



HILLVIEW SENIOR MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE



LEAGUE HISTORY

THE LEAGUE

The Hillview Senior Men's Golf League is a community asset that has been enjoyed by senior men golfers in the area on Wednesday mornings for many years. It is a nine-hole league with twenty rounds of golf played in the season at the Hillview Golf Course in North Reading.

LUNCHEONS

Four award luncheons are held during the season. The luncheons have been held at:

- Hillview Country Club – '87 to '91
- Kitty's – 1992 to 1999
- Angelica's – 2000 to present

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

- Peter Simone & Charles "The Colonel" Darcy – 1987 to 1991
- Bob Blatchford – 1992 to 1993
- Bob & Joe McNall – 1994 to 2000
- Lionel Dube' – 2001 to 2007
- Preston Holman – 2008 to 2011
- Bill Burnham, Paul Catanzano & Ron Savageau – 2012
- Paul Catanzano, Ron Savageau & Ron O'Keefe – 2013 to present

WEBMASTERS

- Tom Aprille – 2008 to 2017
- Tom Ciaccia – 2015 to present

SPREADSHEET MGR/HISTORIANS

- Frank Witt – 2008 to present
- Tom Ciaccia – 2013 to present
- Frank Noble – 2013 to present

HILLVIEW GOLF PROFESSIONALS

- Brian Gilchrist – 1987 to 1991
- Brian O'Hearn – 1992 to 1997
- Chris Carter – 1998 to present

DIRECTOR OF GOLF

- Dick Baker – 2000 to present

COURSE SUPERINDENDENTS

- Jack Ventri – 1988 to 1992
- Jack Murphy – 1993 to 2000
- Matt Grady – 2001 to 2017
- Colin Smethurst – 2017 to prsnt

STARTERS

- Ted Grevelis – 1992 to 2002
- Gino Ruggiero – 1996 to 2016
- Don Dragon – 1996 to present
- Bob Covill – 2017 to present

**Please send additions and corrections to:
Frank Witt ai1h@comcast.net**

CONTRIBUTORS

Dick Jesser made a special effort to find a number of League history facts. His main source was Bob McNall, who was Copresident with his brother, Joe. A second source was Bob Baldassari who was the Golf Pro at the Hillview Country Club until it became a public course.

Veteran member Bob Linehan's recall ability contributed greatly.

Another valuable source of information was Chris Carter, the current Hillview Golf Professional.

Former Copresident Bill Burnham made several useful suggestions.

Bill Winslow, who was a member of the Hillview Country Club up until the time Hillview became a public course in 1987, had some interesting recollections.

1987 – BIRTH OF THE LEAGUE

The League was started in 1987 by a number of former members of the Hillview Country Club and employees of General Electric. It began the year that the Hillview property was acquired by the town of North Reading and it became a public course.

At the outset, the nines were reversed. Hole #1 became Hole #10 and vice-versa. This action was taken by the Golf Pro at the time so that players coming off Hole #9 (the former Hole #18) could be more easily observed. With the location of the proshop, it is easier to monitor the pace of play.

League membership totaled about 45 at the outset. It grew to about 250 members, but the course was strained, and the number was reduced to 193 by the 2001 Season. See the SEASONAL STATISTICS in APPENDIX 1 for the Number of Members in recent years.

AROUND 1990 – HOLE-IN-ONE

Johnnie Black scored a Hole-In-One during League play on the 18th hole using a 4-wood. The result was not deemed official because of some issue, yet to be fully remembered.

2007 – SPREADSHEET IMPROVED

Vito Maida created the first League Spreadsheet. Early Spreadsheets showed the roster and the results of the previous week, and it computed the members' new quotas. Golf prizes were computed manually by "The Committee" and not published until the next day of play, which was the following Wednesday.

In 2007, Frank Witt developed a Spreadsheet that computed golf prizes directly from the points scored. This allowed the winners to be identified on the day of play. The Spreadsheet contains statistics which are useful for managing the League and for optimizing the Scoring System.

