

Message from the President, LSMGL

We are about to get the Lincoln Senior Men's Golf League cranked up in earnest. We have already held three events, have another (the Fun Day at Mahoney on April 27) well in hand, and should be about ready to begin regular team competition on Wednesday, May 4.

The schedule for the entire season is finished. All teams in all divisions will be scheduled to play on May 4.

We have NOT sent out messages to each member of the League concerning Division & Team assignment, or coordinator information, as we have done in previous years--partly because we assumed we could take advantage of technology, and partly because the old man who has always done it just flat ran out of time to get it done.

And we have not duplicated for everybody a hard copy of the total League 'booklet' which includes the rules for play and tons of other information about the League and runs to about 14 pages. Instead, it has been posted on the web site [www.lincolnseniorgolf.com]. We have prepared a smaller packet for each individual member which includes only about 3 pages of the 14 (those things we think you might need to have in your golf bag) and the schedule of the Division you have been placed in.

We have given all of these packets to the Coordinator of each division, assuming that the coordinator will take the responsibility to see that the packets are made available to individuals. The Division schedules have also been posted on the web site. And, a locator list of all members of record has been posted on the web site. If you have not been contacted by your coordinator, you may look yourself up on this locator list, discover what Division you are in, find out your team number, then go to the schedule for that Division and find your schedule for the entire season. [A hard copy of that schedule is a part of the packet your coordinator has for you.] Now, we know that some of our members do not have e-mail and will not be receiving this information. If you know of such people, you can do them (and us) a service by letting them know what is going on. Sooner or later their coordinators will get the necessary material to them.

Most, if not all, of the Coordinators plan to be at Mahoney on April 27, whether or not they are scheduled to play in the event, in order to distribute packets to people who have not yet claimed them.

FUN DAYS

There are also some things you need to know about Fun Days, particularly things those of you who are new to us might not be aware of.

First, you must sign up for Fun Days--participation is not automatic. The Fun Days ARE listed on each of the Division schedules, but that does not mean that you are in fact scheduled for them automatically. We now have almost 370 members of record, and a Fun Day scheduled at one specific golf course cannot accommodate all of us.

And there are deadlines for signing up. Because it takes a lot of time and effort to get necessary materials prepared, and because we must let golf courses know how many people to expect (they take reservations for unused space one week in advance), the sign up deadline for almost all events is set eight days in advance. It is almost always possible to get hooked up if you discover after the deadline has passed that you could play after all, and we always have lots of cancellations, even at the last minute. But it is certainly more convenient and more comfortable for the event coordinator (Ned Hedges most of the time, Bill Allen some of the time) to know things as far in advance as possible.

Second, partly because we are growing, many of our Fun Days for this year are already full, and many others are nearly full. When we have events scheduled at the municipal courses, we always designate a 'spillover' course, so we automatically split the field and put one or more flights at a second course, so we have no virtual limits. We will get everybody who wants to play on a golf course--we have not as yet had to use three courses on the same day, but we will do so if we have to.

But when we play at courses other than the Lincoln municipal courses the numbers of participants are limited. The following events are already full: Ashland (May 16), Quarry Oaks (May 25), Iron Horse (July 18), and Firethorn (Sep 12). A number of the others are very, very close to capacity currently. We are accumulating waiting lists for all of these events in case of cancellations, and we will continue to do so. You should also recognize that we are a bunch of old men, and unfortunate things happen to us and our families, and we always receive many, many cancellations.

Because so many of our events are full or will soon be full, we are attempting to negotiate for some 'spillover' contingencies at other quality courses in the area. We will try to communicate these arrangements as fully as we can when the occasions arise.

Third, I continue to receive inquiries about the policy of allowing players to make up their own teams for some events (and why not all?). Until quite recently in the history of the Senior League, the League made up all teams for all events. And many of our members found that to be the most attractive feature of the League: they had the opportunity to play golf with people they would otherwise probably have never even met in their lives, and many, many strong and long lasting friendships have resulted from it. A few years ago, however, when we began to schedule events 'out of town,' we started to allow players to make up their own teams, primarily as a means of making car pooling convenient. The practice has become popular, and the Executive Committees over the years have tended to accommodate the desire more and more. At the same time, Executive Committees, past ones and the current one, have felt it desirable to maintain the 'old' practice and its advantages at least part of the time, and have generally decided to continue to allow players to make up their own teams for events 'out of town,' but to leave the makeup of teams to the event coordinator for those Fun Days 'in Lincoln.'

[And, of course, if all you want to do is play golf with the same people you play with all the time, you do not need a League to schedule things for you. All you have to do is get your foursome together, call a golf course to schedule a tee time, and go play. All of the courses we play are open to the public, with the single exception of Firethorn. Of course, you won't get to win 'my' entry fee; but then you won't lose yours to me either.]

I do want you to understand the position of the people who are responsible for setting League policy.

Finally (well at least for the time being), we have 'finally' been able to get necessary information about Substitutes to Marion Tatum so that he can prepare the web site properly. We have lots and lots of substitutes, but Marion also has to receive information from them about their availability. People are already attempting to get subs, and Marion will help the process as much and as soon as he is able.

Ned Hedges