



Executive Links

A newsletter of the Executive Women's Golf Association – Seattle Chapter
January 2010

Our Mentors and Mentees are Award-Winning!

**By Dee Sweeney, S.W.I.N.G. Manager
(Skilled Women Inspiring New Golfers)**

Congratulations to our **Mentors and Mentees!** The Seattle, WA Chapter has been recognized as the Chapter with the highest rate of actual Mentor-Mentee match-ups based on total participation in our Division. Our Mentors and Mentees met each other at golf courses and coffee shops all over the State, with the goal of teaching more women about some of the nuances of golf to make them feel comfortable on the course and improve pace-of-play. Thanks to all sixteen of our Mentors and their Mentees for making Seattle's **S.W.I.N.G.** program a success in 2009. It is women like you who make our Chapter strong.

It's time to start thinking about the 2010 season. Based upon 2009, we will need more Mentees. All sixteen Mentees were paired with a Mentor this year; however, due to geography and some hectic schedules, two Mentors were not able to reap the benefits of having a Mentee, so two other Mentors offered to take on an additional Mentee (thanks Michele Bracelin and Cherie Litson). If you would like to sign up as a new or returning Mentor or Mentee during the 2010 season, please contact me at SWING@ewgaseattle.org.

Winter League Reminder

By Dee Sweeney, Winter League Coordinator

Please note that the final session of **Winter League** begins January 11 and runs to February 10. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are currently full, but newcomers are welcome to start on a second course or on a new week night or Saturday. You can also sign up as a substitute. Contact Swing Doctors at 425-823-2100 or email me at SWING@ewgaseattle.org if you're interested in joining the fun, which takes place at Swing Doctors' indoor facility in Kirkland.

Register Now for January Events at GolfTEC

By Paula Bachtold, Education Chair

Come join us as we begin 2010 with two events in January at GolfTEC. Our first event will be Wednesday, January 20th at the GolfTEC, South Lake Union, 255 Yale Ave N. (across from REI) from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. We will have a skills challenge and a friendly competition to test your putting, chipping, pinching and lobbing.

Mark Your Calendars!

**January 13
Board Meeting**

**January 20
GolfTec Education
Event, Seattle**

**January 27
GolfTec Education
Event, Bellevue**

**February 12-14
Seattle Golf Show**

**April 3
Spring Tee Off**

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Hotline: (206) 781-5813
www.ewgaseattle.org
info@ewgaseattle.org

We will also be doing a FREE 10 minute swing diagnosis for those interested. Bring your putter, wedges, 8 iron, and business cards. For more information feel free to contact Laurie Hillyard at lhillyard@golftec.com. Please RSVP by January 13th to education@ewgaseattle.org.

Also at the Seattle event, Laurie from GolfTEC will be discussing the upcoming Skills Challenge Clinics, designed to improve your short game skills by providing a structured numerical short game handicap that will identify specific areas for improvement and help you monitor your improvement

Our second event of the New Year will be on Wednesday, January 27th at GolfTEC Bellevue, 111 108th Ave NE, from 6-9 p.m. We will have long drive and putting contests with prizes and a raffle for a GolfTEC Swing Evaluation and TPI Fitness Evaluation. Joining us will be Dr. Harry Sese and Shawn Farmer from TPI Fitness Conditioning, and Adidas Golf Apparel Sales Rep Kim Ponti. GolfTEC instructors will be available for mini-swing evaluations. Bring your putter, 6 iron, driver, golf shoes, and golf glove. Parking is available across the street from GolfTEC at Boater's World/Tully's Coffee. For more information feel free to contact Brett Wilkinson bwilkinson@golftec.com. Please RSVP by January 20th to education@ewgaseattle.org.

