

Season I – 1974

Once upon a time way back in 1974 a very special golfer worked at Macdermid of Bristol in Plymouth, CT. His name was Karl Nilsen and he had this idea to create a golf league at Westwood Golf Course in Farmington. He thought Macdermid of Bristol (MOB) would be a good name for this golf league. Karl, his wife Jeanne, and his twin daughters, Pat and Lynn, lived on Missal Avenue in Bristol.

And speaking of family members, here are a couple of babysitting stories involving our Charter Members and their families. When my daughter, Daria, was quite young, maybe 10, we needed a babysitter. So we asked Karl's daughters, Lynn and Pat, to babysit. They are 4 years older than Daria. Another of our Charter Member golfers, Gary Krueger, needed a babysitter so he and Cindy could go bowling Sunday's with others from our golf league. So he asked Daria to babysit for their 4 children—Jennifer, Jason, Joshua, & Matthew. So you can see our golfers were a close knit family back in the 70s. Jason freely admits today he and his siblings were terrible, including doing somersaults done the stairs.

It was a given Karl would become the Commissioner. Don Wilson was his Treasurer and Larry Penna was the Asst. Treasurer. His Advisory Staff was Wayne Devino, Jim Petruzella and Andy Saturno.

The first Wednesday of league play was June 5, 1974. The schedules were all created and hand written by Karl. League play that first year was at West Woods Golf Course in Farmington where it has remained every year right through 2020. There were 16 MOB league members that first year. The First Annual MOB Golf "Ball" was held at the end of this season at Manor Inn in Milldale on November 16, 1974. Spouses were invited. Karl had a Banquet Committee: Ed Howley & Don Wilson; and a Trophy Committee: Dave Blinstrub & Steve Smith. Karl had the lowest handicap of 4 this inaugural season.

Season II – 1975

The number of league members jumped from 16 to 24 that 2nd year. League dues for that 2nd year were \$25. Treasurer Don allowed each league member to pay \$1 per week or pay the whole \$25 at one time. Each member paid his green fees directly at the Pro Shop.

Karl got creative and typed a Welcome document that he handed out for the 2nd week of league play. The league played 24 consecutive weeks without a rain out. The Commissioner ended his Welcome document with these words: "Let us try to play golf to the best of our ability and have a lot of fun." And just about every year thereafter Karl would type in his saying. Karl always followed his own advice no matter what may have transpired if he was playing in our league or playing at another golf course. Probably one of his greatest golfing thrills was playing a round of golf at Pebble Beach in California.

At the end of the 1975 season The 2nd Annual MOB Golf "Ball" was held October. 25th at Marinelli's Supper Club in Burlington. Again spouses were invited. Karl's committee consisted of Don Wilson, Treasurer; Asst. Treasurer, Larry Penna; Banquet Committee: Jim Petruzella & Bob Radaskiewicz; Trophy Committee: Dave Blinstrub & Steve Smith; Advisory Staff: Wayne Devino, Jim Petruzella & Andy Saturno. The league played 21 out of 24 weeks. Karl shared the low handicap of 4 for the season along with Hank Miller and George Schur.

Season III – 1976

Starting the 1976 season revealed a new Treasurer: Larry Penna. Larry was replaced by John Heiser as Asst. Treasurer. Karl kept the league at 24 golfers. Dues remained at \$25. There were other changes made by Karl. Advisory staff was Hank Miller, Jim Petruzella, and Don Wilson. Banquet Committee: Jim Petruzella and Lou Leonardo. Place Settings: Bob Radaskiewicz. Trophy Committee: Vin Rozenski & Carl Corby. Toastmaster: Wayne Devino. The league played 25 weeks.

The Third Annual MOB Golf “Ball” was held at Pine Valley Country Club in Southington on October. 23, 1976. Spouses were once again invited. No rain outs this season. The Toastmaster announced at the banquet that he learned the difference between a piece of white paper and a bird dab when he attempted to pick up the piece of paper. This season there was a new golfer, Kevin Miller, with the lowest handicap—2. Two guys this season swung their club so hard the club broke: Steve Smith and Peter Colapinto. Still 24 members.

Season IV – 1977

The Fourth Annual MOB Golf “Ball” was held again at Pine Valley on October 22, 1977. Once again spouses invited.

Karl’s committee: Asst. Commissioner: Hank Miller; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Asst. Treasurer: Larry Penna; Banquet Committee: Lou Leonardo & Carl Corby; Decorations: Gary Krueger & Relio Thibodeau; Trophy Committee: Hank Miller & Karl Nilsen; Toastmaster & Awards: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Vito Colapinto, Stuart Devnew & Don Wilson.

The Commissioner ran away with the Closest to Pin honors. He had 16 points, whereas, the next closest point total was a mere 6 pts. Big time win for him. The league still has 24 members.

Season V – 1978

The Fifth Annual MOB Golf “Ball” was held again at Pine Valley on October 21, 1978. Again spouses were invited.

Karl’s staff: Advisory Staff: Stuart Devnew, Joe Farrell, & Wally Ostopchuk; Asst. Commissioner: Hank Miller; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Trophy Committee: Dave Rauch & Don Wilson; Banquet Committee: Lou Leonardo & Wayne Devino; Toastmaster & Awards: Gary Krueger.

Interesting note: Lowest score for this season was a 31 carded by Wayne Devino. The write-up didn’t state whether this score was on the front nine or back nine. And this happened before perfect scores called for special recognition and the recipient was given a Par golf cap.

This season the Commissioner only garnered 6 points, whereas, Don Wilson topped the league with 10 points. Still 24 members

Season VI – 1979

The 6th Annual MOB Golf Ball was held October. 20, 1979 at Pine Valley. Spouses were again invited.

Karl’s staff: Asst. Commissioner: Hank Miller; Advisory Staff: Stuart Devnew, John Heiser, & Larry Penna; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Asst. Treasurer: Wayne Devino; Banquet Committee: Lou Leonardo; Trophy Committee: Dave Rauch & Don Wilson; Decorations: Vito Colapinto; Toastmaster: Dave Rauch; and Data Processing: Hal Morin. Still 24 members. Listed are 12 substitutes.

Karl notes: “The cost is still \$2.75 for nine holes.” \$5 per member was collected to give out trophies and prizes.

Season VII – 1980

It appears spouses were not invited to the 7th MOB Golf Awards Night for the first time since the league started in 1974. The cover page notes a name change dropping the word Ball. This year the Awards Night was held November. 19, 1980 at Kings Road Inn (formerly at the intersection of King St. & Broad St. in Bristol).

Dues were increased from \$5 to \$10 to pay for trophies and prizes. Green fees for 9 holes was \$2.75.

