



NEWSLINKS

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



Arizona Women's State Seniors Championship

**Kim Eaton Clinches Fifth AWGA Seniors Stroke Play Championship
Ties Donna Cunning for most Seniors wins**

by Robyn Noll

Kim Eaton captured her 11th Arizona State title on October 1st by winning another AWGA Seniors Stroke Play Championship, this time at Peoria's Blackstone Country Club. Kim was heavily favored to win going in, after all she had won the event four out of the last five years and this year also claimed her third consecutive Senior Division Match Play title. But the way she dominated the field was still astonishing. In what she thinks is likely her largest margin of victory ever, Kim shot a 68-67-73 on a par 72, and finished a whopping 24 strokes ahead of her nearest competitor. She also posted her best 9-hole score ever -- a 30 on the front nine on day two that included four birdies and an eagle -- which contributed to her best-ever 2-day score. She was the only person in the championship to break par.

Kim Eaton's success lay in her ability to hit her targets. She consistently put her ball on the fairway and on the green and kept it in play, something that was hard for most other players. Blackstone has a high slope rating due in part to many deep, steep-faced bunkers and strategically-placed washes. There are also numerous blind shots, like on the #14 double dogleg par-5, and there was a lot of extra roll since the course was dry and getting ready for overseed. Kim says #11 and #5 were the hardest holes in her estimation, #11 because of the water hazard and #5 because there are so many greenside bunkers, and the green itself is 3-tiered and at an angle. Other players found the unusually designed

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State Seniors Championship *continued from page one*

par-5 #9 hole to be the most difficult because of two ravine crossings, a tree in the middle of the fairway, and a shallow green that's quick back to front. Ginny Zak tells the story of how on #9 a series of mishits took her ball into a ravine and then into the rough on the back side of the green. Her putt back down the hill went speeding over and off the green and back into the ravine, where it dropped between two rocks. Being unable to see it and too smart to stick her hand in to find it, she declared the ball lost. This is the first time she's ever lost her ball on a putt! In true Ginny fashion, though, she's able to laugh about it.

In fact, one of the great things about this championship is just how much laughter and camaraderie there is. Mae Greenhalgh, who took up soccer at age 50 and golf at age 60,



Mae Greenhalgh & Donna Patek

was the oldest player in the tournament at age 85 and says she enjoys the camaraderie the most. In the Masters flight for women 80+ there was just one other competitor, Donna Patek, whose handicap is 9 points better than Mae's. Mae didn't really think of it as a competition and was "just glad to be out on the course." She had a wonderful time playing with Donna and alongside a few ladies in the Super Seniors flight. Her advice for anyone wondering if they could play in the Masters category is to not worry about winning or how you play, just enjoy it and come meet new people.

Even though the Blackstone course was very challenging there were still many exciting moments. Mae Greenhalgh birdied the tough #14 hole, Kim Eaton had her eagle, and there were two holes in one made by Sharon Mentzer and Carrol Brown on the final day of play. The positive attitude of the players made the event a rousing success, and it continues to be one of the most fun and social championships on the AWGA schedule.



Kim Eaton
2014 AWGA State Senior Champion

Q. During stroke play at the 16th hole with all four of our balls on the putting green, two of us made our putting strokes at the same time. Luckily the balls did not collide, but what if they had?

A. Let's look at what actually happened. Rule 16-1f (The Putting Green, Making a Stroke While Another Ball in Motion) says that the player must not make a stroke while another ball is in motion after a stroke from the putting green, except that if a player does so, there is no penalty if it was her turn to play. The player who played out of turn incurs the General Penalty of two strokes. Since there was no collision, the balls are played as they lie.

Now, let's assume the balls did collide. Rule 16-1f still applies, but we need to figure out what to do with the balls. Rule 19-5b (Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped, by Another Ball in Motion) explains that the strokes are canceled and the balls must be replaced and replayed.

Thanks to Dell Ulrich Women's Golf Association for a great question.



Rules School

with Sally Larson
AWGA Rules Committee Chair

"It is nevertheless a game of considerable passion, either of the explosive type, or that which burns inwardly and sears the soul." - Bobby Jones



Raymond S. Kellis High School: A Build-a-TEAM Success Story

by Robyn Noll

The AWGA began the Build-a-TEAM program in February 2012 to help address the fact that Arizona high school girls' golf teams often have inexperienced players, inexperienced coaches, and few resources. Recognizing that schools need assistance in developing their teams in a way that makes success a possibility for their girls, eight teams were selected to receive funding to buy quality golf clubs, team uniforms, Rules books, golf bags, umbrellas and other golf equipment, and perhaps most importantly, lessons by LPGA and PGA professional instructors. The lessons are particularly important to give the girls a solid understanding of how golf is played, and give them the confidence and skills to compete in tournaments.