2008 – WEBSITE CREATED

Tom Aprille created the League Website in 2008. This led to publication of the golf prize winners on the Website by the day after play. An abundance of useful League information is available on the Website:

- Changes for Next Season
- Results and Winners
- Scoring History
- Current Statistics
- League History
- Scoring System Details
- Golf Prize Structure
- League Rules
- Sample Scorecard
- **GOLD** and **WHITE** Tee Policy
- Registration Form
- Luncheon Dates
- Key Personnel
- Contact Information

2012 – SEASON EXTENDED

Formerly, the season ended on the last luncheon day even if fewer than 20 rounds were played. Starting in 2012, the League season was extended beyond the fourth luncheon to make up for rainouts which occurred one to three times a season.

This change allowed some League play in late September and early October where weather conditions are usually favorable for golf. A significant increase in the Average Winnings per Member resulted as seen in the SEASONAL STATISTICS of APPENDIX 1.

2012 – **WHITE** OR **GOLD** TEES WERE CHOSEN FOR ENTIRE SEASON

Hillview Course Management installed **GOLD** tees (also called SENIOR or FORWARD tees) in time for the 2008 Season. Although some members wanted to switch to the **GOLD** tees, the majority wanted to stay with the **WHITE** tees. On some holes, to make room for the **GOLD** tees, the **WHITE** tees were moved back, making play from the **WHITE** tees more challenging. Evidence is that over the 2008 Season, where only play from **WHITE** tees was allowed, the average quota decreased from 6.7 to 5.9.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, play from **GOLD** tees was allowed for members of Flight D only. In 2011, all members were allowed to play from the **GOLD** tees on luncheon days to speed play.

Also in 2011, the USGA and the PGA jointly launched a TEE-IT-FORWARD campaign aimed at encouraging amateur golfers to play from the FORWARD tees. Their position was that many amateur golfers would have more fun and that the pace of play would be improved. TEE-IT-FORWARD was endorsed by [Jack Nicklaus](#), [Tom Watson](#), [Gary McCord](#) and other golf notables. (Click on the names to view their YouTube videos.)

Starting in 2012, all members picked the tee they would use for the entire season, **WHITE** or **GOLD**. Each year, as a part of the registration process, members selected their tee for that season. The transition of Tee Played from **WHITE**-tees-only to tee-choice is shown in the SEASONAL STATISTICS in APPENDIX 1.

2014 – STATISTICS PUBLISHED ON WEBSITE

Since 2007, statistics from the Spreadsheet were used by League Management to study features of the Scoring System. A number of significant improvements resulted. See the SCORING SYSTEM HISTORY in APPENDIX 2 for the details.

Originally, statistics were not published and were shared with members only to answer questions. Starting in 2014, detailed current statistics were published along with the current golf scores and winners in a new Results & Statistics section of the Website. Twelve charts display comparisons among the flights and quotas. Half of the charts allow comparisons based on the tee played, **WHITE** or **GOLD**. After each round, the following data are shown for the four flights and for all quotas:

- Number of members in each
- Average winnings per member
- Percent winners

2014 – SECOND-PLACE PRIZES AWARDED

Beginning in 2014, when there was a lone first-place winner, second-place prizes were awarded. This almost doubled the Number of Golf Prizes Awarded for the season. It also significantly increased the Percent Winners and the Average Winnings per Member. See the SEASONAL STATISTICS in APPENDIX 1 for the large impact of this change.

2014 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED AT LUNCHEONS

Starting in 2014, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited at the beginning of the luncheons.

2014 – HILLVIEW **GOLD TEES BECAME USGA GHIN OPTION**

In 2014, the **GOLD** tees of Hillview were made an official option in the GHIN (Golfers Handicap Information Network) of the USGA. This allowed all members playing from the **GOLD** tees to use their League scores in computing their USGA Handicap Index. Formerly, only scores from **WHITE** tee play could be so used.

2015 – HISTORY PUBLISHED

The League History was published in 2015. In addition to showing the origin of the League, key personnel and noteworthy historical events, some topics are covered in great detail. League transition from play from **WHITE**-tees-only to a tee choice, **WHITE-or-GOLD**, is described.

The League History contains two APPENDICES. APPENDIX 1 shows several interesting statistical parameters dating back to the 2007 Season. The SEASONAL STATISTICS reveal the positive effects of the changes made over the years. For each season the following are shown:

- Number of Members
- Number of Rounds Played
- Number of Rainouts
- Member Dues Amount
- Tee Played, **WHITE** vs. **GOLD**
- Maximum Average Quota
- Percent Winners
- Number of Golf Prizes Awarded
- Average Winnings per Member

APPENDIX 2 contains the SCORING SYSTEM HISTORY. Many features of the current Scoring System can be better understood by studying the improvements that have been implemented over the years.

