

July Meeting at Brown Deer Park GC

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manger, WGCSA

Tuesday July 19th the WGCSA held the annual Member Tournament. The educational session was on the topic of Connecting Golfers with Social Media by Robert Porter of the Hiawatha GC in Minneapolis, MN. After a great lunch the field of 60 golfers headed out to tackle the historic Brown Deer Park Course.

The Golf Course was in great shape despite the challenging weather we all experienced in July this year. Course Superintendent Tim Wegner and his staff did a great job

preparing the course for his peers. The day ended with the following winners of this year's tournament.

One of our Honorary Members, Mr. Gene Haas who was the longtime Director of the WSGA (and also author of our 75th Anniversary Book) sent me an email explaining his regret for not being able to attend the meeting. His love for the Brown Deer GC comes through in his message to me and does a great job explaining some of the rich history of the course. I have listed the message he sent me on 6/29/11.

Sorry, I'm unable to attend the 7/19/11 WGCSA meeting at Brown Deer, due to a conflict... much to my regret.. Brown Deer has ALWAYS had a soft spot in my heart and is one of the premier public golf facilities in America, since being designed and constructed by George Hansen in 1928. It reached its maturity in the 1960s, with each hole flanked by gigantic elm trees, making it one of the most difficult driving holes in the state. With the advent of the infamous "Dutch Elm Disease," which destroyed most of the trees, a vigorous replanting program was then initiated, requiring natural time to restore Brown Deer to its original state - if POSSIBLE. In 1992, Brown Deer was "redesigned" by Andy North and Roger Packard, and the fairway grass converted to bent, which led to its hosting the GMO in 1994. The GMO (later the U.S. Bank Classic) was discontinued in 2010), much to my discontent, inasmuch as I served on the initial GMO Board in 1968. I felt that Brown Deer was one of the GREAT viewing sites for golf in America. It featured FREE parking and a delightful walk through the parklands, from the parking area to the golf course, watching birds, ducks and geese basking in the beauty of Brown Deer. To me, it rivals Augusta, only this one is OPEN to the public every day of the year.

In 1964, Brown Deer served as the site of a one-day exhibition featuring Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Bob Charles and Doug Sanders. (Graciously sponsored by the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co.) Gary Player set the course record of 66 at that time. In 1966, I chaired the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship at Brown Deer Park, which was featured LIVE on ABC Television's "WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS," with Bill Flemming and Jim McKay as the announcers. Arne Dokka, of Studio City, CA, set the course record of 65 (the current course record is 61, held by numerous touring pros) in the qualifying and Monty Kaser of Wichita, KS won the event. What was most interesting was that we "borrowed" Milwaukee CC's "retired" movable irrigation system from MCC superintendent, John Stampfl, "converting" Brown Deer into a "private-like" golf facility. Also, with the "free" distribution of tons-and-tons of Milorganite. (We did the same in 1977 when the APL once again was held at Brown Deer and Danny Quast obliged us with the use of the same system again.) Many of the players felt that Brown Deer Park GC was one of the FINEST maintained courses that they had ever played, much to the delight of the MCPC.

Brown Deer remains as one of the elite public golf facilities in America.....and the 2011 WGCSA "tournament" will only add to this illustrious history. Good luck on the event, and I truly will regret not being able to attend.

Gene Haas



Above - Brown Deer Clubhouse 7 Grounds
Right - Tim Wegner GC Superintendent
Below - Hole 18 - Par 5 - 557 Yards
Below Right - Hole 10 - Par 4 - 447 Yards

FLIGHT WINNERS

Overall Low Gross Scott Bushman 73
 1st Place Net A Flight Jon Canavan 67
 2nd Place Net A Flight Eric Leonard 69
 1st Place Net B Flight Darren Dase 64
 2nd Place Net B Flight Dave Hassel 71
 Affiliate 1st Place Net Pat McDonagh 64
 Affiliate 2nd Place Net Aaron Goninen 69

FLAG EVENTS

Closest to Pin #5 Darren Dase
 Longest Drive #6 Scott Bushman
 Longest Putt #9 Myron Seaver
 Longest Drive #12 Steve Blake
 Closest to Pin # 14 Scott Bushman
 Closest on two shots #16 Scott Mitchell



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