



NEWSLINKS

A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting Golf for Women in Arizona



Spotlight: The Best of the Best

Tui Selvaratnam and Mari Miezwa Partner up to Win the AWGA Four-Ball Championship

by Mary Ann Souter

The first state championship event of the year took place on April 19th and 20th at Trilogy in Gilbert with a line-up of past champions playing to recapture the title. Competition was fierce and the win for Tui Selvaratnam and Mari Miezwa was earned by golfing with determined skill and focus. With a score of 132, Tui and Mari ended the two day championship five strokes ahead of their nearest competitors, Claudia Pilot and Kim Eaton, both AWGA champions in other events.

Tui is a past Four-Ball champion who won in 2006, 2007 and 2008 with Lynn Simmons. Winning with Mari, Tui's good friend, makes this a gratifying victory for both of them. And although they have participated in the same USGA and AWGA

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Cover Photo: Raven at South Mountain

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Help us reach more women golfers.... when you're finished reading this newsletter, pass it along to a friend.



Ventana Canyon, Tucson

AWGA Day in Hades

If you have never played Ventana Canyon Golf Club you won't want to miss this opportunity. If you have played it, you know what a great venue it will be for an AWGA Tournament. On Monday, July 12th, Ventana Canyon Golf Club will host the Day In Hades. Established in 1984 and designed by one of the world's preeminent golf course architects, Tom Fazio, the Mountain and Canyon courses at Ventana Canyon offer unique character and natural desert golf experience. Based at the magnificent foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, Ventana Canyon golf courses are surrounded by lush, native Sonoran desert vegetation and spotted with majestic saguaro cacti. This will be a great event so sign up today at www.awga.org!

Arizona Team Returns From USGA Calibration Session with Honors

Each year four members of the AWGA Course Rating team participate in the USGA Calibration Session. This year the team representing our association included Barbara Simmons, Judi Lorenzen, Robin Cook and Melanie Bridges who traveled to Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California where the 2010 event was held. They joined teams from California, Colorado, Oregon and Utah to be tested on their skills and insure that they are performing their duties in accordance with the USGA rating program. And although they are participating in the exercises for training purposes, there is also an element of competition involved. Nine teams all performed to the best of their ability rating courses and were scored by USGA experts.

In the end, our AWGA team finished in a very respectable second place. "One of the teams from Northern California took first place," said Melanie Bridges, Chair of the Course Rating Committee. She chuckled and added, "Our team agreed that it must have been due to home course advantage!" The bottom line is that our women participated to reinforce their skills, which in turn, improves the ratings on our Arizona courses. As a testament to the skill of our members, the AWGA was chosen to participate on a USGA Course Rating Subcommittee to help beta test a new Course Rating software program, which will be implemented on a national level this year.

A big "Thank You" to the entire AWGA Course Rating Team for their commitment to this most essential part of the game of golf!

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Spotlight: The Best of the Best

events, this is the first time they played in a partner event together. Tui has established a stellar record as an amateur champion in local, state, regional and national competitions, but it takes two strong players to win the State Four-Ball Championship. That's where Mari comes in. As a competent and experienced partner, her ability on the course was instrumental in making their team victorious.

They started the second day of play with a two stroke advantage. Both Tui and Mari knew they had to play well to keep the lead. Tui recalled, "Until the back nine of the second day we were closely matched with Kim Eaton and Claudia Pilot. Then we moved ahead and were able to maintain the lead to the end." Mari added, "We both putted pretty well and made a few more birdies on the back nine to stay ahead."

Tui Selvaratnam is a well-known name in the ranks of the AWGA having earned the title of "Player of the Year" for nine straight years. She is a tough competitor and continually plays with expert ability and consistency. She stands out as one of the all time great amateurs in Arizona women's golf.

Mari Miezwa is originally from Minnesota and became a full-time Arizona resident three years ago. She joined the AWGA in 2008 and immediately won her first Gross Champion title when she played in the Day in Hades Tournament.

She has played in several USGA Public Links and Mid-Am Championships, including the 2006 Mid-Am at Old Waverly GC where she lost to Tui in the Quarterfinals. Tui was runner-up in the event but Mari recalls that week as one of her favorite golfing memories. As a scratch golfer, Mari knows her way around the golf course and there is no doubt that we will be hearing her name again as she plays in more tournaments in the years to come.

Employed in the golf industry, Mari works at the Arizona Country Club and as a trainer for Ultra-Fit, a company that offers treatments for injuries as well as trains athletes and non-athletes to become stronger and avoid future injuries.

Congratulations to Tui and Mari for an impressive showing in the AWGA State Four-Ball Championship! You are an accomplished team with skill, talent and the ability to deliver your best in a competition filled with highly regarded contenders.