2015 – NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

The Website domain address was changed after the 2015 Season. It is now independent and owned by the League. Formerly the Website was a part of Tom Aprille's personal Website. Tom has a number of other applications on his Website.

This change was made to facilitate access to the League Website by Backup Webmaster(s) in the event that the League Webmaster is not available.

The Website link is now:

www.hillviewseniorgolf.com

2017 - ONE-TIME TEE CHANGE ALLOWED DURING SEASON

All members chose the tee they will use for the season during the registration process. This will continue, but to accommodate members who wish to change tees after the season begins, a ONE-TIME tee change is allowed. League Management must be informed before the tee change occurs so that the necessary Spreadsheet changes can be made.

2017 – WINNING POINTS OVER QUOTA STATISTICS ADDED

Winning Points Over Quota is a statistic that reveals several interesting characteristics of the Scoring System. It provides quantitatively the answers to such questions as:

- How much more difficult is it to win first place over second place?
- Are there significant differences in winning difficulty among the flights?
- How much more difficult is the front nine versus the back nine?
- Are there significant differences between winning difficulty for the **WHITE** versus the **GOLD** tees?

Five charts show the cumulative results up to a given round of play in graphical form. The Average Winning Points Over Quota values give the quantitative answers to the questions listed above. Also shown in these charts is the number of “wins” (equal to the number of golf prizes) for each category.

A sixth chart has graphs which show how the Average Quota and Average Winning Points Over Quota vary over the season.

2018 – AVERAGE POINT SCORE PUBLISHED

A good measure of a member’s golfing SKILL LEVEL is the number of points scored to date divided by the number of times he played. This is called the Average Point Score or APS. About midway through the 2018 Season, the APS for each member was published in the Results and Statistics Section of the Website. A graph of the Overall APS was added to the seasonal chart containing the Average Quota and Average Winning Points Over Quota.

APPENDIX 1 – SEASONAL STATISTICS

Season	Members		Rounds/ Rainouts	Dues	Tee Played		Max Avg Q / APS	Percent Winners	Golf Prizes	Avg \$ Won/Mbr
	Total	New			WHITE	GOLD				
2007	161	28	19 / 1	\$95	100%	0%	6.7	72%	219	\$26
2008	167	18	18 / 2	\$105	100%	0%	6.7	69%	211	\$24
2009	170	18	17 / 3	\$110	Note 1		6.4	72%	195	\$24
2010	168	16	18 / 2	\$110	Note 1		6.3	78%	205	\$26
2011 25 th	164	19	17 / 3	\$120	Notes 1 & 2		6.4	73%	198	\$25
2012	174	26	20 / 3	\$120	72%	28%	6.7	73%	217	\$30
2013	168	12	20 / 1	\$120	71%	29%	6.4	77%	233	\$31
2014	182	29	20 / 2	\$120	66%	34%	6.9	92%	457	\$39
2015	184	16	20 / 1	\$130	65%	35%	6.8	93%	442	\$38
2016 30 th	182	15	20 / 0	\$130	62%	38%	7.2	92%	434	\$40
2017	186	19	20 / 1	\$130	58%	42%	7.1	85%	435	\$38
2018	185	17		\$130	46%	54%	7.2 / 4.8			

Note 1: Only Flight D members were allowed to play from **WHITE** OR **GOLD** tees.

Note 2: All members were allowed to play from **GOLD** tees on luncheon days.

APPENDIX 2 – SCORING SYSTEM HISTORY

THE CURRENT SCORING SYSTEM

The Scoring System that has been in use since the early days of the League is a Modified Stableford System, also called a Point System. POINTS are awarded for a single bogey (1 point), par (2 points), a birdie (3 points), etc. The POINT SCORE is the sum of the points scored for nine holes. The AVERAGE POINT SCORE (APS) is the cumulative average for the season to date. Each member has a QUOTA (Q), which is the average of 4 values, the LAST 3 SCORES and the APS.

In order to have an equitable chance of winning, the membership is divided into four FLIGHTS, A, B, C and D, each one with approximately the same number of members. Members with the highest Qs are in Flight A (FA); those with the lowest Qs end up in FD. FB and FC are populated in a consistent way.