One school where the Build-a-TEAM program is succeeding is at Kellis High, part of the Peoria Unified School District. Coach Brooke White, who's in her third year with the Kellis team, only started playing golf a short time before she got the job. Like many girls' golf coaches, she was the only person to apply for the position, and it was her experience with other sports that helped her get the job. She says she enjoys playing golf, but is so new to the game that having professional guidance for the team from the golf pros is making a huge difference. The Build-a-TEAM program has been able to help her from the highest levels down to the lowest, even allowing her team to afford better golf balls.

The Build-a-TEAM program also helped one student decide to stay in the golf program for a second year. When she was about six months old, Lauren Bingham was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (CP), a neurological disorder that affects body movement and muscle coordination. Her left hand and arm in particular are greatly impacted, and at times the condition leaves her, for all intents and purposes, one-handed.

She hadn't had much success playing other sports, when in her sophomore year of high school she joined the golf team on a whim. It was her last attempt at finding her sporting niche. Understandably, though, she found it hard to grip the club and make contact when swinging. Coach White says that some days last year Lauren could hit the ball well, but on other days she could barely move her arms or legs and would have to quit matches early because of her disorder.

But Lauren says that having had to endure many hours of physical and occupational therapy, as well as getting Botox in her left extremities to help keep her as mobile as possible, has taught her that, "Really, anything is possible." Armed with this "can do" attitude, and with the help of Build-a-TEAM funding, Lauren was able to have lessons over the summer with Kathy Knadler, who is a long-time leader in the Arizona junior golf community. Kathy says that last year, Lauren would get nervous, and when she missed the ball with people watching her it made things snowball. But they worked hard together this summer to have Lauren make contact with the ball. Lauren credits her time working with Kathy for convincing her to come back for a second season. "Kathy Knadler is a miracle worker. ... I was originally thinking I might not play, but she has helped me progress. That's all I could really ever ask for."

In return, Kathy finds it uplifting to work with Lauren, who is driven to succeed at this sport. Lauren showed up on time all summer long, was realistic with her expectations, and maintains a really great perspective about life in general: "I want people to know they shouldn't give up. ... Give everything a second shot if you don't succeed the first time." She says "Every day I wake up in the mindset of 'Let's make it another great day while doing my personal best.'" That attitude will take her far, hopefully all the way to the University of Utah, where she wants to become a Pediatric Anesthesiologist.

It's inspiring to see the Build-a-TEAM program starting to impact these lives in such a positive way. We look forward to watching Lauren, the Kellis team, and the other five schools grow and thrive in the years to come.



Build a Team – Touching Lives Through Golf

Do you ever wish you had started playing golf sooner or had lessons when you first started? Many of us do. The Build a Team program at the AWGA helps make that possible for high school age girls around the state. This program is the responsibility of the Junior Grants & Assistance Committee, chaired by Suzy O'Hara and supported by staff member Julie Fenn, the Player Program Manager. Currently, the program supports six high school girls golf teams: Chandler HS in Chandler, Kellis HS in Peoria, Mountain View HS in Tucson, Peoria HS in Peoria, Walden Grove HS in Sahuarita, and Williams Field HS in Gilbert. The support is largely financial, allowing the teams to participate in lessons taught by area golf professionals, purchase team golf bags, uniforms, pull carts, quality golf balls, etc. In addition the AWGA is able to connect the coaches to local sources for golf clubs and club fitting services and other needed resources.

Golf Professionals like Kathy Knadler (Kellis), Kristy Fowler (Mountain View), and Eddie Renio (Chandler) are happy to support girls golf and receive a great deal of joy in watching the players learn and improve during their time in high school. Kellis and Mountain View High Schools each have a team member with special needs. The lessons and coaching that we have funded have enabled these girls to have access to the game and gain insight into equipment modifications that allow them to participate fully and find success. One of these players is looking forward to using her new skills and participating in upcoming Special Olympics.