Members Generosity Shines Through

Thank you, AWGA members and friends for your generous response to our inaugural campaign. You made it happen! Here's the Big Q & A.

Q. How much money was donated to the AWGA Annual Campaign? A. \$14,575 (See Acknowledgements, page 3)

Q. Where did the money go? A. The funds went to support golf in Arizona in several ways such as: Junior Golf Programs -- our contribution provides instruction, equipment, tournament and event management, volunteer coordination, advertising, and promotional services and support for young golfers • Junior Golf Association of Arizona – competitive and developmental programs for girls and boys • LPGA-USGA Jr. Girls Golf programs in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott • Joanne Winter Silver Belle –national championship for girls and young women up to age 23 • AWGA Ambassador Program -- this volunteer-driven program introduces women to the game of golf through instruction and mentoring Volunteer Development • Keep Arizona officials the best in the business by sending them to the USGA Rules School, enabling them to officiate at national level championships, as well as state, regional and collegiate events.



Acknowledgments

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We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas to Logan Erikson @ logan@awga.org.

Helping Junior Golfers with Expenses

The good news for junior golfers today is that there are many opportunities for them to hone their games by competing against other junior golfers in local, state and national competitions limited to junior golfers. The bad news is that it can be very expensive to travel around the country to participate in several competitions. Fortunately, the USGA Rules of Amateur Status allow junior golfers to receive help with these costs.

Under the Rules, a junior golfer is defined as an amateur golfer who has not reached (i) the September 1 following graduation from secondary school or (ii) her 19th birthday, whichever comes first. So unless a golfer is 19 and in high school or 18 and in college, she should become familiar with the Rules that apply to junior golfers receiving expenses. It should be noted that while these age limits are used when applying the Rules of Amateur Status, Committees which conduct junior competitions may use different age limits for determining who is eligible to participate in their competitions.

The Rules allow a junior golfer to receive any amount of financial support directly from a family member or legal guardian. If a junior golfer is asked by her grandparents what she would like for her birthday, she may suggest help with expenses to compete in golf tournaments. A junior golfer may also receive funds directly from sources other than family members when the funds will be used to cover expenses in competitions limited to junior golfers (e.g., the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship).

If a junior golfer wishes to receive funds to participate in a competition that is not limited to junior golfers (e.g., the U.S. Amateur Championship), she may still receive financial support from sources other than family members, but the funds must be approved by and paid through the golfer's state or local golf association. The forms to be completed by the sponsor and junior when the expenses are to be paid through the state or local golf association can be found on the USGA's website at: <http://www.usga.org/Rule-Books/Rules-of-Amateur-Status/Amateur-Status/> under Individual Tournament Expenses.

Although a junior golfer may receive financial support from sources other than family members, she must not promote or advertise the source of any expenses received. Therefore, a junior golfer may not publically recognize

the donor of the expenses or wear or carry anything with the donor's logo.

The junior golfer could issue a generic statement thanking her supporters such as "Nancy Smith thanks those who have supported her in golf competitions." Also, a junior golfer must not accept expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent or any similar source under any circumstances.

A player's expenses associated with a competition normally include transportation, lodging, meals, entry fees and caddie/cart and practice fees. She should ensure that any expenses she wishes to have funded are reasonable. She may not receive funds for general living costs that are not associated with a competition.

As it is recognized that some parents may be concerned about their son or daughter traveling to a competition, the Rules allow one parent or legal guardian to accept expenses from an outside source to accompany the junior golfer to the competition.

While the USGA Rules of Amateur Status allow junior golfers to receive and use funds from sources other than family members as described above, in some cases state high school athletic associations and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) may prohibit or limit the receipt and use of such funds. Therefore, before accepting or using funds from a source other than a family member, the junior golfer should check with her high school athletic association and the NCAA to determine if the receipt and use of such funds could affect her high school or collegiate eligibility. She may contact the NCAA at:

National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
Phone: 317.917.6222
Website: www.ncaa.org

A junior golfer should also maintain detailed records of any funds received from sources other than family members and how those funds were used in case the USGA, NCAA or local high school athletic associations wishes to review the sources and uses of the funds. If you have additional questions concerning junior golfers receiving expenses, contact Bernie Loehr, Director, Amateur Status and Rules of Golf at the USGA at: 908.234.2300 (x1238)

Rules Tips

By Sally Larson

AWGA Rules Committee Chair

Ball Played Within Water Hazard

A common occurrence on Arizona golf courses is the ball in a dry water hazard or lateral water hazard. Often the player will play the ball as it lies. If she fails to get the ball out of the hazard and the ball is now unplayable, she has three options (Rule 26-2a). Under penalty of one stroke, she may:

A) drop a ball where the previous stroke was made in the hazard and play again from there (26-2a(i));

B) drop a ball outside the water hazard under Rule 26-1b or c, using the point where the ball originally crossed the hazard margin as her reference point for relief; or

C) play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside the water hazard was made.