Unless a member was absent or disqualified the previous round, he must alternate between nines. Since members of four flights play either the front nine or back nine, there are eight prize groups. Every round, members with similar skill levels end up competing against about 1/8th of the total players. Golf prize awards are based on the best points scored over the Old Q.

This self-handicapping system has served the League well since it provides fair treatment for members of all skill levels. Over the years, the system has been improved. In more recent years, data obtained from the statistics have identified some deficiencies. Most of the improvements are described in the following paragraphs.

2008 – PENALTY POINTS REPLACED BY WINNINGS LIMIT

Sometime before 2001, it was noticed that the seasonal amounts won by some individuals were far greater than the dues amount. In an attempt to fix this problem, after a win, the Q of the winner was increased by one or more points for one or more rounds. These were called PENALTY POINTS. They were difficult to administer, were very unpopular with the members, and had limited effectiveness.

Penalty points were eliminated in 2008 and replaced with a WINNINGS LIMIT. A player's winnings are capped after he wins his dues amount or more. This prevents runaway winning without punishing the majority of the winners.

2008 – MINIMUM POINT SCORE FORMULA IMPROVED

Sometime before 2001, a MINIMUM POINT SCORE (MPS) was instituted to counter very low scoring that reduces one's Q. The score recorded is the actual score or the MPS, whichever is greater. This is called the ADJUSTED POINTS. The original formula was:

$$\text{MPS} = \text{Old Q} \text{ divided by } 2$$

This formula for MPS unfairly favored members with high Qs. In 2008, for more equitable treatment, the formula was changed to:

$$\text{MPS} = \text{Old Q} \text{ minus } 3$$

2012 – AVERAGE WINNINGS PER MEMBER EQUALIZED AMONG ALL FLIGHTS

Originally, the definition of the flights was based on the members' current Qs. Here is an example (from the 2011 Season): FA:(Q>8), FB:(Q=6,7or8), FC:(Q=4or5), FD:(Q<4). The flight boundaries were chosen to make the number of members in all flights approximately equal. This led to a very dynamic situation with members moving from flight to flight as their Qs changed throughout the season. A subtle, but real, consequence of this flight definition for the 2011 Season was that the average winnings per member for FA ended up double the average winnings per member for FD. This result was typical. The objective was to have the average winnings per member for all flights be about the same.

Following a suggestion by Bill Burnham, who was Copresident in 2012, this problem was solved by assigning members to an appropriate flight for the entire season. Actually, because new members do not have a Q at the beginning of the season, the flight assignments are made twice, once at the beginning of the season and again after Round 5 when most of the new members have established a Q. Members remain in that flight for the remainder of the season. This approach nearly equalizes the average winnings per member for all four flights.

2012 – ABSENCE TREATMENT IMPROVED

Up until 2012, the scores recorded for a particular round were the adjusted points for that round unless a member was absent or was disqualified for some infraction of the rules. In those cases, the score recorded was the member's Old Q. This action usually made the member's Q go up.

The treatment of absent members was as punitive as the treatment for disqualified players. This was not intended. Gasper Zaffino pointed out that this was especially unfair for a member who had an extended absence.

To fix this problem, starting in 2012, the LAST SIX SCORES definition was changed. Formerly, the scores achieved during the last six rounds of League play were used. This was changed to the six most recent scores from rounds actually played by each member, even if those scores were from an earlier season. As a result, members with absences are not punished, and disqualified players still have their Old Q recorded as their score.

**2012 - NUMBER OF COMPETITORS
BALANCED AMONG ALL PRIZE
GROUPS**

In the past, members knew that the number of members in each flight was about the same, but they were unaware of the number of competitors they faced each round. Beginning with the 2012 Season, the Winners Summary Sheet on the Hillview Board and on the Website clearly identified the number of players for each of the eight prize groups.

Since there is no mechanism to regulate the continually changing split of players between the nines for each flight, the new information displayed is useful to members in selecting which nine they play. For example, for a given flight, if significantly more members played the Front Nine the last round, then the best choice for the current round would be the Front Nine. Of course, all members must normally alternate nines, but when the occasion arises, because of an absence or a disqualification the previous round, the optimum choice, front or back, can be made.

