

Sea Trail Men's Golf Association (STMGA)-HISTORY
Originated by Ed Hughes (1999) Edited by Charlie Schorpp

INTRODUCTION

When I sat down to read the minutes of the meetings of Sea Trail Men's Golf Association from the last ten years and when I talked to some of the "old timers" of the organization, it dawned on me that there have been many changes over these years. Having spent most of my life dealing with histories of places with hundreds of years and even thousands of years of longevity I didn't really expect so much change in such a short time.

The change is apparent when you look at the whole decade at one time. Another thought I had as I gathered information was of the number of members I have known who are no longer with us, who have moved to that great "Country Club in the Sky" or else just moved. Two of our past presidents are deceased and one has moved back north. So that while our growth may appear large in a short time when you take into consideration those members we have lost through attrition it is even more phenomenal.

In putting this little history together I was well aware that people have many different ideas about what history is. I have tried to define the important milestones in STMGA's growth and recognize those who have had the responsibility for them. I am sure that this little piece will not be error free. I therefore apologize, beforehand, for having omitted any name or any significant event. All the errors are mine alone. I appreciate all the help from those who shared their memories with me. I have drawn from them, the archives and my own memories in writing this. I hope it brings back some memories to those who have been here awhile and informs the newer members about the organization.

Ed Hughes

Written September, 1999

The History

Each male property owner at Sea Trail Plantation and Golf Resort has a right to become a member of STMGA. As new members are greeted, as they have been since 1989 when STMGA was founded, they automatically are absorbed into the rhythm of the Tuesday tournaments and bi-monthly meetings, and take part in the special events. To many, or perhaps most of these members who arrived at the Plantation over the past ten years, very little thought is given to the men who preceded them and brought the Association to its present state. Each new member learns the rules, signs up for various tournaments, asks the same or similar questions, usually of someone who came a mere six months prior, but who is now a veteran. This is as it should be. Everyone should feel at ease with

the other members as soon as possible, and feel himself a veteran in a few months. The Association was formed for the purpose of providing a golf venue in a sociable atmosphere, and to promote the game of golf as it should be played.

STMGA is a unique organization in many ways. It is not a country club in the true sense. The Association does not control the hiring and firing of golf personnel. Nor does STMGA supply the funds for the maintenance of the golf courses. We are a separate organization with a tie to the Sea Trail Plantation and Golf Resort through the purchase of property which gives one the right to join the Association and use the courses. A covenant generally outlines what the future may hold for the property owners once all, or a large majority, of the real estate property is sold. This rather tenuous partnership has held up rather well in the ten years since the Association was founded, due to the efforts of the membership and the response of the Resort management and owners. The future of STMGA has always been a great concern to the officers and members. To now, the Association has benefited from the intelligent and patient attitudes of those who have dealt with the management and owners of the Resort.

The story of STMGA begins in 1989, when several of the first property owners got together to form a men's golf association. With the help of Randy Fuquay, the Golf Director at Sea Trail at the time, and after a few informal meetings, the first meeting was officially held on October 11, 1989. Clarence Brown and John Ewart had previewed the Carolina Shores Club By-laws to give them a basis on which to build the by-laws for STMGA. John and Brownie presented these revised by-laws to the group, and they were accepted. The group set the fiscal year for the Association from 10/1 to 9/30 for each year.

The first meetings were held in the board room of Sea Trail Corporation. In addition to Brownie and John, the earliest members included Bill Morris, John Walker, Fred Nicol, John Penfield, Bern Dawley, Doug Mehne, Al Consalvi, Bill Burkhart, Bill Miller, Dale Stanton, Ray Roy and George Rowe. The members were basically the first permanent residents, and the vast majority came from Sugar Sands and The Woods, since these were the only two places developed to any degree at the time.

One can trace the rapid development of Sea Trail Plantation by the rapid development of STMGA. Although the organization was started with just 14 members, by the end of the first year that number had doubled. During that first year, the meetings were held during the day, usually in conjunction with the weekly golfing events. The rangers at Sea Trail were permitted to join STMGA, probably to boost membership, and because some of the rangers were Sea Trail residents. Dues for all members were \$20 annually.

In the early years, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were combined, as were the positions of Tournament Chairman and Handicap Chairman. There were a number of problems discussed the first year, similar to those we still

discuss. At that time, excessive watering of the course was a problem, as it remains today. The pampas grass, the seventh hole drop area on the Maples, the condition of the sand traps, and ball marks on the green were spoken to in that first year.

In 1989, the Maples course had been open about three years. Jones and Byrd were opened in '88 and '89. The Supervising Professional, later to be called the Director of Golf, was Randy Fuquay. The Pro at the Maples was Mike Parah, at the Jones/Byrd was Jonathan York.

The officers of the Association elected for the year 1989-90 were:

President - C. A. Brown

Vice President - John Walker

Secretary/Treasurer - Fred Nicol

Handicap Committee - Bill Morris, John Ewart

Board Members at Large - Al Consalvi, John Walker

Tournament/Handicap Chairman - Bill Morris

These then were the pioneers of STMGA. Since then, the club has grown in membership twenty fold, and its activities have increased in number and diversity.

