



AWGA NewsLinks

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARIZONA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

2005 ISSUE 7

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THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON DEEN BOWEN

By Mary Ann Souter

84 years old and counting! Deen Bowen is a lady who loves life and who loves golf. She's active, optimistic, friendly, caring, and determined. She has been playing golf for 56 years and still plays three times a week at her home courses. In the summer, she's a member of White Mountain Country Club in Pinetop and in the winter months, she belongs to San Marcos Country Club in Chandler. Although she is coping with congestive heart failure, she still manages to maintain quite an ambitious schedule at the golf course. "If I keep golfing, I feel better," she says about her health. "These old joints are going," she adds. "Sometimes I have to push myself to go out, but I keep pushing. It's good exercise for me." She is truly a model for all women and one who exemplifies the fact that golf is a game you can play your whole life.

A native Arizonan, Deen was born and raised in Safford, where she lived most of her adult life. There, she was a member of Mount Graham Golf Course and claimed the Club Championship for all but three years she was there. Her record of winning is remarkable. Deen has a soft spot in her heart for the Southern District. "I would like to go back to Safford but most of my golfing friends are gone now," she says in a reminiscent tone. "It's a good place to live. There's no traffic there. And they have a lot of best ball tournaments. That's my favorite golf game."

After her grandson was in an accident several years ago, Deen moved to Chandler to help the family. Her husband had already died and she realized it was time to be closer to her children. She has a son and daughter who live in Mesa and a son who lives in Tempe. She is also the grandma of eight and great grandmother of 11. She proudly tells me, "Three new great-grandchildren were born just this year." Deen has a close-knit family who spend a great deal of time together. "My grandchildren love it that grandma still plays golf," she says laughing.

"They're really proud of the way I can still get around." Golf is an integral part of life for Deen and she especially enjoys it when she can play with her oldest son. He heads up to White Mountain in the summer months to play golf with mom — which she says is a very special time for her.

Deen has enjoyed her membership in the AWGA for over 30 years. "I joined a long, long time ago," she admits. She served on the Board of Directors for two years while Evie Hill was president. It was during this time that the creative minds of the Board came up with the idea for the annual Scotch Play Tournament. Deen still plays in it when she can and after all these years, Deen and Evie often run into each other at these events. "It's still fun to see Deen," Evie says. "She's full of life and she's an inspiration to all of us." Evie recalled the years working with Deen and says, "Deen was quite knowledgeable and willing to help with whatever needed to be done. She was a good sport, played regularly in AWGA tournaments, and had a respectably low handicap. And although she took golf seriously, she was always having a good time." Deen was Rules Chairman for two years, Publicity Chairman for four years, and because they didn't have a designated Sites Chairman then, she assisted Evie in finding courses for AWGA tournaments. Evie remembers that Deen was on the committee that started to make changes to the by-laws. She was a tireless worker and volunteer extraordinaire — assisting in any way she could, learning new skills, and giving many hours to support golf for Arizona women. And although she isn't involved in the administration of the AWGA anymore, she is still an active member playing in several of our tournaments. As a matter of fact, she played in the Seniors Championship in late September at Pinetop Country Club. With a Handicap Index of 28 now, she was surprised she was accepted to play. "But I'm so old that they need people to fill my age category," she laughs. "There's not

continued on page 2...

2005 AWGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SCOTCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

Yuma Golf and Country Club -Yuma
November 14 - 15, 2005

STATE MEDALLION CLUB TEAM TOURNAMENT

Granite Falls North & South
Desert Springs Golf Club
December 8, 2005

2006 AWGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

AWGA SEASON OPENER TOURNAMENT

Site TBA • February 26, 2006

AWGA WEEKEND CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Corte Bella Golf Club • March 26, 2006

STATE FOUR BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Refuge @ Lake Havasu
April 24 - 25, 2006

STATE MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Site TBA • March 22 - 26, 2006

AWGA PARTNERS TOURNAMENT

Omni Tucson National • June 12 13, 2006

AWGA DAY IN HADES

The Boulders • August 7, 2006

STATE STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Site TBA • August 28 - 30, 2006

STATE SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

Esplendor Golf Resort @ Rio Rico
September 25 - 27, 2006

AWGA SCOTCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

Trilogy Golf Club @ Vistancia
November 27 - 28, 2006

STATE MEDALLION TOURNAMENT

Sun City Grand • December 14, 2006

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ASK THE PRO

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PUTTING: Nobody likes to three putt!