The cost for each event is \$10.00. Checks or cash will be taken at the door, and light snacks will be provided

2010 Seattle Golf Show February 12-14 **By Kathy Anderson, Membership Chair**

This year's Seattle Golf Show is scheduled for the weekend of February 12-14, 2010, at Qwest Field Events Center. EWGA will once again host an informational booth, so bring your friends and potential EWGA members by to check us out. This three-day event is the biggest consumer golf show on the West Coast, featuring the popular Puetz Golf Superstores "try and buy demo zone" with every major manufacturer represented. In addition, there will be contests with prizes, free rounds of golf, destinations and golf products, and activities for everyone.

EWGA will again be providing volunteers for the show. We are still finalizing the details of our participation, so stay tuned for more details and hold the date.

For more information about the Seattle Golf show, you can check out its website at www.seattlegolfshow.com.

Spring Tee Off Brunch – Save the Date **By Ria Emsley, Social Chair**

Our 2010 Spring Tee Off Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, at the Bear Creek Golf and Country Club in Woodinville. The event will run from 9:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. It is the beginning of our golf season and a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet some new golfing buddies! Guests and new members are always welcome. More information will be provided in the February newsletter, and an invitation sent to your home. Hope to see you all there!

Interested in participating on the Tee Off Committee? Please contact Ria Emsley at social@ewgaseattle.org.

Membership Corner **By Kathy Anderson, Membership Chair**

As we start looking towards the 2010 golf season, it will be time for many of you to renew your EWGA membership. The many benefits of EWGA membership include access to leagues and weekend events, clinics, tournaments, handicap service with Golf Life Management System, social events, networking opportunities, great friendships, and the many discounts and partnerships provided through our association with EWGA.

Your EWGA membership renewal date is the last day of the month in which you originally joined. Headquarters will contact you with reminders beginning a couple of months before your renewal date, but you can renew any time. An early renewal will extend your membership for 12 months from your original join date, so save yourself all those reminders, and renew now! Renewing members receive a \$25 discount on dues for the year, compared to the new member rate.

The easiest way to renew is to go to the Members Only section at www.ewga.com and click the Renewal Reminder tab at the upper right corner. Then use your credit card to pay your annual dues. You can also call EWGA

Headquarters at (800) 407-1477 to renew over the phone or you can download a new member application form and fax or mail it with your payment to Association Headquarters. (If you choose that last option and you are renewing prior to your 2010 expiration date, make sure you pay the renewal rate instead of the new member rate listed on the form.)

If you miss your renewal deadline, EWGA offers you a 3-month grace period, during which you can still renew at the discounted rate. During the grace period, you will not have access to the Members Only area or to the Golf Life Management handicap system. And your renewed membership will still extend for 12 months from your original join date. If you exceed the grace period, your membership will cost an extra \$25.

Problems or questions? Call the Hot Line at (206) 781-5813, or email membership@ewgaseattle.org

Sponsor's Corner

Get More For Your 2010 Vacation

By Susan Bluhm, Stellar Travel Co-President



Stellar Travel Co-President (and EWGA member) Susan Bluhm and her husband Ron at their Vow Renewal Ceremony, Waikiki Beach November 3, 2009.

Planning your vacations for 2010? The experts at Stellar Travel will be happy to assist you with everything from golf vacations to family reunions, cruises, or that special trip of a lifetime! By booking your travel with our destination advisors, you'll enjoy peace of mind plus exclusive upgrades, amenities and experiences not available to the general public. Ask us about the free, romantic vow renewal on the beach at Waikiki! Ho'i Hou Ke Aloha (to fall in love all over again) combines romance and golf for a memorable Hawaii vacation!

Call Sheryl for details at 425.747.1900, or sheryl@stellartravel.com - www.stellartravel.com

Getting the Most Out of your Game
By Matt Campbell, PGA Member
(Article reprinted by permission)

If you are new to the game or a serious golfer, there are some things you can do this season to get the most out of your game. I have listed, what I feel, are five of the most important things to do this year to improve, regardless of your current playing ability.

1. Everything that we do in life takes time. To improve your skills at any given thing takes even more time, regardless of what it is. This is particularly true in the game of golf. If you want to become a better player, you need to make sure that you allocate the time it takes to improve. Schedule your time to play golf on the course and schedule your time to practice at the driving range and practice green just like any other appointments that you make on a day to day basis. The more time that you can allocate to the game the better you will become. Improvement does not happen over night, it takes practice and dedication. You are better off if you take little chunks of time more frequently, then big chunks of time spread out over a longer period.