In 1990-91, the Association began preparation of a Membership Booklet. Under the chairmanship of Doug Mehne, and with the help of Al Cambria, Dale Stanton, and Fred Nicol, it was ready for the September meeting. The meetings that year were held in the Maples Conference Room. The Club Championship event was followed by a cook-out.

The officers elected for 1990-91 were:

President - John Penfield

Vice President - Bob Kakos

Secretary - George Gallop

Treasurer - Al Consalvi

Board Members at Large - Al Consalvi, John Walker

Tournament/Handicap Chairman - Bill Morris

By the year 1991-92, the Association had grown to over 40 members. It was during this year that the first Member-Guest tournament was held. Also, the distinctive STMGA bag tags, designed by Guy Moulton, were distributed. The by-laws were changed to separate the positions of Tournament and Handicap Chairmen.

The officers elected for 1991-92 were:

President - John Penfield

Vice President - Wayne Ruff

Secretary - George Gallop

Treasurer - Al Consavi
Board Members at Large - Bob Kakos, John Walker
Tournament Chairman - Doug Mehne
Handicap Chairman - Bern Dawley

By the year 1992-93, we were up to 69 members and growing in number every meeting, as we still seem to be doing. The Association continued perfecting the events it was running, and adding new ones at the members' requests. Hole-in-one insurance was started for members, and with certain modifications is still available to all who are interested.

The officers elected for 1992-93 were:

President - Wayne Ruff
Vice President - Winston Stevens
Secretary - Bob Moore
Treasurer - Bill Pike
Board Members at Large - George Gallop, Bill Miller
Tournament Chairman - Herb Holman
Handicap Chairman - Marv Peters

The computerization of the handicaps, tournament time lists, etc., was beginning to be a problem, as the membership constantly increased during 1993-94. Louis Grace became our first, and so far only, lifetime member.

The officers elected for 1993-94 were:

President - Bob Manfred
Vice President - Gerry Nappy
Secretary - Bob Moore
Treasurer - Bill Pike
Board Members at Large - John Gregory, Ken Harris
Tournament Chairman - John Laurenson
Handicap Chairman - Marv Peters

The year 1994-95 saw many changes at Sea Trail, and to STMGA. Our head professional, who was so well liked by the membership, was dismissed in a shake-up of direction and goals by the Sea Trail Corporate Officers. We were all quite fond of Randy and his family. We were fortunate to have Mike Kallum replace Randy, and in due time Mike fit right in and became a part of our community. The Saint Patrick's Day Tournament was first held, and has since become a yearly event played as a joint venture with STLGA (ladies). Joe Carpinello was appointed Assistant to the Golf Committee.

The officers elected for the year 1994-95 were:

President - Bob Manfred
Vice President - Gerry Nappy
Secretary - Bob Gallick

Treasurer - Steve Giordana
Board Members at Large - Al Cambria, Bill Jones
Tournament Chairman - Jimmy Jones
Handicap Chairman - Joe Carpinello

A new tournament, our Member-Member, was added in 1995-96. This event rapidly became a favorite of the membership. The rules for gold tee eligibility were established for those who wished to compete from those tees. This, along with the growth in membership of those members who were retiring to our plantation at an increasingly younger age, was the beginning of a major change in the way the Association would be run in the future. The men who started STMGA were of a general age category, and in the years the club had been growing, a greater diversity of age was bringing different attitudes demanding different approaches to the way STMGA was run.

The officers elected for the year 1995-96 were:

President - Bob Graham
Vice President - Bob Gallick
Secretary - Dwight French
Treasurer - Steve Giordana
Board Members at Large - Len Steiner, Bill Jones
Tournament Chairman - Herb Klapp
Handicap Chairman - Jack Cain
Hospitality Chairman - Guy Moulton
Member-Member Chairman - Jack Palmer
Administrative Assistant - Joe Carpinello

The Association was instrumental in acquiring two perks for the membership in conjunction with the CEO of Sea Trail and the owners. Carts could be paid for with an advance ticket in different increments at a less expensive rate, and drink tickets could be purchased to save money in the bar.

The following officers were elected for 1996-97:

President - Bob Graham
Vice President - Len Steiner
Secretary - Dwight French
Treasurer - Dick Matheny
Board Members at Large - Jack Tittle, Frank Giampietro
Tournament Chairman - Ron Klein
Handicap Chairman - Jack Cain

The year 1997-98 saw the introduction of inter-club play with Brunswick Plantation, Saint James, and others. Unfortunately, this only lasted one year because of the lack of commitment on the part of the members. By now, we have 182 members and are still growing.