The only two staff listed in this year's hand-out document were the two Wayne's, Treas. Mr. Fuller and Asst. Treas. Mr. Devino.

Season VIII – 1981

The 8th MOB Golf Awards Night was held at the Chef's Restaurant in Plymouth on October.28, 1981.

This was the first year the Commissioner gave a handshake to anyone winning at Unofficial Golf.

It's still a 24-member golf league.

Season IX – 1982

The 9th MOB Golf Awards Night was held again at Chef's on November. 3, 1982.

Karl's staff: Asst. Commissioner–Administrative: Hank Miller; Asst. Commissioner–Operations: Kevin Fuller; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Asst. Treasurer: Wayne Devino. Advisory Staff: Lou Leonardo, Hank Miller, Wally Ostopchuk, & Don Wilson; Rules Committee: Vito Colapinto, Carl Corby, Tedd Johnson, Mark Redman, & Rozy Rozenski.

Season X – 1983

The 10th MOB Golf Awards Night was held again at Chef's on November. 2, 1983.

Karl's staff: Asst. Commissioner-Administrative: Hank Miller; Asst. Commissioner–Operations: Kevin Fuller; Director of Computer Services: Hank Lodge; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Asst. Treasurer: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Al Bingham, Tedd Johnson, Lou Leonardo, Robbie Radaskiewicz, Don Wilson; Rules Committee: Vito Colapinto, John Heiser, Tedd Johnson, Wally Mendela, & Vin Rozenski.

It didn't take Karl long to learn of Hank Lodge's computer skills. Hank joined the league last year and this season Karl gave Hank the title of Director of Computer Services.

Season XI – 1984

Back to Chef's for the 11th MOB Golf Awards Night held on November. 7, 1984.

Karl's staff: Asst. Commissioner – Administrative; Asst. Commissioner – Operations: Mark Redman; Treasurer: Wayne Fuller; Asst. Treasurer: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Al Bingham, Lou Leonardo, Dan Petke, Robbie Radaskiewicz, & Al Smith; Rules Committee: Jack Cotter, Ken Grimm, Tedd Johnson, Wally Mendela, & Vin Rozenski.

A long forgotten event took place this season: Yours truly scored a par round of 30 on the back nine along with our beloved Commissioner. Not to be outdone that year, Tedd Johnson had a par round on the front nine.

Another big event took place this season: Yours truly's final handicap was 3, one stroke better than Karl at 4.

Season XII – 1985

The league loved Chef's so back we went there for our 12th MOB Golf Awards Night held November. 6, 1985.

Karl's staff: Assistant Commissioner – Administrative: Hank Miller; Assistant Commissioner: Mark Redman; Director of Computer & Video Services: Hank Lodge; Computer Trainee: Jack Cotter (Asst. to Hank Lodge); Director of Finances: Wayne Fuller; Financial Advisor: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Al Bingham, Ray Cargill, Lou Leonardo, Vic Orefice, & Al Smith; Rules Committee: Jim Graham, Ken Grimm, Tedd Johnson, Vin Rozenski, & Bob Wise. Scorers: Wally Mendela & Rob Radaskiewicz.

Karl didn't waste any time getting the most out of his Director of Computer & Video Services, Hank Lodge. Hank created some computer reports which saved Karl loads of time. That was a giant step forward for which Karl was eternally grateful: from handwritten to typed to computer reports.

Here's something I bet a lot of you never knew. This year the Westwoods club pro, Ed Kowalski, joined our league and maintained a 1 handicap for the entire season. He ended the season with a 1 handicap! He only played a few seasons in the league. He was a genuinely nice guy! However, even though he was the Club Pro at Westwoods, Tedd Johnson posted a net low of 28 on the front side vs Ed's net low of 30 on the front side. A new name pops up in the league: Ken Grimm. He beat out Tedd Johnson in the Closest to the Pin competition 12 pts vs Tedd's 10 points.

Season XIII – 1986

Marinelli's was the choice for the 13th MOB Golf Awards Night held November. 5, 1986.

This season Karl decided to make all his staff as Asst. Commissioners as follows: Administrative: Hank Miller; Operations: Mark Redman; Operations Asst.: Rob Radaskiewicz; Director of Computer & Video Services: Hank Lodge; Computer Trainee: Jack Cotter; Video: Larry Penna; Director of Finances: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Leo Castolene, Ray Cargill, Wally Ostapchuk, Al Smith, & Matt Sportelli; Scorers: Rob Radaskiewicz & Wally Mendela.

Big events: Tedd Johnson scored a sub-par round of 29 on the front nine and ended the season with a 1 handicap! And he took Closest to the Pin honors again scoring 14 points to Dan Petke's 9 points. Ken Grimm & the Commish scored a par round of 31 on the front nine.

Season XIV – 1987

Parillo's Café & Lounge (now Marilyn's) on Broad St was the choice for the 14th MOB Golf Awards Night held on October. 28, 1987. No rainouts this season.

Karl's staff are all Asst. Commissioners again this season: Administrative: Hank Miller; Operations: Mark Redman; Operations Asst.: Rob Radaskiewicz; Executive Director of Communications: Hank Lodge; Computer Trainee: Jack Cotter; Video: Larry Penna; Director of Finances: Wayne Fuller; Financial Advisor: Wayne Devino; Advisory Staff: Vito Colapinto, Stu Devnew, John Whitcomb, Oscar Jobs, Mike Bandtlow; Rules Committee: Jim Graham, Ken Grimm, Tedd Johnson, Al Yussman; Scorers: Rob Radaskiewicz & Wally Mendela.

Jack Cotter & Tedd Johnson had subpar rounds of 30 on the front nine. Ed Kowalski scored a par round of 30 on the back nine.

Season XV – 1988

We went back to Parillo's for the 15th MOB Golf Awards Night held on November. 2, 1988.

Karl's staff again all Asst. Commissioners: Administrative: Hank Miller; Operations: Mark Redman; Operations Asst.: Rob Radaskiewicz; Executive Director of Communications: Hank Lodge; Computer Trainee: Jack Cotter; Video: Larry Penna; Director of Finances: Wayne Fuller; Financial Advisor: Wayne Devino.

Ed Kowalski scored a one-under par of 29 on the back nine. Tedd Johnson scored a par round of 31 on the front nine. Hank greatly expanded his creation of computer reports for handouts at Awards Night.

Season XVI – 1989

Marinelli's got the nod for the 16th MOB Golf Awards Night held on November 1, 1989.

Karl's staff: Administrative – Hank Miller; Operations – Rob Radaskiewicz; Executive Director of Communications – Hank Lodge; Computer Trainee – Jack Cotter; Director of Finances – Wayne Fuller; Financial Advisor – Wayne Devino.