Members are limited in their choice of nine to be played because of the alternating nines rule and because most members like to play with the same group each round. Because of this, League Management will occasionally facilitate the removal of any large imbalance in the number of competitors among the prize groups. This is accomplished by waiving the alternating nines rule for one round for one or more individuals or golf groups. This action should be taken only after the reassignment of flights has taken place and Round 6 has been played.

**2014 – DISQUALIFICATION
REASONS PRESENTED**

In the past, members who were disqualified (DQd) for some rules infraction learned about it when the results were shown on the Website and the Hillview Board. The notification was “DQ” near their names on the roster. For those who did not know the reason for the disqualification, some effort was required to obtain the details.

Near the end of the 2014 Season, the notice was modified to explain the reason for the disqualification. A number appears after “DQ” and a table is placed at the end of the roster with a definition of the symbol:

- DQ1 Played wrong nine
- DQ2 Played from wrong tee
- DQ3 Used wrong side of scorecard
- DQ4 Full last names missing
- DQ5 Date and/or signatures missing
- DQ6 Other

**2017 - MINIMUM POINT SCORE
FORMULA REVISED**

The League has had a Minimum Point Score (MPS) rule since before 2001. In 2017 the rule was changed from

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MPS} &= \text{Old Q minus 3 to} \\ \text{MPS} &= \text{Old Q minus 1} \end{aligned}$$

The revision should encourage members to try their best at all times. The year-end statistics for 2016 and 2017 were compared. As a result of this change, members won golf prizes by scoring on average about 1 point less. The overall average quota remained about the same.

**2017 – TEE CHANGE PROCESS
IMPROVED**

Since the course played from the **GOLD** tees is easier than when played from the **WHITE** tees, adjustments are made in members’ quotas when they change tees. In the past, the adjustments for **WHITE** to **GOLD** tees transition were +3, +2, +1, and 0 for Flights A, B, C, D, respectively. Since the increase in quotas from the **WHITE** to **GOLD** change was found to be independent of flight, this was changed to a +1 adjustment for ALL flights. This amount was chosen because it was the most common increment experienced when a member changed tees. Formerly, when a member changed from **GOLD** tees to **WHITE** tees, there was no quota adjustment. In the future, the quota will be adjusted downward one point.

In the past, scores from play from the previous tee were discarded, and actual scores were not used in the new quota calculation until the member played three times. This led to a windfall for a member whose performance improved significantly between seasons. In the future, **ONE-TIME**, at the beginning of the season, the **LAST SIX SCORES** will be adjusted one point up or down in accordance with the last paragraph. They will be used along with **ALL** the member’s new scores in the calculation of the new quota.

2018 – SCORING SYSTEM IMPROVED

Some problems with the Scoring System were identified. A member's Quota (Q) is meant to be a measure of his golf scoring POTENTIAL, much as is the USGA (GHIN) Handicap Index. However, the general feeling among the members was that the values of Q were too high. Also, the system was sluggish in lowering the Q value after a member has had an above-average round. The measurement of a member's golfing skill using the Average Point Score (APS) confirmed these impressions and provided a way for measuring progress in improving the Scoring System.

The calculation of the New Quota (NQ) had been based on the Last 6 Scores, where the values were adjusted to not be lower than the Old Quota (OQ) minus 1. Also, the NQ was the Rounded Average of the 3 Highest of the Last 6 Scores. This led to the Average NQ being about 2 points higher than the overall APS. This amount was deemed to be unreasonably high.

The fact that 6 of the Last Scores were used led to the sluggishness in downward movement of the NQ. It took 6 weeks for a high score value to not be counted in the NQ calculation.

These problems were addressed by reducing the number of recent scores used in the NQ calculation from 6 to 3 and by changing the formula for calculating the NQ. Now the NQ is the Average of 4 values, the Last 3 Scores and the APS. Using ALL scores, not just the highest ones, and including the APS in the average, both lower the NQ.

The Minimum Point Score (MPS) rule of OQ minus 1 has remained in place to encourage members to try their best.

The Scoring System change was implemented about midway through the 2018 Season. The effect has been the reduction in the difference between the average NQ and the overall APS from about 2 to less than 1, which is much more reasonable. Also, the Scoring System has become nimbler.

See Chart 18 on Page 9 of the Results and Statistics Section of the Website for a graph of Average Q and APS over the season. The improvement is quite apparent.

**Please send additions and corrections to:
Frank Witt ai1h@comcast.net**