Identifying Ball

The Rules of Golf designate a specific procedure for identifying a player's ball (Rule 12-2). Before lifting the ball, she must announce her intention to her fellow-competitor in stroke play or opponent in match play and mark the position of the ball. She may then lift the ball to identify it, provided she gives her fellow-competitor or opponent an opportunity to observe the lifting and replacement. The ball must not be cleaned beyond the extent necessary for identification under this rule. The player incurs a penalty of one stroke for failure to comply with this procedure. A quick look by rolling the ball forward and back for identifications does not meet the requirements of Rules of 12-2.



AWGA Volunteers Make a Difference at the Junior Clinic & LPGA Legends Tour Invitational

Golf groups working together can accomplish a great deal as noted during this LPGA Legends Tour. Those involved know there is a monumental amount of planning and organizing necessary to deliver a successful golf tournament. Skilled volunteers from the AWGA were instrumental in the smooth execution of the events associated with the Women's Senior National Invitational held at Omni Tucson National on April 23-25th. From the Junior Clinic on Saturday to the Professional competition on Sunday, volunteers were the backbone of the event.

"Saturday's Junior Clinic was one of the highlights of the weekend," said Rose Nehring, AWGA member and Volunteer Coordinator of the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf in Tucson. "It gave the girls a positive experience about golf while learning from some of the best women golfers in the nation." 68 children from various youth groups in the area participated with 24 of them from the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf program. "The Pros were so generous with their time and stayed after the clinic for autographs, which delighted the children," Rose added. "They not only learned more about the game but also had the thrill of meeting accomplished women golfers." Cindy Rarick, a Tucson resident, member of Omni Tucson National and past LPGA Legends Tour Champion, hosted this event. She is a long-time friend of Tucson's LPGA-USGA Girls Golf who has supported the program for many years and was one of the Pros giving instruction at the Junior Clinic.

Volunteers from the AWGA were on the team to support the Pros during the Junior Clinic. They included Sally Larson, Sandra Hoffman, Bonnie Schreck, Cherill Huson, Gin Mathis, Moreen Yunck, Joan Booth and Barbara Wardle. All of these women plus a dozen more volunteer with the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Tucson on a regular basis. They assist Program Director, Ina Hale, LPGA and Assistant Pro at Skyline CC, as she teaches the girls basic golf techniques and reinforce their lessons while teaching course management skills and etiquette. Rose is deeply committed to the program and commented, "We provide an opportunity for young girls to learn to golf in a supportive environment which affects so much of their lives. Involvement in this program helps them develop a sense of self worth and confidence. And because of the generous donations from our WGAs in Southern Arizona, we were able to start a scholarship program this year." The LPGA-USGA Girls Golf program operates entirely on donations and fundraisers. When you observe the various ways our AWGA members give back to the state's golf community, the list is staggering. "On the day of the Women's Senior National Invitational, there were 68 volunteers," reported Reggie Browning, Chair of the Volunteer Committee for the event, "and 60% of them were women." AWGA members served as on-course marshals, walking scorers, standard bearers and assisted with ticket sales. The AWGA also donated logo hats for the volunteers to wear on the day of the tournament.

As the state association, the AWGA is a pivotal force in the advancement of women's golf through its ongoing support of local, regional, and national events and organizations. Thanks to all the women who volunteered during the LPGA Legends Tour in Tucson!



Junior Clinic on Saturday of Legends Tour Event



LPGA Pro Amy Alcott giving autographs



LPGA Pro Cindy Rarick with members of Tucson Girls Golf Program



Swing Tip: Play Better Golf - Playing Over a Water Hazard



by Tracy Berman, Arizona Golf Resort
LPGA Teaching Professional , TPI Certified

Whenever a golfer comes across a water hazard, a feeling of dread tends to come over her and an image of the ball going into the water enters her mind. The water hazard becomes larger and larger in the golfer's mind. In order to hit a great shot over a water hazard there is one clear process that must happen.

Playing a shot over water is all about the mental game of golf. You don't need to hit the shot any differently than you would if there was no water hazard.

Focus on the positive. What you think about is critical. Have you noticed when you think about what you don't want, when you focus on it, you get it? It could be as simple as you saying to yourself in your mind "don't hit it in the water!" The funny thing is.....our mind doesn't hear the DON'T.