Big year for low gross round: Bruce Till: 2 under par on front nine; Tedd Johnson: 1 under par on front nine; John Arru & Al Smith: even par on front nine.

Season XVII – 1990

Once again the 17th MOB Golf Awards Night was held on November. 7, 1990 at Marinelli's.

Karl made some changes to his staff: Hank Lodge was Executive Director of Communications & Certifications; Jack Cotter hung onto Computer Trainee; Wayne Fuller and Wayne Devino both remain as Director of Finances & Financial Advisor respectively; Starters: Jack Cotter, Wayne Devino, Hank Miller, Robbie Radaskiewicz, Mark Redman & Craig Turbacuski.

Low gross round for the year: Tedd Johnson 29; Ed Kowalski 30; Bruce Till 30; Jack Cotter 31; Gary Rafaniello 31. However, no indication what nines they happened on.

This was the first year of the Alice competition. Any time a player didn't hit his drive past the ladies tee he got a point. "Winners": Dale Avery: 9; Matt Yussman: 8; Ray Cargill: 4; Ken Price: 4; Al Bingham: 3; Hank Lodge: 3; Jim Marinelli: 3; and Al Yussman: 3. This year was also the first year for the Nabisco Team competition. Ed Kowalski, Club Pro at Westwoods ended the season with a zero handicap. As an FYI Jim Marinelli joined our league this season. He was a part owner of Marinelli's.

Season XVIII – 1991

We're back at Marinelli's for the 18th MOB Golf Awards Night held on November. 6, 1991.

Karl's staff: Executive Director of Communications & Certifications: Hank Lodge; Ex-Computer Trainee: Jack Cotter; Director of Finances: Wayne Fuller; Financial Advisor: Wayne Devino; Executive Assistant: Jack Cotter; Starters: Jack Cotter, Hank Lodge, Robbie Radaskiewicz, and Mark Redman.

Low gross: Tedd Johnson 29F; Ken Kowalski 29B; Hank Miller 30F.

One of the long standing events had to change this year. Our beloved Karl was fighting cancer. He only played 16 rounds this year. So instead of Beat the Commissioner it was changed to Beat the Executive Assistant. Only 2 guys beat Jack Cotter: Ken Price & Mark Redman. A new competition was introduced this season: Birdie Club and was won by non-other than Tedd Johnson. His 16 birdies towered over 2nd place winner, Jack Cotter's 10 birdies. Five guys tied for the final standings in the Alice Leaders competition: Dale Avery, Bill Barnes, Bob Boisvert, Oscar Jobs, and John Whitcomb. Karl was still able to compile all the records and tournaments for this season.

This ended up being Karl's last season with the MOB Golf League. Karl passed away November 22, 1991.

Season XVIII - 1992

This is the first season without our beloved Commissioner Karl Nilsen. Hank Lodge took over running the league but retained his title of Executive Director of Communications and Certifications. Staff working with Hank: Director of Finances: Wayne Fuller; Executive Assistant & Chief Purser: Jack Cotter; Financial Advisor: Wayne Devino; Executive Starter: Mark Redman; Rules Chairman: Tedd Johnson; Starters: Robbie Radaskiewicz & Craig Turbacuski; Official Complainers: Vin Dolecki & Gary Rafaniello.

At the end of our 19th season we held our NILSEN Golf Awards Night on November. 4, 1992 at Marinelli's Supper Club.

Note: The league has had a name change, MOB was replaced by NILSEN in honor of Karl.

Hank computerized all records. Another change: Beat the Executive Assistant was changed to Beat the Golfer of 1991, which this season was Tedd Johnson. Only one golfer beat him: Hank Miller.

The league had two Holes-In-One this season: Bob Ewen & Bob Boisvert.

“Winner” of the Alice Championship: Al Bingham. Low Gross: Tedd Johnson 29F; Ted Baranowski 30B. Also, we had a Whiff Club. We had 4 whiffers this season: Jim Murray, Gary Rafaniello, Jim Wade and Roland Pelletier.

Our sincere thanks to Hank Lodge for taking on the major task of carrying on the golf league that Karl started back in 1974.

Hank Lodge organized the Nilsen Memorial Tournament playing the first one in 1992 and every year thereafter until the last one in 1996. In addition, Wayne Devino organized dances as another fund raiser. In 1996 Karl's doctor Dr. Greenberg retired. So it was felt this was the year for the Nilsen Memorial Tournament to “retire”. These yearly fundraisers raised \$50,000. Proceeds went to UConn Health in Farmington. A mural was painted covering a whole wall in the Oncology Department where Karl went for treatment for his cancer. In addition, a large size fish tank was purchased for display in that same department. Dr. Greenberg felt it would serve as a calming effect for the patients who used the equipment in the department. There's a picture somewhere with Jeanne, Hank, and Wayne D presenting a check to Dr. Greenberg and Karl's nurse Joanie Meehan. The fish tank and mural are still on display in the same area, but this area now houses a different department. Also, the next time you go into the restaurant at Westwoods look for the plaque on the wall showing the names of those golfers who won the tournament each year. The tournament continued but the name changed to The Hank Lodge Invitational. The last tournament winners in 2000 were Tedd Johnson and his family.

Season XX – 1993

The 20th season of the Nilsen Golf League started with a major change in leadership. Wayne Fuller retired as Director of Finances. He was replaced by Wayne Devino, who became Chief Financial Officer. Hank retained the title of Executive Director of Communications and Certifications. Others on the staff: Chief Purchasing Agent: Jack Cotter; Rules Chairman: Tedd Johnson; Executive Assistant: Mark Redman; Starters: Robbie Radaskiewicz & Craig Turbacuski.

The Nilsen Golf Awards Night was held at Marinelli's on November 3, 1993.

Low Gross: Bob Baranowski 29B; and 3 guys with par on the back nine: Ted Johnson, Gary Rafaniello, & Craig Turbacuski.

Bob Baranowski, who joined the league in 1992 ended the season with a 1 handicap. Plus he had the lowest gross score of 29B.

Season XXI – 1994

The 21st season found Hank still retaining the title of Executive Director of Communications and Certifications. Others on his staff: Director of Finances: Wayne Devino; Executive Assistant & Chief Purser: Jack Cotter; Executive Starters: Mark Redman, Robbie Radaskiewicz, & Craig Turbacuski; Rules Chairman: Tedd Johnson; League Philosopher: Robert Ewen; Official Complainer: Gary Rafaniello.

Low Gross: Craig Turbacuski 29B & Tedd Johnson 30F. Tedd also snagged both Closest to Pin and Birdie Club honors with 12 each. Walt Lobaczewski got a hole-in-one on the 12th hole. Craig Turbacuski had low gross of 29B and Tedd Johnson had low gross of 30F.