I have found that working on the mechanics of my stroke is one of the best ways to improve my confidence and help aid in my ability to make more putts.

Here is a drill I like to use when practicing my own putting. Give it a shot:

Lay down two clubs parallel to each other on a straight putt about 5 feet in length. Make sure your shoulders, feet & hips are all square to the target line and that your eyes are directly over the ball. Next, focus on squaring up your clubface and making a short back stroke with good acceleration through the ball. This will allow your natural pendulum stroke to run true to the target line while providing instant feedback for a straight back and through putting stroke.

CHOICE HOTELS DISCOUNT CARD ENCLOSED A WIN-WIN FOR ALL OF US!

Enclosed in this newsletter is your Choice Hotels Savings Card. The 15% discount at participating Choice Hotels is given when you 1) make your reservation through their website, www.choicesportstravel.com or 2) call (877) 240-2929 for an advance reservation. In both cases you must provide the AWGA discount code (00216170) when making your reservations. The discount is not available when you walk up to the reservation desk on the day of your intended stay. You must reserve ahead to get the low price offered.

Choice Hotels include: Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality Inns, Clarion, MainStay Suites, Sleep Inns, Econo Lodges and Rodeway Inns. This new member benefit is added at no additional cost to you. So keep your new Choice Hotels Savings Card with you and enjoy the savings from our newest partner.

Spotlight, continued...

many of us left who qualify for the Masters group."

Golf has been a vital part of Deen's life. Not only has the physical aspect kept her reasonably healthy but she's also developed many close friendships over the years. She fondly remembers one of her favorite golf partners, Betty Smith, who played in every tournament with her in Safford and all over the Southern area. She remembers those as good times but continues to look forward and enjoy her new golf friends. At 84, she still plays more often than most of us. This summer she played in White Mountain's Invitational which was no easy feat. It was best ball, partners, match play – her favorite game. She couldn't resist. She played 18 holes for five consecutive days. "I was tired at the end of the week, but I had a great time," she says. In October Deen returns to Chandler and gets back to the women's play days at San Marcos again. "Tuesdays and Thursdays are devoted to golf with the ladies, but on Sundays I play in a mixed group," she teases. "Can you imagine those young fellows playing with me?"

After talking with Deen, I certainly can imagine people of any age playing golf with her. She is lively, funny, and is motivated to keep on going until she can't go anymore. She is one who believes in the old adage, 'I don't want to rust out, I want to wear out.' She's delightful to talk with and enthusiastically shares her love of golf. As an organization founded to promote women's golf, the AWGA often provides venues to show just how significant golf can be in a woman's life. But maybe it's better to let our matriarchs, like Deen Bowen, sing the praises of golf. Her active participation is a testament to the lifelong enjoyment golf can bring. She leaves a legacy that inspires women of all ages to keep playing, for there's nothing more satisfying than to know that at 84 years old, you are one of 15 exceptional women playing in the Master's division of the State Seniors Championship. Congratulations, Deen, and we hope you have many more years of golf ahead!

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

At the AWGA we're always working to find ways to be a more inclusive organization for women golfers. Under the leadership of Norma Scuri, Membership Committee Chair, we have now added a new membership type for those who are strictly recreational golfers – one that doesn't include a Handicap Index. We've named it the "Individual Membership." Anyone who plays golf but does not belong to an organized club and who isn't concerned with having a handicap, can now join the AWGA. The Individual Members are not eligible for playing in AWGA tournaments but most of the other benefits remain the same. The annual membership fee is \$25, which includes receiving our newsletters, newsblasts, a Directory, USGA publications at AWGA cost plus shipping, partner discounts, and the opportunity to attend AWGA educational seminars. They also receive the intangible benefits such as USGA course and slope rating services at Arizona golf courses and the satisfaction of supporting the promotion of women's golf in Arizona.

If you know any women who would like to belong to the AWGA but don't have the time or maybe the desire to join a ladies club, tell them about our new Individual Membership. They can join by completing a form on our website, printing the invoice, and then sending in the invoice with their membership fee. When we receive their annual dues, they will receive a welcome packet telling them about their benefits and including a decal, a Directory, most recent newsletters, and a Choice Hotels Savings card. It's just another way the AWGA is becoming a more progressive association reaching out to women golfers of all interest levels.

