM.

Board Members Present; Al Cusson, Paul Resetarits, Kieran Curtis, Bob Steben, Ed Murphy, Rick Owen, Kevin Anderson, Tom Kirby, Casey Morris

Motion to approve minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ed Murphy and seconded by Kevin Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

Tournament Committee: Al Cusson – Discussed 5 round minimum for establishing handicaps and why we do impose that rule.

Rick Owen made motion to waive 5 round rule. Al Cusson seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

There has been discussion on using the blue tees for 0 – 6 Handicaps. It was decided to play from white tees and defer to the membership for 2008 club championship ruling.

PGA Report: None

Membership Correspondence/Communication: The minutes have not been updated for the last ten months.

Membership Report: Rick Owen: Sitting at 370 members – Best in several years.

Handicap and Rules: Members by handicap: 0 – 6: 18 players, 8 – 10: 38 players, 11 – 14: 75 players, 15 – 18: 75 players, 19 – 23: 76 players, 24+: 72 players, No Handicap: 16 players. 150 bush removal area is ground under repair. Sandtraps are now as the ball lies – no more pickup, clean and place. There has been positive feedback on 150 bush removal. There was discussion whether or not the sky caddies are for the whole group or only for the one who owns it. Distance on the golf course is for public knowledge.

Treasurers Report: Ed Murphy: Reiterated that the Men's Club Financials are in fine shape. Went over the budget.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: September 5, 2007 at 6pm, Topstone Grille. No August meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion by Ed Murphy and seconded by Rick Owen.

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September, 5 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:15 PM.

Board Members Present; Paul Resetarits, Bob Steben, John Sawka, Casey Morris, Jim Timpano, Rick Frechette, Phil Richards

Motion to approve minutes: Since there was not a quorum, there was not any motions made or approved. There were several discussions which I will outline.

Items discussed:

Budget at length. Several points and questions were made. Looks good.

Fall banquet and giveaways. Will defer to October meeting to discuss this further.

Ground rules with regard to where 150 yard bushes were. It is a free lift one club length no nearer to hole.

Ball mark issue – Since there has been an increase in unfixed ball marks, it suggested that each member fix 2 ball marks beside their own, if possible.

Slow play – It seems that one group will set the pace for the rest of the group. The membership should be reminded of this.

Special order deadline is October 1 and credits must be used up by November 1.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 PM. Next meeting is October 3, 6PM at Topstone Grille.

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October, 3 2007 Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 6:10 PM.

Board Members Present; Paul Resetarits, Bob Steben, Ed Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Rick Frechette, Kieran Curtis, Rick Owen, Mike Sepere, Phil Richards, Jim Timpano, Ed Murphy, John Sawka, Casey Morris

Motion to approve minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kieran Curtis and seconded by Jim Timpano. The motion passed Unanimously.

New Business: A motion was made by Kieran to rename the Senior Cup to the Jim Owens Memorial Senior Cup. Rick Owen seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Tom Kirby resigned the board and Ray Solomson offered to take over this position on a temporary basis.

Senior Tee Option – Discussed the possibility for people over 65 years old to use the gold tees on all holes except for par 3's. There was a long discussion.

It was decided to do an E-Mail Communication to members for seniors (over 65) to use the gold tees for the rest of the year.

Fall Banquet – Discussed door prizes and raffle.

Kieran Curtis made changes to local rules, mostly editing and compacting them.

PGA Report: to cash in pro-shop credit is 11/1/07.

Membership Communications: Web Page: Discussed any possible changes to renewal form. It was tabled until a future meeting.

Membership Report: Rick Owen – 5 or 6 new people are looking to sign up for next year already. Discussed 10 tournament rule. This rule has not been enforced for about 5 years. One option is to let members know that they pay for 10 tournaments, so they should use them. Rick Owen makes motion to give out free membership at banquet as a raffle prize. Kieran seconded it and it passed without abstention.

Tournament Committee: Al Cusson not present – nothing to discuss.

Handicap and Rules: Nothing to report

Treasurers Report: The financials are in fine shape. Decided to use 2000.00 in raffle prizes at the banquets. Paul made this a motion, Kevin Anderson seconded it. Passed without abstention.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2007 at 6pm, Topstone Grille.
Make note of meeting falling later in the month than usual.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30

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November 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

This was a meeting of the membership at the fall banquet

There were two motions on the table:

Changes in bylaws – The proposed changes were printed and several were distributed at each table. There was a small discussion. A motion was made to accept the changes to the bylaws. It was passed with no abstention.

New board members – A motion was made to accept
Rick Labruna as a new board member at large:
Doug Cadiz as a new board member at large
Jose Flores as the new treasurer

The motion was passed with no abstentions. We would like to welcome these three people to the board starting January 1, 2008!

Next board meeting: December 5, 2007 at a place to be announced.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15

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December, 5 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ric Frechette, Al Cusson, Rick Owen, Ed Murphy, Casey Morris, Paul Restaritas, Kiernan Curtis Jose Flores, Doug Cadiz, Jim Timpano

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

Opening Remarks/Housekeeping

Ric thanked all for their help at the fall banquet and noted the excellent job Maneleys had done.

Request for a motion to approve the November 5th and Fall Banquet Minutes was made. Motion made by Jim Timpano, seconded by Paul Restaritas. Motion approved.

New Business

New board members Doug Cadiz and Jose Flores were introduced and welcomed.

Tournament Committee Report

Al Cusson presented preliminary 2008 schedule. Discussion included elimination of overall membership Blue Tee events. Optional Blue Tee events will be offered two weeks prior to Club Championship. Club Championship participants with 0-6 handicaps will play from the blue tees during that event.

Al will confirm Blackledge Interclub Tournament dates and with the help of the tournament committee firm up the 2008 schedule for review by the board at the January meeting.

Member Communications Report

Acknowledge receipt of thank you notes from several members of Jim Owen's family and from Sally Davis (AAA).

Kiernan suggested keeping our web home page fresh during the winter months. Posting of banquet photos was one suggested example.

Casey suggested adding a forum section to the TMGC web site. Kiernan will explore with Phil Richards.

Membership report/Correspondence

Kiernan will update new and returning member's application forms.

The advertising program is reevaluated annually and the 2008 program is subject to change. Request for a motion was made to waive the 10 round minimum requirement to return as a member in good standing for the 2008 season. Motion made by Rick Owen, seconded by Al Cusson. Motioned approved.

Spring and Fall Banquets will be held on March 12th and November 12th respectively.

Handicap & Rules

No discussions.

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Treasurers Report

Reviewed and discussed. Question still lingers on how and where Hole-in-one pool reserve appears on report.

Professional Report

Overall a good year and acknowledge Steve's contribution. Still have a few outstanding TMGC accounts to be collected.

Renovations are being made to the club house including carpeting, paint, wallpaper and addition of a patio.

Hitting nets will be in place for the upcoming season.

Old Business

No Discussion.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Jim Timpano, seconded by Doug Cadiz to adjourn meeting at 8:55 pm. Motioned carried.

Next meeting dates.

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Wednesday, February 13, 2008