Again this season the Nilsen Golf Awards Night was held at Marinelli's on November. 2, 1994.

Season XXII - 1995

Hank's staff for the 22nd season was as follows: Director of Finances: Wayne Devino; Chief Purser/Executive Asst.: Jack Cotter; Player Morale: Craig Turbacuski; Rules Chairman: Tedd Johnson; League Ranger: Robbie Radaskiewicz; Executive Standby Starter: Mark Redman; League Philosopher: Robert Ewen; Master of Complaints Gary Rafaniello.

Two comments are worthy of mentioning: Jack Cotter was a master at securing prizes for the league. I suspect being 6'5" feet helped his cause when talking to the store owners. Also, Hank was on the injured list and he pressed Tedd Johnson in to duty to handle the duties of league starter.

Not to be outdone by Tedd Johnson, this season Gary Rafaniello won both Closest to Pin & Birdie Club honors with 17 & 13 respectively. Last year Tedd had 23 & 12.

The Nilsen Golf Awards Night was held again at Marinelli's on November. 1, 1995.

Season XXIII – 1996

Hank's staff in our 23rd season as a league remained the same as the staff last year. And again this season Tedd Johnson filled in for Hank performing the duties of league starter.

Low Gross: Frank Flood & Dan Ahern both had 1 under rounds of 30F. Tedd Johnson shot an even par of 30B. New comer Dan Ahern ended his first season with a zero handicap. Frank Flood ended the season with a 1 handicap.

The Nilsen Golf Awards Night was held at Marinelli's on November. 6, 1996.

Season XXIV – 1997

Hank's staff had a few changes for our 24th season: Director of Finances: Wayne Devino; Chief Purser/Executive Asst: Jack Cotter; Player Morale: Bob Badal; Rules Chairman: Tedd Johnson; League Ranger: Robbie Radaskiewicz; Executive Standby Starter: Mark Redman; League Philosopher: Robert Ewen; Master of Complaints: Craig Turbacuski. Hank is still retaining the title of Executive Director – Communications & Certifications. Eric Wright recorded the only Eagle this year on hole #1 playing against the Executive Director. In the Beat the Golfer of the Year competition only two guys beat Frank Flood's net 28: Hank Lodge with a neat net 25 and Bill Barnes with his neat net 26. The Nilsen Golf Awards Night was held at Marinelli's on November. 5, 1997. At this banquet yours truly read an Ode to Hank Lodge that he had written to honor Hank:

*Lo these many years you have toiled,
to the point many of us have been spoiled.
Why we ask, but to you it's a labor of love.
The task at times is tough, but always you rise above.
As you have endeavored to keep Karl's ideals in mind,
you may have wanted to kick some of us in the behind.
For all you have done, accept this gift as a token of our esteem,
for you see we really are all your team!
Let me quit while I hope I'm ahead,
we trust to your grandchildren this ode will be read.*

Season XXV – 1998

Now here we are starting our 25th season in 1998 as a long term, well-respected league at Westwoods Golf Course. Nilsen Golf League/MOB Golf League is the oldest golf league at Westwoods in continuous operation. Hank's staff remains the same as our last season.

It appears 1998 was the first season the league held a pre-season banquet at Marinelli's. The primary reason was to pick the teams for the Nabisco Competition.

We had 2 players register holes-in-ones: Robbie Radaskiewicz made his on the 3rd hole, 134 yards, using a pitching wedge; Vic Orefice made his on the 16th hole, 151 yards, using a 5 wood. Three guys scored a one-under par on the back nine this season: Jack Cotter, Frank Dugo, and Frank Flood. (What? No Tedd Johnson on this list this season!)

Hank started something new this season: The first league member that birdies the 10th hole during league play will have \$10 deposited into his winnings envelope at the Awards Night. And this offer will be carried over until someone collects. Frank Flood became the first winner of the \$10. And later on this same Wednesday Bob Boisvert got a birdie on the 10th hole.

A little side story. A few years back I was in Dave Kaczmarczyk's foursome on a Saturday morning at Westwoods playing in Hank's Glory Tournament. Dave's 2nd shot landed on the 10th green way left of the hole which was on the far right. Would you believe his putt went into the hole for a birdie! What a thrill to watch him make that birdie!

The Annual Awards Banquet was again held at Marinelli's on the 1st Wednesday in November which was Nov 4th, 1998.

Season XXVI – 1999

We are now getting ready to start our last season in the 90s. Total number of guys in the league and regular subs are 45. Still playing at Westwoods in our 26th golf season.

Frank Flood ended up with the lowest handicap with a 1 in the league. Tedd Johnson was right behind him finishing with a 2 handicap.

There were no other records available to learn of other events. Maybe yours truly misplaced it. I strongly suspect we went back to Marinelli's for our Annual Awards Banquet and no doubt it took place on the first Wednesday in November, 1999.

Season XXVII – 2000

Here comes our 27th Nilsen Golf League season at Westwoods. Hank's staff consists of Wayne Devino, Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Chief Purser/Executive Trainee II; Bob Badal, Player Morale; Tedd Johnson, Rules Chairman; Jim Murray, League Ranger; Mark Redman & Robbie Radaskiewicz, Executive Starters; Robert Ewen, League Philosopher; Craig Turbacuski, Master of Complaints. Hank still uses the title of Executive Director – Communications & Certifications.

This season saw Matt Sportelli join the Legends Division, ages 70 to 115.

This was the year that yours truly got his first hole-in-one in league play. It was at the 17th hole, 163 yards with a 6-iron. And I must admit it rolled almost the whole way to the hole. My score card didn't say anything about it rolling into the hole. It just showed a 1 on the score card. Hard to believe but even though I got the hole-in-one I did not make even one birdie the whole season!

Again this season Marinelli's got to host our Annual Awards Banquet on November 1, 2000.

Season XXVIII – 2001

This year of 2001 was the Nilsen Golf League's 28th year and is still golfing at Westwoods.

Hank made a few changes in his staff this season: Wayne Devino, Dir of Finances; Jack Cotter, Chief Purser/Special Assistant; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Tedd Johnson, Rules Chairman; Bob Ewen, League Philosopher; Jim Murray, League Ranger; Mark Redman, Robbie Radaskiewicz & Craig Turbacuski, Executive Starters; Bob Badal, Assistant to the Special Assistant; and Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints.

We had 5 new rookies (sponsor in parenthesis) join the league this season: Ralph Cretella (Jack Cotter); Tom Lozier (Bob Badal); Dennis Hart (Mark Redman); Andy Morneault (Jim Lincoln); Rick Simpson (Bob Ewen); Jim Roy (Jack Cotter); and Chris Ziogas (Rich Colbert). Chris returned to the league after 15 year layoff.