Additional support is given to these schools by the Rules Committee, teaching the players and coaches the rules of golf. Erin Groeneveld met with the Kellis and Chandler teams and Pat Trimbell met with the Walden Grove team at the start of the school year to present a rules clinic and answer any questions they may have on rules situations that have arisen during their matches. These sessions are fun and educational for everyone involved. Funding for this program comes from a variety of sources including individual donations, proceeds from 50/50 raffles, and grants.

A senior at Williams Field HS had hardly touched a club when she first joined the team her freshman year. When the AWGA provided the team grant money and a connection to an LPGA teaching professional, her improvement and love for the game escalated dramatically. She met her personal goals for scoring this year and has qualified to attend the State Championship. Now she is being recruited by local community colleges to play for their golf team. She will be the first member of her family to attend college and it is the game of golf that has helped make that happen.

Sisters at Chandler HS found out they are not just members of a team, but part of a family brought together through the game of golf. Last year, when their mother lost her battle with cancer, it was the team that came together to support and care for them in that difficult time. The girls have mentioned many times that they find peace and happiness on the course and in their relationships with the other girls, the coach and family members of their teammates. The opportunity to play for a college team is part of their future.

As you well know, not every player has the good fortune to have a strong support system. This is where you come in. Suzy O'Hara, the committee chair, admits "the joy and satisfaction I have received through working with the girls has far surpassed my expectations. It is a wonderful way to give back to the game and promote success in our young people." The teams that are part of the Build a Team program, and many others, could use your support. Become a Build a Team Advocate – adopt a team, become their friend/golf buddy/mentor, go to their matches and cheer, donate slightly used equipment, hand out water, make these girls part of the women's golf community so they will want that throughout their life. It costs you some time, but pays you back with the knowledge that you have made a difference in someone's life and helped to make golf a part of someone's life. You don't have to do this alone. Get your whole Ladies Club involved! Make a difference in someone's life through golf.



Your Support Nurtures the Future of the Game

The start of this “**Season of Giving**”, also begins the 2014 AWGA Annual Campaign, through which we seek to fund our most philanthropic endeavors, the support of junior programs around our state. Since 2009, generous donations by people like you have enabled the AWGA to provide over \$125,000 in funding and support for junior golf programs in Arizona. Programs supported include:

The AWGA High School Girls’ Golf “Build-a-TEAM” Program - Provides lessons, equipment, and other resources for high school girls and coaches.

The Junior Golf Association of Arizona - Conducts frequent local competitions to help young women develop a game worthy of a college scholarship.

The First Tee Programs of Arizona - Deliver character-building and life skills lessons to young people, using golf as the platform.

The Arizona Silver Belle Championship - Gives young women ages 13 to 23 a uniquely female-only spotlight Championship in which to compete. The Silver Belle has been a nationally ranked competition since 1971.

The Arizona Girls State Teams – Affords girls the honor of representing their state in team competitions hosted across the western United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Arizona’s LPGA*USGA Girls Golf Program - Offers developmental and social golf programs for girls throughout Arizona ages 3 to 18.

We ask you to consider a gift to support these and other valuable programs. Your AWGA Board of Directors gives unanimously each year and we ask you to join us with a donation of any size.

Remember, **100% of your donated funds** go directly to the AWGA mission of preserving, promoting and enhancing the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf among women in Arizona, and our 501(c)3 charitable designation enables you to take a tax deduction for your donations.

Imagine the impact if each of our 23,000 members gave as little as \$10 annually!

Please consider sending your gift today. Checks can be mailed to:

Arizona Women’s Golf Association
Annual Giving Campaign
141 E. Palm Lane, #210
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Or donate online at www.awga.org/donate



August

- 9 | Mary Stratford | Sun City Lakes West
- 23 | Kelly Lathrop | Alta Mesa GC
- 26 | Shelly Holman | Pinetop CC
- 28 | Joyce Stringer | Granite Falls GC

September

- 8 | Vivien Nason | Canoa Ranch Golf Course
- 9 | Sandy Rowley | The Highlands at Dove Mtn
- 9 | Vicky Quinn | The Highlands at Dove Mtn
- 14 | Susan Stovall | The Club @ Prescott Lakes
- 15 | Barbara Bodker | Port Ludlow GC
- 16 | Anne Annis | Bison Golf Club
- 18 | Sue Wasik | Anthem CC
- 23 | Sallie Wilhelmi | Tatum Ranch GC
- 28 | Julie Glessner | Seville Golf & CC

