



WMSGGA 2017

Report from the Pairing Princess

As I have for the first two years on the job, I want to start with the most important thing I have to say. And that's to offer you my sincerest thanks. What a delightful group of women you are... smart, kind, talented, enthusiastic, and oh-so funny. If I had a dollar for every time I smiled or laughed aloud at a comment on an application or in an email, I wouldn't need this job. I really do appreciate you.

Our membership this year stands again at about 250, which includes eight juniors and one honorary member. We also have about 60 member clubs that have joined our organization.

On May 2, the season began with a downpour, cancelling our much loved Ryder Cup at the Samoset. That was followed by a reduced field at Cape Arundel when carts couldn't go out and another cancellation the next week at Brunswick. We were beginning to think the WMSGGA was jinxed and in for a long, wet season!

But starting with Kebo Valley, we ran 22 tournaments and supported TriState, the Maine Women's Amateur, and NEWGA. When the regular season came to a close, the WMSGGA printed 296 vouchers for points and skins, totaling more than \$8,000. The regular season point value is \$8.05. The Senior Championship was handled a little differently this year. Only two senior vouchers were issued, to the champion and runner-up on the day of play. The rest of the prize money, some \$800, is available through the pro shop at Rockland. If you won at Seniors, you need only give your name and Keenan will look up your winnings for you. He has asked that we spend our winnings by next October. Perhaps you can find that perfect little something at the Maine Women's Amateur, scheduled for Rockland next July. Fifty-six players earned WMSGGA pins for taking first gross at least once during the season. I didn't win one this year — at least, not yet — but I can tell you that my old one looks really cute on the collar of my jean jacket. Thought I'd share that just in case you were hoping to get some fashion advice from today's meeting. I also want to share what I learned when I was doing calculations to determine 2017's most improved player. To be eligible for the award, you must have played in at least seven tournaments. Of the 81 eligible players, only 28 were able to lower their handicaps... that's 34%. The game's not easy, but we're a hardy, if foolish, bunch, and I'm proud that we keep on keeping on. In fact, 42 members who exemplify "keeping on" played in at least ten tournaments this season, and they were led by a fearless four who played 16: Vicki Lindquist, Marlene Viger, Faith Vautour, and Sue Wootton.

Highlights of the season include...

- Three players shot par or subpar rounds in tournament play: Staci Creech, Kristin Kannegieser, and Bailey Plourde.
- Jody Lyford scored an ace on the fifth hole at Rockland.
- Team events continue their popularity. We had 140 players at Augusta for the Metropolitan, 74 at the Meadows, and full fields both days next week at Belgrade Lakes.
- Other venues with big draws included Rockland with 96, Natanis with 84, Turner Highlands with 77, and Bangor Muni with 76.

I hope you had a terrific season and enjoyed both the golf and your playing partners. I look forward to what next year will bring and to seeing you all again.

Respectfully submitted

Sherrie Thomas