Jack Cotter was the "Beat the Golfer" player this season. Jack's net 33 was beaten by 18 players! Frank Flood walked away in the Closest to Pin competition with 18 points. Two good buddies each had 10 points for 2nd place: Jack Cotter & Hank Lodge. Frank had to settle for a tie in the Birdie competition with Tedd Johnson each collecting 11 birdies. Bruce Till tried hard to tie them but fell short by one birdie.

Again this year the Nilsen Golf Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November 6, 2001.

Season XXVIII – 2002

My goodness, the years just keep flying by. We started our 29th golf league season in April, 2002. Westwoods is still our golf course of choice. We played 23 out of 25 weeks.

Staff this season: Wayne Devino, Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Chief Purser/Special Assistant; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Tedd Johnson, Rules Chairman; Bob Ewen, League Philosopher; Jim Murray, League Ranger; Executive Starters, Mark Redman & Craig Turbacuski; Bob Badal, Junior Trainee to the Special Assistant; Gil Pelletier & Duke Snyder, Masters of Complaints.

Here's a little side story about Ron Jakiel's hole-in-one on the 154 yds 16th hole using his 4 iron. His son, Michael, along with Glenn Klocko and Hank Lodge witnessed it. Hank was the Marshall for this group charged with moving his group along. As Ron took his practice swings Hank says to Ron "Let's get moving, we need to play faster." Ron hits his shot into the hole. Calmly turns to Hank and says "Is that fast enough, Lodge?"

In the Beat Golfer of 2011 only 5 guys beat Frank (Mr. Softee) Flood's net 30. And if you're wondering why only 5 guys bested Frank's net 30, maybe it was because he was 1 handicap this season. And Frank was Golfer of the Year. Our Annual Golf Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November. 6, 2002.

Season XXX – 2003

This coming 2003 season we will be celebrating our big 30 as a golf league at Westwoods. There were 44 golfers in the league.

Here's Hank's staff: Wayne Devino, Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Chief Purser/Special Assistant; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Glenn Klocko, Fashion Coordinator; Craig Turbacuski, Players Representative; Bob Ewen, League Philosopher; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Mark Redman, Executive Starter; Bob "Kingfish" Badal, Peanut Gallery, & Ed Kane, Master of Complaints.

There were two holes-in-one this season: Tedd Johnson got his on the 114 yds 12th hole using his 9 iron; and Jack Cotter snagged his on the 191 yds 14th hole using his 2 iron. [Note: I doubt many golfers carry a 2 iron in their bag!]

And here's the rest of the story. Well, last year Frank Flood carded a nice net 30 in the Beat the Golfer. This year he scored a net 37 and 28 players beat him. That's well over ½ the league scored better than he did! But on the other hand Frank led Closet to Pin with 13 points just beating Ted Avery with his 10 points and led the Birdie Club with 25 birdies soundly beating Jack Cotter with his 10 birdies. And if these weren't enough accolades for Frank, he edged out a former Legend, Matt Sportelli in the Summer Championship tournament by 1 stroke. I suspect if Matt had not had to miss one of those Wednesday's the outcome might have been different.

Two legends retired at the end of this season: Walt Lobaczewski and Jim Lincoln.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November. 5, 2003.

Season XXXI – 2004

This 2004 year marks our 31st season.

Hank's got a few changes in his staff. Wayne Devino, Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Executive Trainee I; Mark Redman, Executive II; Bob Badal, Player Morale; Tedd Johnson, Rules Chairman; Bruce Till, League Ranger; Craig Turbacuski, Executive Starter; Rich Colbert, League Chaplin; Ed Kane, Master of Complaints.

Would you believe we had 4 rainouts this season! Yes, 4 rainouts!

The Annual Awards Banquet held at Marinelli's on November. 3, 2004 began with Hank asking us all to stand for a moment of silence for all those who have passed away, including Bob Ewen who passed this season.

Season XXXII – 2005

Hank's staff for the 32nd season (2005): Wayne Devino, Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Florida Connection; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator; Craig Turbacuski, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Mark Redman, Executive Starter, Mark Redman; Bob Badal, Hero Worshipper; Masters of Complaints.

Dale Avery snagged a hole-in-one on the 184 yds 14th hole using his trusty 4 iron.

Here's an oddity for you: Buddies Hank & Jack tied in the Birdie Club competition each garnering 12 birdies; and Mark Redman and Craig Turbacuski tied at 12 each in the Closest-to-Pin competition.

There are still 44 league members. Ed Kane earned Most Improved Golfer award.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November. 2, 2005.

Season XXXIII – 2006

The big news for starting the 33rd season the Director of Finances started putting the financial records onto his computer. No more hand written records! And if you look at his title you'll see Hank upped his title!

Hank's staff: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Florida Connection/Trainee; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Bob Badal, Hero Worshipper; Duke Snyder & Gil Pelletier, Masters of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter; Rich Colbert, Chaplin; Eric Wright, League Explorer.

The Closest to Pin winning count was quite low. Ron Jakiel took all the marbles with 12 points and he beat Bob Boisvert by 2 points and beat Frank Flood, Bill Kievit and Hank by 3 points. Tedd Johnson had the most birdies at 22. Frank Flood had 19 and Bill Kievit and Hank had 10 birdies each.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held on November 2, 2006 at Marinelli's.

Season XXXIV – 2007

Looks like another rainy season for our 34th season, whereas, we played 21 of 25 weeks.

Hank's staff: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Mark Redman, League Starter/Door Prize MC; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger, Bob Badal, Rear Admiral; Glenn Klocko, Mr. Grace On Two Legs; Gil Pelletier & Duke Snyder, Masters of Complaints; Rich Colbert, Chief Inspector Clouseau; Eric Wright, League Explorer; Ed Kane, Players Rep/World Traveler.

Another old timer league member Vic Orefice registered a hole-in-one on the 128 yds 18th hole using his 7 wood. Frank Flood ran away with the Birdie Club competition grabbing 16 birdies. His closest competition with 10 were Tedd Johnson, Bill Kievit and Mark Redman. However, Tedd managed to snag 14 points in the Closest to Pin competition. Ted Avery tried hard to catch Tedd but fell 2 points short.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November, 7, 2007. At the banquet 4 league members were presented with their green jackets: Vic Orefice, Mark Redman, Tedd Johnson and Gil Pelletier.

Season XXXV – 2008

Hank's staff for the Nilsen Golf League's 35th season consists of: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Jack Cotter, Florida Connection/Trainee; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli Fashion Coordinator; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Bob Badal, Hero Worshipper; Duke Snyder & Gil Pelletier, Masters of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter; Glenn Klocko, Chaplin; Eric Wright, League Explorer.