RULES TIP — TEEING GROUND

Why do so many people tee off from just in front of the tee markers? Is that extra few inches that important? Maybe...maybe not...

The "teeing ground" is the starting place for the hole being played. It is a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee markers.

You can start the hole from anywhere within the teeing ground, by placing your ball on a tee, on the ground or on an irregularity of surface (which you may or may not have created). If the ball falls off the tee or you accidentally move it before hitting it, there is no penalty — the ball was not yet in play.

A ball is in the teeing ground when any portion of it is within the teeing ground. If all of the ball is outside the teeing ground when you tee off, in stroke play you will incur a two-stroke penalty (and you must start over from within the teeing ground, or be disqualified once you have teed off on the next hole).

In match play, however, there is no penalty for starting a hole from outside the teeing ground. The most your opponent can do is immediately make you cancel the stroke and play another from within the teeing ground, without penalty. In your next match, tee up and hit your ball on the first hole from about five feet in front of the tee markers and see what your opponent says! He will probably want to call the hole on you, but the worst that can happen is that you got a free practice shot off to start the match. Of course, if you hit that first ball out of bounds, he probably won't make you replay the stroke!

Warren Simmons warnsimmn@aol.com

CONGRATULATIONS

To The Following Ladies on Their HOLES IN ONE!!

Val Vickers	5/19/05	Heritage Highlands Women
Carol Morrow	7/29/05	Fountain of the Sun WGA
Jeanne Sanford	8/25/05	Huachuca Womens Club
Marie Wisner	8/25/05	Canoa Hills WGA
Cookie Kaplan	9/01/05	Mountainview Women's Assn.
Nan Stanley	9/05/02	Havasu Island Happy Niners
Rose Rubio	9/10/05	Quail Creek Country Club WGA
Nancy Dinkelman	9/15/05	Ironwood Golf Club



Please report all holes-in-one as they occur. Holes-in-one occurring prior to the previous newsletter publication date may be excluded from publication.

AWGA MEMBERS HELP WITH HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

We are certain there are many of our members who are volunteering for various organizations to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The following stories are just two whose actions were brought to our attention. The AWGA salutes all of our members who have been involved in the relief efforts for the people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Chris Giza, AWGA Board Member, is a commercial pilot who had first-hand experience flying rescue-relief flights in and out of New Orleans on September 3rd and 4th. Seeing all of the destruction left an indelible mark in her mind and heart. In her words, "The whole experience was incredible and the enormity of the loss these people have suffered cannot be comprehended – at least not by me." The determination and willingness of people to lend a hand was inspiring to her and to the hundreds of other pilots carrying the sick and injured as well as food and supplies.

Another of our members, Mary Moisiso, a Tucson resident has been spending her time organizing relief efforts and getting much needed supplies to her friend who was stranded in Vidalia, Louisiana. They have been in daily contact and Mary has been helping with communication to the outside world. She sent packages filled with necessary supplies for the 64 people in the RV park including communication devices like walkie talkies and a megaphone with a lasting supply of batteries. She also sent boxes of personal necessities and sundries that we take for granted. On Labor Day, she sent an email seeking help for the evacuees in the RV park to a generic email address for the City of Vidalia – this was one whole week after the hurricane. From Mary's outreach came a cell phone for her friend paid for by the United Way and a car from the local United Methodist Church. Her friend's professional experience as a clinical social worker has been the catalyst in arranging for basic needs to be met while comforting and counseling those who lost everything in the storm.

THINK GOOD THOUGHTS

*As you walk down the fairway of
life you must smell the roses, for you
only get to play one round.*

– Ben Hogan, 1912-1997

WHAT IS THE LURE OF GOLF?

AWGA Stroke Play Championship Offers Both Golf and Life Lessons

By Mary Ann Souter

For some, golf is a recreational activity and for others golf is a competitive sport. The women who participated in the 2005 Arizona Women's Golf Association Stroke Play Championship at Moon Valley Country Club, August 23-25, were among the many who take golf seriously. Their philosophy is to conquer the course and play their best. Unlike team sports, it's you against the course — not other players. During a tournament, no other golfer can influence your score. It's your swing, your ability to focus, your physical and mental state, your stamina, and your level of skill that will make or break your score.