It's like parents yelling to their kids, "Don't Run." What do they do? We all know the answer to that. Better to yell what you want, in the positive. "Walk." The bottom line is to focus on where you want the ball to go. First, make sure that you have visualized the line where you need to hit the ball. Find the spot in the distance that you are aiming for and focus on it. Stand back from the ball and picture the line between your golf ball on the tee and the finishing point. You can also pick a spot about 2 feet in front of the ball to focus on so that you have a line with 3 points that you are connecting when you hit your shot.

You can even close your eyes to visualize the ball flying straight towards the target.

When you address the ball, don't look at the water. Focus solely on the ball. Put all your energy into carrying through with the shot. Make sure you have a good follow-through and commit yourself to the shot 100%.

The mental aspect of the game has been shown to help improve a golfer's ability, particularly in stressful situations. Improve this aspect along with the physical side and your golf game will almost certainly start to improve.

ACES

February

- 5 | Judy Phillips | Los Caballeros WGA
- 15 | Judy Phillips | Los Caballeros WGA

March

- 1 | Cindy Smith | Quail Creek Country Club WGA
- 3 | Connie Beal | Talking Rock WGA
- 11 | Marie Duncan | Quail Creek Country Club WGA
- 11 | Betsy Hansen | Skyline Country Club WGA
- 13 | Joan McMullen | Ahwatukee Lakes Thurs. Lady
- 16 | Debbie Morrice | Tatum Ranch WGA
- 17 | Joan Berryman | Sahuaro Golf Club WGA
- 17 | Wendy Anderson | Skyline Country Club WGA
- 21 | Susan Utzinger | Ironwood Golf Club WGA
- 22 | Shirley Lister | Torres Blancas Women's GC
- 22 | Barbara Lembas | Bear Creek WGA
- 23 | Patsy Stephens | Los Caballeros WGA
- 24 | Jeanne Lentz | Fred Enke Women's Golf Assn.
- 25 | Frances Gussert | Sun City North Women
- 27 | Pat Brilliant | Arizona Biltmore WGA
- 27 | Doreen Wurmlinger | Fountain of the Sun WGA
- 27 | Sandy Burkey | Quail Creek Country Club WGA
- 28 | Anna Rizzuto | Pebblecreek LGA
- 30 | Jan Atkinson | Mountain Shadows GA.
- 30 | BJ Kane | Mountain Shadows GA

April

- 4 | Shirley Campling | Fountain of the Sun WGA
- 4 | Lorraine Clerihue | Boulders Ladies Golf Club
- 4 | Justine Lewis | Quail Creek Country Club WGA
- 9 | J.J. Ramme | Sunbird Women's 18
- 11 | Neba Reiter | Mountainview/Preserve WGA
- 11 | Ila Kraayenbrink | Ironwood Golf Club WGA
- 13 | Dorthy Starkloff | Palo Verde Country Club WGA
- 13 | Cindy Radford | San Ignacio GC WGA
- 16 | Marsha Evans | Painted Mountain WGA
- 17 | Kay Walton | Pueblo Del Sol Women's GC
- 17 | Sue Clinch | Sanctuary Golf Club Women
- 20 | Carol Sotala | Sun City South Women
- 27 | Flora Rutledge | SCW - Stardust Ladies Niners



New Course Ratings

Camelback Golf Club-Indian Bend
Teal 71.6/120

Coldwater Goff Club
Vintage 72.6/116
Upstream 67.3/107

Desert Canyon Golf Club
White 70.8/116
Red 68.0/114

Encanterra Country Club
White 75.1/132
Gold 71.0/123

Haven Golf Club
Gold 71.1/122
Red 67.6/119

Skyline Country Club
Silver 70.1/122
Gold 67.6/115

New Member Clubs:

Pine Shadows WGA

Have you ever had a question about the Rules and didn't know who to ask? Have you ever wondered why your Handicap was reduced? The AWGA is here to help with these questions and more. We are happy to come visit your club to discuss Handicapping, Rules, Course Rating and more! Call us to schedule something. You can reach the AWGA M-F, 8AM-4PM by calling (602) 253-5655 or 1-800-442-AWGA or by e-mailing:

Rules Help - Erin Groeneveld - Erin@awga.org
Handicapping & Course Rating - Logan Erickson, Logan@awg.org



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Upcoming Tournaments

US Women's Open Qualifier
June 3, Talking Stick Golf Club

AWGA Weekend Classic Tournament
June 13, The Raven Golf Club @ South Mountain

US Women's Am Pub-Links
June 21-16 Warren Golf Club @ Notre Dame

NAWGA Seniors Championship
June 22, Flagstaff Ranch Golf Club

US Girls Junior Qualifier
June 22, Pinnacle Peak Country Club

AWGA Day in Hades
July 12, Ventana Canyon

US Women's Amateur Qualifier
July 21, Desert Forest, Carefree

2010 Partners

We are working on our 2010 partners, call for information.