The League lost another member, Michael Parks. Michael felt good after his round of golf. However, he passed away after his round of golf.

This season Frank Flood was the one we all had to beat. He came in with a net 31. Only Ted Avery, Bob Boisvert and Mark Redman bested him.

Bruce Till came alive and scored 14 pts, 4 better than Frank Flood, in the Closest to Pin competition. But Frank wasn't to be denied at winning when grabbed 16 Birdies, 4 more than Hank got.

Bill Kievit and Dave Mills each scored a low net of 24.

Not to be done by his father, Michael was the Most Improved golfer this season. There is a Most Improved Golfer plaque hanging on the wall in the restaurant at Westwoods.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on November 5, 2008. It was then that Ken Price was presented with his green jacket.

Season XXXVI – 2009

Hank's staff for the Nilsen Golf League's 36th season consists of Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Bob Badal, Hero Worshipper; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter; Glenn Klocko, Chaplin; Eric Wright, League Explorer.

If you look closely comparing last season's staff to this year's staff you'll see two major changes. First Hank has elevated Frank Flood to Resident Amateur Pro, a well-deserved promotion. And the other change is Duke Snyder is no longer one of the two Masters of Complaints. He and his wife moved to Las Vegas.

Beat the Golfer put Bruce Till as the golfer to beat. There were 11 golfers who beat him.

The Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on Wednesday, Nov 4, 2009.

Season XXXVII – 2010

Hank's staff for the league's 37th season: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, League Ranger; Bob Badal, Jack Cotter Wan-na-be; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter; Glenn Klocko, League Auditor; Ken Price, League Role Model.

Well, Frank Flood is living up to his role as Resident Amateur Pro. Only 7 guys beat Frank with his net 30 in the Beat Frank Flood competition.

A new category was introduced this season: Nilsen Bandits Hall of Fame. Leading the pack in the first year was Paul Castolene. In one round he shoots a 37 with a 10 handicap; in another round he shoots a 35 with an 8 handicap! After 37 years in the league Charter Member Wayne Devino finally won Closest to the Pin with 12 points beating Tedd Johnson by 2 points. However, Tedd won Birdie Club competition with 14 birdies just edging out Bill Kievit with his 13 birdies and Frank Flood with 12 birdies.

Wayne also won Most Improved Golfer. Big year for him. His two trophies are prominently displayed in his den.

Hank started something new this season. He organized and ran 5 Saturday Glory Tournaments. They proved to be very popular.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Marinelli's on October 19, 2010. At this banquet Matt Sportelli was presented with his green jacket.

Season XXXVIII – 2011

For the 38th season Hank's staff consists of: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Bob Badal, Justice of the Peace; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Craig Strull, League Auditor; Rich Colbert, Rama of the Jungle; Ken Price, League Role Model.

Note: it's good to see Tedd get the title he most deserves: Rules Arbitrator/Rules Chairman. The league would be hard pressed to find a guy in the league who knows the rules better than Tedd. This year's Beat the Golfer of the Year had 34 players beat Bill Kievit's net 36. Obviously Bill was not up to his usual strong game sporting a handicap of 2.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Nuchie's in Forestville on 11/11/11. At this banquet Oscar Jobs was presented with his green jacket.

Season XXXIX – 2012

Now we enter our 39th season with Hank still running our league.

His staff: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Bill Hoynes, Lawn Service; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Craig Strull, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Ken Price, League Role Model.

Hank added some meaningful words of wisdom in his handout at the Awards Banquet: "Yesterday is History; Tomorrow is a Mystery; and Today is a Gift."

Craig Turbacuski captured the Birdie Club competition with 12 birdies edging out Ted Avery's 10 birdies. Ted, so close, yet so far! In the Closest to the Pin competition Vince Jennetta and Bruce Till tied with 12 points each. Each year Hank tracks the Bandits Hall of Fame. Well, in 2012 one guy made the list twice. One time he shot a 35 with an 8 handicap. And if that wasn't enough another time he shoots a 34 with a 9 handicap. Who's that bandit? None other than Ben Zaniewski. Ben was seen grinning ear to ear as he turned in his score cards to Hank!

The Annual Awards Banquet was held on November 7, 2012 at Nuchie's.

Season XL – 2013

For our 40th Nilsen Golf League season Hank's staff consists of Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ed Kane, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Bill Hoynes, Lawn Service; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Craig Strull, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Role Model.

Frank Flood beat Bill Kievit by one birdie, 12 to 11. However, in the Closest to the Pin Bill got back at Frank garnering 15 points to Frank's 12 points. Only 5 guys failed get any birdies for the season. But 10 guys failed to get even one point for Closest to the Pin.

In the Bandits Hall of Fame three low handicap guys are accused of building handicap with their preposterous high scores: Bob Hamel shot a 41, Dave Kaczmarczyk shot a 40 and Tedd Johnson shot a 39.

Dick Snyder & Bill Hoynes both got holes-in-one this season. I guess Bill wanted to wait until he retired from Westwoods before he got his hole-in-one in the golf league. One of his jobs at Westwoods was mowing the fairways. I remember one incident where my drive on #15 went right into the trees as it often did. As luck would have it he accidentally ran over it putting a big slash on the ball. He merely reached into his bag of found balls and gave me a much better ball than I was using. Still didn't help my score. But thank you anyway for trying, Bill.

At the Annual Awards Banquet held again at Nuchie's on Wednesday, 11/7/13 Bruce Till was presented with his green jacket.

Season XLI – 2014

Leading into the golf league's 41st season Hank's staff consisted of Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale, Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Craig Strull, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Gill Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Duke Snyder, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Role Model; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; Bob Hamel, Lesson Giver.

This season Bill Kievit was the golfer of the year in 2013 to beat. He redeemed himself by shooting a net 30 and only 13 players beat him this season. Back in 2011 he had 34 guys beat him with his net 36.

Our League Role Model, Dave K, eagled #13 to claim the \$10 prize. He joins Eric Wright as the only ones to do so since 1999. Bill Kievit snagged the Closest to the Pin competition with 16 points beating Tedd Johnson and Eric Wright with their 14 points each.

At the Annual Awards Banquet held Wednesday, November 6, 2014 at Nuchie's, Bob Boisvert and Bill Kievit were presented with their green jackets.

Season XLII – 2015

Moving right along into our 42nd season. Hank staff consisted of Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale, Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ron Jakiel, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Gil Pelletier, Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Duke Snyder, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Role Model; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; Bob Hamel, Lesson Giver.