On August 25, 2005 all of those elements came into play as Kerry Postillion and Tui Selvaratnam went into a playoff to determine the Champion. Tui made an 8-foot par putt on the second playoff hole keeping the scores even. On the third playoff hole, Kerry's approach shot landed only 10 feet from the hole giving her a definite advantage. She made a birdie putt to win the Championship. It was a playoff to remember — two experienced and accomplished players fighting to the end, using all their course management skills to finish the tournament and capture the title of State Stroke Play Champion. Months and years of practicing drives, chips and putts could still land a great player in a precarious position. In this case, one errant shot made all the difference.

So what is the "lure" that golf seems to have on so many of us? It can be downright frustrating, even discouraging at times. But it has a draw and it won't go away. We not only want to play better to enjoy the game more, but we also find it a personal challenge to do our best. And when we hit just one great shot, we find the impetus to try even harder. We can temporarily forget the ball that landed in the water and the one that we just topped and went 20 yards instead of 120 yards. We know we can do it because we just hit a great shot. The swing technique and the mental game is there inside—just waiting to become more consistent. And with time and practice, we know it will.

As long as the focus of the game is enjoyment, we look forward to going back and trying over and over to lower our handicap and hit more deliberate and accurate shots. As I watched so many talented women playing during the tournament, I was motivated to believe that I, too, could hit those great shots that land exactly where you thought they would. I felt energized by the possibility to play better golf, which would ultimately make me enjoy it more. Many of the women are no more athletic than I am, yet they could connect with the ball and hit it straight down the center of the fairway. They could clear a pond that was 150 yards away. They could stay out of the bunkers. They could land their approach shots three feet from the hole. They could concentrate and putt going downhill right into the cup. I was inspired by what I saw — average women who loved the game and played better-than-average golf.

Being a spectator at this year's Arizona Women's Golf Association Stroke Play Championship gave me a new outlook about golf. Yes, it's a game that can be very competitive for highly skilled players. There are trophies to be won and competitors to defeat. But it's also a game that makes a person keep trying for their personal best. The lure, I discovered, is that in hitting more accurate shots, a person actually discovers a small, hidden place inside that loudly screams, although no-one else can hear, "I can do it and it feels really great when I do." When we can consistently repeat shots that make us feel great, it can change our whole attitude about not only golf but life itself. It's a confidence builder. When we can see ourselves as winners, we can benefit in all areas of our lives.

So the "lure" is that somewhere deep inside we realize that the lessons we learn by playing golf have the potential to reshape our body, mind, and spirit. No wonder we are inherently drawn to the links. It's an instinctive calling in each of us! How amazing that the AWGA Stroke Play Championship could bring out such philosophical thoughts! And they say golf is just a game!

JUNIOR GOLF SPOTLIGHT

2005 has been an extraordinary year for Daffodil



Sanchez, one of our junior golf prodigies. She won the Remax Junior Long Drive World Championship in Minnesota in August hitting a 274 yard drive. She won the Arizona State Southwest Section Junior PGA and later in the summer won the US Kids Arizona State Championship, which qualified her for the US Kids World Championship. She went to the USGA Girls qualifier at Boulder Creek, NV and finished 7th among the girls up to 17 years old. And that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to evidence of her skill.

Her trophies and awards are numerous and line the mantle of her fireplace spilling off the sides and onto the adjoining walls. Daffodil knows the game of golf, realizes the importance of practice, and has the right attitude and mental focus to continue winning. At only 12 years old, she's an example of natural talent. Her swing looks effortless and picture-perfect. She has an innate desire to succeed and the maturity to be a forward-thinker. She's also nurtured by a loving family, mentored by pros in local clubs, and encouraged and supported by several AWGA members who enjoy being with such a lovely, talented, and spirited young lady.

Daffodil Sanchez is just one story about the success of the Junior Golf Program. There are so many more whose lives are changed because of their involvement in golf. It's a game they are learning as youngsters and one that can be played for the remainder of their lives.

Give to our Junior Golf Program now. We still have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$45,000 for the Girls Junior Americas Cup. Every dollar counts so whether you can donate \$5.00 or \$25.00, your contribution will go to a worthwhile cause and will benefit our young golfers. Who knows, maybe we have the next Paula Creamer right here in Arizona!