2. Take a golf lesson or two this year from a qualified golf professional. A qualified golf professional can accelerate your improvement ten-fold with less time and effort than you ever thought possible. Far too often, golfers spend hours, weeks, months, years and in some cases a lifetime trying to fix their own faults and problems. A quality instructor can diagnose and give you the tools you will need to fix these problems in minutes. It is the ultimate responsibility of yourself though, to practice and work these problems out. A golf professional will give you the tools, you need to invest the time and effort at the practice facility. A quality golf professional will guarantee game improvement with practice; I know that I do.

3. Make sure that your golf equipment is right for you and properly fit to your specifications and ability level. You wouldn't try to ski with boots that were three sizes too small or with skis that were not right for you? Or a Little League baseball player swinging a major league baseball bat? Golf is no different. Your equipment can make all the difference in the world. There are a lot of variables in a golf club such as; club length, loft, lie angle, shaft flex, grip size, grip material, swing weight, shaft type, club face angle and set make up. The better your clubs fit you, the better you will play, regardless of your ability. I often hear, "I am so bad that it does not matter what I use." The exact opposite is true. The worse you are, the more that you need clubs that fit you. Ask your local qualified golf professional to see if your golf clubs are right for you, it will be worth it!

4. Keep track of what you are doing on the golf course. Keep track of what is going well and keep track of what is going not so well. The best way to do this is to keep the simple statistics such as fairways hit, greens hit in regulation and the # of putts on the greens every time that you play golf. You should also record how you are hitting the golf ball and where your shots are going (Missing drives to the right. Hitting short irons heavy or fat. Hooking or pulling middle irons.) This information will let you or your golf professional know what areas you need to work on. Also record in a journal your thoughts on the golf course. (Today I really had a clear visual on where I wanted the shot to go before I hit it. Or I was easily distracted today and not able to concentrate on what I was trying to do). Refer to this journal often. It takes discipline to make these records and keep track of what is going on, but the effort will be worth it in the long run.

5. Enjoy the walk. I always have said "Don't let something as silly as golf, ruin a good day". Enjoy the beauty of your surroundings, enjoy the company of the golfers in your group, but most importantly, enjoy yourself no matter how good or how bad you are playing. You will find, when looking back on your life, some of the best times that you will ever have are on the golf course. Sometimes it is difficult to realize that when you are in the moment. Make an effort, every time that you play golf, to enjoy the experience and remember why you took up the game in the first place, because you liked it and you had fun playing it.

Matt Campbell is PGA Head Golf Professional and general manager at Mount Si Golf Course, one of the locations for EWGA leagues. Matt and Mount Si are long-time, loyal supporters of the Seattle Chapter. In 2007, Mount Si became the first course in Washington state to earn a "women friendly" facility designation from EWGA for meeting certain criteria for playability and customer experience. Matt is available to answer your golf questions and is available for private or group instruction to all ability levels. He can be reached at matt@mtsigolf.com or 425-391-4926.

President's Corner
By Dee Johnson

Happy New Year Ladies.

I hope you all enjoy the blessing of time with your family and loved ones. I believe some of you are like me – as the New Year approaches, I regret that I didn't spend enough time on the golf course or at a lesson (I even have a little regret for not going to the range to practice!). So this year my focus (rather than a resolution, because those always get broken) is going to be no regrets at the end of the year. I hope to give my all to my family and carve out more me-time on the golf course with a bit of practice/lessons to increase my enjoyment of the game. Luckily for all of us, one of the great benefits of being involved in EWGA is a great support system to meet our goals and have a reason to look forward to the New Year. As President, it is my hope that you, too, will take advantage of opportunities to become more involved with EWGA by volunteering, partaking in league play and weekend outings, or participating in the plethora of events that can help you reach your goal, resolution, or aspiration.