October

- 1 | Carrol Brown | Blackstone CC
- 1 | Sharon Mentzer | Blackstone CC
- 2 | Sharon Crowder | LaPaloma CC
- 3 | Colene Drace | Rockwood GC
- 3 | Mardi Hull | Golf Club @ Chaparral Pines
- 4 | Kay L'Homme | Riverview GC @ Sun City
- 11 | Norma Sorensen | Coyote Lakes GC
- 14 | Nancy Harden | San Pedro GC
- 16 | Linda Cole | Wigwam Spa & Golf Resort
- 17 | Linda Stewart | El Rio GC
- 19 | Sherry French | Granite Falls North GC

Pace of Play - Tips from the USGA

The USGA has unveiled a new public education campaign around the theme of “While We’re Young,” a new positioning to raise awareness across the golf community of the challenges and solutions to the pace-of-play issues in the game of golf. Here are some recognized tips for improving pace of play:

Start Smart Confirm your tee time in advance and make it a point to arrive at the tee early with your golf equipment in order, ready to play. Remember essentials like extra balls, tees, gloves and appropriate clothing for the day’s weather conditions.

“Tee It Forward” In other words, play from a set of tees that is comfortable for you – one where you are more likely to hit lofted irons into greens instead of hybrids or fairway woods. It is acceptable for players in the same group to play from different tees. (The USGA Handicap System provides a formula for adjusting handicaps from different tees.)

Try alternate forms of play to speed up your round Match play, Stableford, best-ball and other formats are easy and fun alternatives to individual stroke play because not every player has to hole out on every hole. There are multiple resources online and in print to learn about the many different golf formats. Try one out.

Minimize your time on the tee Except in a competition, it is usually acceptable for players to “hit when ready.” You can also save time by playing a provisional ball (Rule 27-2) if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds.

Plan your shot before you get to your ball Once you are off the tee, think ahead. Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. Very often, you can do this while others are playing, without disruption. If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on before it is your turn to play. Even a small step like this saves time.

Keep your pre-shot routine short Pick your line of play once and trust yourself. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Most importantly, be ready to hit when it is your turn. Be efficient after your shot too. Start moving toward your next shot promptly.

Aim to play in 20 seconds From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play. Help keep play moving at a brisk pace.

Develop an eye for distance You don’t have to step off yardage for every shot. If you need to determine precise distance, try to find a yardage marker before you reach your ball, then step off the yardage on the way to your ball. Or, consider investing in an electronic range-finder or global positioning system for golf and use it when permitted by Local Rule. If others you are playing with are not familiar with the course, the Rules permit players to exchange yardage information without penalty.

When sharing a cart, use a buddy system Don’t wait in the cart while your cartmate hits and then drive to your ball. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. Be ready to play when it is your turn and then let your cartmate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cartmate off and then pick him or her up after you hit.

Be helpful to others in your group Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours. Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed. Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.

Keep up with the group in front of you Your correct position on the course is immediately behind the group in front of you, not immediately in front of the group behind you. Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you. If you are consistently not able to keep up and a gap opens in front of you, invite the group behind you to play through, irrespective of the number of players in the group.



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Be efficient on the putting green Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so you will be ready to replace it when it is your turn to play. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them. Leave your clubs on the side of the putting green closest to the next tee, and leave the green promptly after holing out. Wait until the next tee to record your score.

Remember that picking up your ball is permitted by the USGA Handicap System If not in an individual stroke play competition, it is generally OK to pick up your ball and move on to the next hole if you are “out” of a hole and want to maintain pace of play. This applies in match play and many forms of stroke play, including Stableford and better-ball play.

Don't Have Time? Play Nine! You won't always have time in your schedule for an 18-hole round of golf. But you can still enjoy the game by playing nine. It's fully compatible with both the Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System. And when it comes to golf, nine is better than none.

What does an AWGA Rep do? You can do it!

It's a great job – if you want to call it a job! Most women who volunteer for the position of AWGA Representative think of it more as a fun way to keep in touch. If you're the type of person who loves to know what's going on in and around the state, then this may be the perfect match for you!

What are the responsibilities of an AWGA Rep? The AWGA Rep is her club's link to the AWGA and is responsible for communicating regularly to her fellow members about the AWGA as the state women's golf association and the benefits it provides.