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The Life of a Touring Amateur

Those of us who can only dream of playing golf at a level that will get us into national competition have no idea what these women go through to compete at that level. They are completely committed to the athletic endeavor that is competition, something far removed from my approach to golf. When I received the following email from one of Arizona's top competitors, I enjoyed reading it so much, that I wanted to share it with you. See if you don't have the same feeling of "being there". Thanks to all of the Arizona women who represent us so well among the nationally competitive women amateur golfers.... Mary Long

Whew! I am glad to be home (although earlier than I had hoped)....

What a 2 week trip! I am so tired I have to admit that I am somewhat happy that I did not make the State Team - more hotels and crazy tee times and weather issues (can you spell hurricane issues for those going to Hilton Head next week for State Team?) Another Tui emergency (tsunami while she was in Sri Lanka, Bombing in London when she was playing in the British Mid-Am, victims in Houston during the mid-Am and maybe hurricane Rita???) Anyway, I know that Betsy and Linda have resolved all the weather issues for our sojourn at Pinetop and it will be wonderful. I don't know how to pack for cold weather- rain yes but cold no- where are those mittens and t-necks?

Houston- Mid-Am - Hot humid, rainy, and the worst type of grass/rough I have ever seen in my life. If you could find your ball that sank into the Bermuda rough that was 5-6 inches long you were lucky to hit a sand wedge out. We all tried different kinds of shots and found that a 7 wood with a sand wedge/fried egg swing sort of worked to get you back to the fairway. The course was relatively flat with some great holes. The host course and it members were a dream come true. The locker room (the men's of course) was reserved for the players. I had a complimentary massage right next to George Bush's locker. Plasma screen TV's, open bar, ice cream freezer, attendants that cleaned your shoes each day and put them in your locker that had your name engraved on a commemorative bag tag type thing. Then each day there was some treat in your locker (a bag of chocolate chip cookies, a wind shirt...) The Texans know how to do it right!!!! and do it big time! They obviously don't have enough ways to spend their money. The course was wonderful. Overall I played well but struggled with two triples the first day. As a result, some of you may know, I was in a playoff. Five players for two spots and on the first hole

I had an 18 inch putt to continue to the next hole for the final spot and my caddie dropped the towel that was on his shoulder on my line of putt- two stroke penalty-Byrnes, you are gone! It was fun to stay a few more days and watch Lynn Simmons and Tui play their hearts out- also Kerry Postillion who lost in the finals.

New York-USGA Seniors - hot humid during the practice rounds and first day of qualifying. I was lucky I had an early morning tee time the first day so I got done before the rain and lightning struck. The afternoon group got called off two times and some did not finish- more delays the next day. Course was "longest short course I have ever played"- (per Ben Hogan) I would look at the card and think a 310 yard par four would be four wood, wedge. NOT! Driver, eight iron! It was set up as 5800 yards but I'll bet everyone would agree it played like 6000 at least. The drives plugged, no roll and the rough was long. The more you played it the better it got except I was so tired after the mid-am (only walking allowed) and then I decided to walk this one. I think I was just plumb too tired the second day and my first match. Played poorly both of them but I did make the cut (barely) so I should be happy. The greens were really hard to read as well. Anyway, it was a great experience and the host club was wonderful. Really old course and club house (as opposed to Mid-am which was new in 1999).

I have to tell you all that AZ women at these events have an incredible camaraderie that no other state has. Our USGA Mid-Am and Seniors committee members are the best and it was very apparent as we were always trying to get

a picture of the whole group whenever we could. Jan- I think the lime green hats may have jinxed us but I am willing to give it a try again. It was cool though to see all the AZ ladies wearing them (at least partially during the day) to help identify our team!

Thanks for your wishes and prayers and other comments.

See you in Pinetop! I can't believe there is more golf- Poor Chris Giza is in Michigan playing in EWGA defending her title there and then back here to Pinetop- I think she may be happy to get on an airplane and only have to worry about the prisoners. Myself, I am having a four hour foot massage on Wednesday and a five hour body massage on Thursday so if I do not respond quickly it is because I am trying to get my aging body back into shape or have gone into a coma...

Barb Byrnes



Barb Byrnes... her caddie... and the towel.

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