This year it was Bob Hamel's role as Golfer of the Year. He shot a net 30 and only 5 players beat him. Bob Hamel made the news again. He won both the Birdie Club and Closest to the Pin competitions. However, he had to share the Birdie Club win with Tedd Johnson. Each got 11 birds. But on the Closest to Pin competition Bob beat Tedd with 18 points to 16 points.

Actually there are three bandits this season. Bill Kievit built his handicap up to a 6 and Ed Maher built his handicap up to a 7. They left their elite status behind as low handicappers. One more Bandit joins Bill and Ed: Another elite handicapper, Bruce Till, shot a 42 on the back 9 just so he can make the Bandits list.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at Nuchie's in Forestville on Wed, 11/5/15.

Season XLIII - 2016

Here comes our 43rd season. Hank has lined up the following staff to assist him in putting together a fun-filled season. Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood/Dave Dawiczkyk, Resident Amateur Pro; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ron Jakiel, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Bob Boisvert/Duke Snyder, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Role Model; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; Bob Hamel, Lesson Giver.

Well, our League Director is not the only one who can have a bad night in the Beat the Golfer of the Year. Back in 2011 Bill shot a net 36 and 34 players bettered his 36. This year, Tedd Johnson posted a net 36 and 35 players beat him.

Frank Flood eagled one of the holes this season, but the hole (15) was not mentioned. But Frank walked away with the Birdies competition getting 16 birdies to Bob Hamel's 12. Craig Strull figured it was time for him to get a little recognition so he beat Bill Kievit in the Closest to the Pin competition 14 to 12.

There were lots of Bandits this season but Jay Messier took the honors shooting a nice 37 and less his 14 handicap gave him a low net of 23. That was followed closely by Rick Snyder's feat. He shot a 42 and using his 16 handicap.

Our 43rd season's Annual Awards Banquet was held at Nuchie's on Wednesday, 11/3/2016.

Season XLIV – 2017

As we start our 44th league season Hank's staff consisted of: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood/Dave Dawiczuk, Resident Amateur Pros; Ed Maher, Detention Monitor; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Matt Sportelli, Fashion Coordinator/Song Stylist; Ron Jakiel, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Craig Strull, Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Bob Boisvert, League Auditor; Bob Calcinari, Political Consultant; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Roll Model; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; John Barnett, Lesson Giver.

Starting this season the red tees were referred to as Forward Tees. Later the course established one red and one gold on the tee box. Players having reached their 80th birthday before league play began moved up to the Forward Tees automatically. Others had to petition Hank. The forward/GOLD Tees were established to provide: Improved Competition; Faster Play; and More Fun.

Another change, to maintain a reasonable speed of play you must pick up after reaching double par.

Bill Kievit scored a round below par on June 14th to become a member of the Sub Par Club. Dennis Gallagher was the Rookie of the Year and he was the only rookie this season. Frank Flood narrowly edged out Ted Avery and Ed Maher by one point to win the Closest to the Pin competition. However, he easily won the Birdies Club competition by 8 birdies with his 18 over Dave Dawiczuk's 10 birdies.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Knights of Columbus hall in Unionville on November 1, 2017. Chef Craig Turbacuski catered this event. Bill Kievit was the Banquet Manager and Jack Krampitz was the Toastmaster. Mark Redman did his usual good job as Emcee for handling the giving out of the door prizes.

Jack Krampitz and Joe Sjogren shared in top cash winnings this season. How do we know that, well, these two guys were the last guys standing as the winnings envelopes were handed out by the Treasurer. The lowest winnings guys sat down first.

Also, Jim Murray was presented with his green jacket at this event.

Season XLV – 2018

We're closing in on our 50th season. But first here comes our 45th league season. Hank's staff: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood/Dave Dawiczuk, Resident Amateur Pros; Ed Maher/Mark Redman, League Auditors; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Ron Jakiel, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Craig Strull, Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Dave Kaczmarczyk, League Role Model; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; John Barnett, Lesson Giver.

Ed Maher proved that even after you get into your 80s you can shoot a par round of golf which he did this season. He was presented his Certificate and Par Club hat by Hank. We have a new league member: Dave Dawiczuk. He started in 2016. His handicap at the end of this season was one (1)! And speaking of Dave he won the Closest to the Pin competition beating out Frank Flood & Mike Jakiel this season. And he beat out Ted Avery, Frank Flood & Craig Turbacuski with his 15 birdies to their 9 birdies.

The Annual Awards Banquet was again held at the Knights of Columbus hall on Wednesday, November 8, 2018. Chef Craig again handled the banquet food, banquet Manager Bill again handled overall duties and Jack Krampitz was our Toastmaster. Mark maneuvered his way thru the door prize table very efficiently. Chef Craig was presented with his green jacket. Dave Dawiczuk was at the top of cash winnings this season. Second place went to Mike Barrette.

Season XLVI – 2019

Hank's staff for our 46th league season: Wayne Devino, Executive Director of Finances; Frank Flood/Dave Dawiczuk, Resident Amateur Pros; Ed Maher/Mark Redman, League Auditors; Bruce Till, Player Morale; Ron Jakiel, Players Representative; Tedd Johnson, Rules Arbitrator; Craig Strull, Master of Complaints; Bob Badal, Medical Marvel; Mark Redman, Executive Starter/Door Prize MC; Bill Kievit, Voice of Reason; John Barnett, Lesson Giver.

Our 46th Awards Banquet was again held at the KC hall in Unionville with Chef Craig preparing and serving the food. Bill Kievit again was the Banquet Manager and Jack Krampitz was Toastmaster. Bill presented a slide show of the past season as he did the previous two seasons.

Chef Craig walked off with the top cash winnings. Bill Kievit landed in 2nd place.

Ted Avery was presented with his green jacket. His green jacket was the 17th one presented to a league member who's been with the league for 25 years. Rookie of the Year honors went to Dave Martin primarily because he was the only rookie. Closest to the Pin competition was again won by Dave Dawiczuk again edging out Ted Avery by 2 points. And Dave won the Birdie Competition with his 14 birdies to Bill Kievit's 9 birdies.

Season XXXXVII - 2020

As the Nilsen Golf League is getting ready to start its 47th year as a golf league at Westwoods in 2020 the United States was hit with the COVID-19 virus. This pandemic caused many changes to how the league was run this season. The 18 holes had plastic balls placed in them so that players did not have to remove the flag to reach into the hole to retrieve their ball. This process made it difficult sometimes to determine if a putt was holed. We decided that if a golf ball touched the plastic ball the putt counted. No doubt some liberties were taken to say the golf ball did touch the plastic ball. This was particularly true when the putt was quite a distance from the hole. Another change were carts were allowed to be rented to only one person. This made for some shortages of carts to go around.