Some of the tasks associated with the position are to:

1. Post all pertinent information received from the AWGA office on the club bulletin board and announce it at club meetings
2. Attend one regional meeting each year to gain insight and stay updated on AWGA matters
3. Maintain addresses and email addresses in the handicap computer and post the club officer roster on the AWGA website
4. Collect your club's vote for AWGA Board elections
5. Complete forms necessary to the AWGA and return them promptly
6. Assist with any AWGA functions held at your club
7. Promote and/or conduct the State Medallion Tournament for your club, reporting the results to the AWGA office and notifying the winners of their eligibility to compete in the annual AWGA State Medallion Club Team Tournament.



Here are some reasons why AWGA Reps love their job:

Sun City Festival's Carlene Crnkovich sees it as giving her the opportunity to meet other women golfers around the state. She attends the Rep meetings which she says are great “sounding boards” which help her with problem solving. “I get so many ideas about new ways to do things,” she said.

Peggy Wadzinski, AWGA Rep from Red Mountain Ranch, agrees with Carlene. She enjoys the Rep meetings and looks forward to hearing ideas from other reps. “I learned to use spread sheets to track the medallion tournaments and various ways to make the medallion competition more exciting,” she said. Peggy posts results from their medallion tournaments so keep everyone updated on which players are the front runners.

Support women golfers by being an enthusiastic in-house connection between the AWGA and your club. It's a win-win for your members and for the AWGA!

Jan Dawson

Canoa Hills WGA lost one of our loving members on Oct. 7 2014. Jan Dawson, formerly of Michigan moved to Green Valley in the early 1980's and had been a member of CHWGA from the beginning. She was an avid golfer well into her 80's, winning many tournaments and having her first Hole-in-One while in her 70's. We think of Jan often and will miss her dearly.

Jeri Warner

Member of Cobre Valle Country Club

Jeri Warner passed away on October 3, 2014. She was an active member of the Cobre Valley Women's Golf Association for many years. She was kind and patient while explaining the rules of golf to new members.

Jeri was a very talented artist who enthusiastically taught many aspiring artists in the community. She donated many of her paintings in support of the local community hospital.

Dale Danenberg Scrutchfield

Dale Danenberg Scrutchfield, died Tuesday, September 2nd in Sun City West, while playing golf at Corte Bella Golf Club.

Dale had a long career in television, radio and sports marketing. She was at CBS network in New York City for 18 years and joined SCI Sports & Entertainment in 1980 and served as Vice President, CFO and Tournament Director of the National Club Championship for Women, an event founded by her husband Mr. Fred Scrutchfield.

Dale was an active member of the Corte Bella Women's Nine Hole Golf Association. A warm, generous, vivacious person, Dale's courage and sense of humor will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.



What a Difference an Ambassador Makes

The AWGA Golf 101 Program (formerly known as the Ambassador Program) is a great way for new golfers, or those trying to come back to the game, to get some lessons and practice in a comfortable environment. This program began in 2006 as a way for women to learn the game and progress into confident, avid players and has had more than 1500 participants since. It is a safe and fun environment for women to learn the game and meet others. But what is so special about the Golf 101 Program? Why would someone want to do this instead of taking private or group lessons? The answer is simple – the AWGA. But to truly understand what that answer entails takes a bit more explanation.



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What about the AWGA makes this lesson program different than those offered by golf professionals around the country? The AWGA Ambassador – a member of a local women's golf club – is a unique part of the Golf 101 Program. As unique as that role is, its value is incalculable. Think about going to a new place, where you did not understand everything being said, weren't sure what to wear or bring with you, what was considered appropriate behavior and what was frowned upon. How would you feel? Nervous? Uncomfortable? Intimidated? Happy to be there? The AWGA Ambassador acts as the tutor, guide and translator for people that are new to or unfamiliar with the golf world. They greet participants, teach them what is really needed in a woman's golf bag, what clothes are appropriate at the golf course and where to get them, how to book a tee time, how to check in at the course, how to behave so you don't embarrass yourself or playing partners, explain the terminology, the importance of the 19th hole, how to find other people to play golf with, and a host of other important things that you are unlikely to learn from a golf professional during a lesson.

Do you know anyone who wants to learn how to play but has been afraid to take the first step? Or someone who wants to get back into the game but doesn't want to embarrass themselves or the people they play with? Get them to take a Golf 101 class. They will be happy they did. If there is not a session in your area, talk your club teaching professional into being an instructor and your ladies club can be the Ambassadors. Contact the AWGA office at 602-253-5655 for information on how to make that happen. Ladies clubs often have class participants join their club because of the friendships created through the six-week process. Participants get so much out of it, they can't wait to get out there and play. Some of them become Ambassadors in order to "pay it forward".