Payment of league dues was changed. All league members had to pay \$60 to the league treasurer to cover cash prizes, holes-in-one drink expenses, and miscellaneous and administrative costs. Those league members who were not Westwoods members had to pay their weekly green fees themselves. The pro shop was locked so that the guys had to go around to the back to pay their green fees thru an open window.

No Awards Banquet was held this year, hence no prize table. The cash winnings were mailed via check to those having winnings this season.

Bruce Till didn't let any pandemic get in the way of getting his first hole-in-one in the league. On July 22 using his 6-iron he drove the ball 156 yards into the hole on the 16th hole. Bruce advises he had gotten a 2nd hole-in-one this summer but not in league play. Story going around is these are his 1st and 2nd holes-in-one in his entire golfing career. Not to be outdone by Bruce, Dave Dawiczuk got a hole-in-one as well. On Aug 26 Dave hit his 5 iron 178 yds into the hole on #14.

There was no Closest to the Pin competition. The Birdie Club competition was won by Bill Kievit edging out Ed Kane 10 to 9 points.

Oscar Jobs ended at the top of the cash winnings list this season. Dennis Hart followed in second place.

Ron Jakiel was presented with his green jacket as he reached 25 years. His green jacket was the 18th green jacket awarded.

Legends:

Longevity reigns in the Nilsen Golf League: Currently there are about 40% of the league members 70 & over. Ken Price was 94 when he retired from the league at the end of the 2013 league season because his wife was ailing at home. The next oldest when he retired was Matt Sportelli at 89 after the 2019 league season to stay home to care for his wife. Now there may have been earlier older gents that retired in their 80s & 90s like Dan Petke, Jim Lincoln and Hank Miller. However, I have no way of verifying their dates of birth. Current older guys still playing in the league: Wayne Devino (84); Ed Maher (84); Bob Calcinari (83); Gardner Wright (81); Gil Pelletier (80) and Bob Badal (80). Turning 80 later on this year: Bob Blake, Jim Murray and Roger Roy. I call these guys Oldies But Goodies! And just for the record, Ed Maher can outdrive the rest of 80+ guys. He cannot use his awesome driver on #10 because the ball would end up in the pond. And that reminds me about a time several years ago when as I'm walking across the bridge on #10 Jack Cotter's drive went across the bridge right between my legs. And another story, years ago our group was on the first green getting ready to putt when Frank Flood's 2nd shot rolled across the green and well off the other side.

Nabisco Competition (1990-2018):

Nabisco Competition begun the 1st week of May with seven 6-man teams. Each week the top 3 net scores of each team would be posted with the lowest net total would be the weekly leader. At the end of the season the team with the lowest overall net score would be the winner. The winning team got cash in their winnings envelope. The runner up team got a box of Nabisco animal crackers. The last couple of years it was getting very difficult locating the small boxes of the Nabisco animal crackers in the super markets.

Relatives who played in the league or are still playing in the league:

Father/sons – Blimstrub, Mark & Dave; Badal, Bob & Jeff; Colapinto, Vito & Pete; Dawiczkyk, Dave & Greg; Devino, Wayne & Dale Avery (son-in-law); Fuller, Wayne & Kevin & Kyle; Jakiel, Ron & Michael; Kowalski, Ed & Ken; Newton, Robley & Matt; Nilsen, Karl & Mike Bandtlow (son-in-law); Radaskiewicz, Bob & Robbie; Wright, Gardner & Eric; Yussman, Al & Matt & Brian; Colapinto, Vito & Wally Ostapchuk (son-in-law). Brothers: Fuller, Kevin & Kyle; Snyder, Duke & Dick; Stark, Reggie & Rick; Yussman, Matt & Brian; Joe Sjogren & Bill Lassy (brothers-in-law). Cousins: Ted & Dale Avery. Uncle/nephew: Vic Orefice was Fred Sesto's uncle.

Quarter Century Club/Green Jackets:

Green jackets are presented to league members upon their 25th year in the Nilsen Golf League. Thus far 18 members have been presented with green jackets. Commissioner Karl was the first to get his green jacket. Hank and Wayne have their green jackets as does our new League Director, Bill Kievit. It's kind of a take-off on the green jackets presented to winners of the Masters Golf Tournament. Recipients must still be an active member of the Nilsen Golf League on their 25th year of playing in the league. The recipients of the Green Jacket are asked to wear their Green Jackets at all special events like the Annual Awards Banquet.

Par Club:

The Par Club was started in 2008 when Hank shot a par round and thus created the Par Club. Rank has it privilege! Par Club recipients are presented a Par Club golf cap. At the end of the 2020 season there are 18 league members who scored a par round on either the front 9 or the back 9. And if that's not enough 9 league members have scored a sub-par round of golf on either the front 9 or the back 9.

Now here's a little story that explains how Jim Mascaro earned his subpar round of golf on Wednesday, July 3, 2019. He was in a foursome with Ted Avery, Dennis Hart, and Fred Anderson, who was Jim's team partner that day playing the front 9. Here's his story in Jim's words: "1st hole 5/4 good start; 2nd was 3/2 something is happening here; 3rd was a 4 a little trouble in the trap; 4th 1st birdie 2/1 what a job; 5th 4/3 Oh darn another par; 6th Ok another 3 for 2; 7th 3 for a 2 Ho hum; 8th the big surprise 3 for a 2; and the 9th was big treat standing on the tee box knowing I'm one under and even a bogie would give me an even par round, but not to be, the golf Gods make it a par for a one under 30 with a handicap of 7 for a net 23." Great sub-par round, Jim. This round of real good golf earned Jim one of the bandits mentioned in Hank's annual list of bandits for 2017.

Educators:

Over the 47 years the league has been around we've had the pleasure of having several league members who were or are Educators: Gary Krueger, Tedd Johnson, Ed Maher, Jack Krampitz, Dennis Hart, Duke Snyder, Mark Redman, Vince Jennetta, Roger Roy, Dave Mills, and Al Caruso. Charter Member Gary Krueger taught Math at Terryville High for 35 years, coached Cross Country and Track & Field. The track there bears his name in memory because he was instrumental in getting the track built.

Epilogue:

Wayne Devino, Charter Member of the Nilsen Golf League has written the history of this golf league thru 2020, the year of the pandemic. It was an arduous journey lasting over several months. He wishes to express his sincere thanks to Hank Lodge, Bill Kievit, Mark Redman and Tedd Johnson for their expert help in validating the data contained in this history.

Bill Kievit, League Director, will take it from here and place the history in the Nilsen Golf League's website (nilsengolf.com) and he expects to carry on with the league history on a year by year basis.