The officers elected for 1997-98 were:

President - Dwight French

Vice President - Bob Perna

Secretary - Glenn Walizer

Treasurer - Jack Tittle

Board Member at Large - Doc Seely

Tournament Chairman - Ron Klein

Handicap Chairman - Joe Carpinello

Inter-Club Chairmen - Ron Reopel, Ray Dillon, Frank Giampietro

Hospitality Chairman - Frank Seiboldt

Publicity - Guy Mulford

There were major changes to the format and frequency of meetings in 1998-99. Meetings were changed to every other month, and speakers on various aspects of golf - from club making to instructions, to course supervision - were brought in to edify the membership.

The officers elected for 1998-99 were:

President - Dwight French

Vice President - Bob Perna

Secretary - Glenn Walizer

Treasurer - Jack Tittle

Board Members at Large - Bob Miller, Skip O'Leary

Tournament Chairman - Ron Hayes

Handicap Chairman - Joe Carpinello

Hugh Gill replaced Mike Kallum as Director of Golf.

Although I have listed the officers of the club above, there were many others who worked diligently on so many different committees that it seems as though every member from the first few years, and many from the ensuing years, have had a hand in the history of STMGA. Whether it's Augie Douglas and Willie Criswell cooking those famous hot dogs and hamburgers at the cook-outs, someone going from place to place soliciting prizes for the Member-Guest Committee, Ed Hughes, Al Cambria and Bob Kakos putting together a manual on how to avoid slow play, or just the guys who moved furniture after a meeting, STMGA is unique in many ways, but mostly in the camaraderie it engenders among its members.

There have been all kinds of memories of meetings where occasional outbursts occurred over the pampas grass rule which comes up at least twice a year, or the drop zone on the Maples seventh hole, or what power the Rules Committee has or hasn't. I vividly recall two members threatening near revolution at a meeting at Tavern-on-the-Tee if they were not allowed to smoke when we met in the new Pink Palace. After all the meetings, which should be better attended, there is a feeling of belonging that has taken as diverse a group of men as you can find,

During year 2001-02, STMGA, in cooperation with the Sea Trail Property Owners' Association, initiated a site on the World Wide Web to house and report information. For the first time, members with WWW access (most of us) could now access membership applications, information on what STMGA is all about, this history you are reading, tee times, tournament schedules and results, our constitution and by-laws, minutes of General Membership meetings, membership and officers' listings, special announcements, a calendar of events, and STMGA related pictures.

Chris Witske replaced Hugh Gill as Director of Golf.

The officers elected for 2002-03 were:

President - Charlie Schorpp

Vice President - Larry Keiley

Secretary - John Johnsen

Treasurer - Marv Peters

Board Members at Large - Stan Boardman, Joe Varga

Tournament Chairman - Loring Michaelis

Handicap Chairman - Joe Carpinello

Over the past several years, various committees had been established to deal with such things as publicity, hospitality or 'sunshine', rules, and golf course issues (greens committee). The Greens Committee is a joint venture, and includes representatives from STMGA, STLGA (ladies), the POA, and Sea Trail management. In year 2002-03, the subject of how to treat local rulings relating to new ornamental plantings became a hot topic. STMGA recognized the need for a vehicle through which its membership - now over 300 strong - could become more involved with the resolution of such issues. A sub-committee (to the Greens Committee) was formed as a sounding board for members, to assure that the Greens Committee can be made aware of their issues and suggestions.

This year 2002-03, handicaps began to be compiled twice monthly, and gold tee eligibility rules were amended. The WWW data base was expanded to include handicap listings, local rules and Greens Committee meeting minutes. Growing WWW activities prompted the board to establish a new committee position to take responsibility for the total processes.

It should be noted that, in addition to course related issues, annual golf fees announced for year 2003 was a significant issue with much of our membership. Many of us voiced our concerns to Sea Trail.

Phil Bureau replaced Chris Witske as Director of Golf.

The memorial bricks at the Chapel-on-the-Green pay tribute to our many members who have passed on over the years.

Vice President - Bob Gallick

Secretary - Jim Hitchcock

Treasurer - Marv Peters

Handicap Chairman - Joe Carpinello

Tournament Chairman - Dave Salisch

Members at Large - Tom Kelleher & Bill Locke

Tournaments held throughout the 2006 year with the associated chairmen:

St Patrick's - Gene Method & Steve Esakov

Member/Member - Bubber Youngblood

Team Match Play - John Olson

Member/Guest - Jim Gooding

Club Championship - Joe Carpinello

BFAA Charity Scramble - Tom Kelleher & Al Bayley

The year 2005 ended with a great deal of controversy. Our new President of Golf Operations introduced some wrinkles in the procedures to which we had become accustomed:

1. STMGA weekly tournaments would be played in the afternoon (12:12 starting time) during "the season" (Mar 7 through May 16 and Sept 26 through and including Oct 31)

2. Members would no longer be permitted to "walk the loop".

3. A new cancellation policy was introduced for all members of the Sea Trail community

Ed Apalinski was the overall Club Champion for 2006, Ron Reopel and Bill McCullough won the Member/Member and the Blue Team with Captain Sheldon Hopkins won the Team Match Play Tournament. The club championship was again played in August in order to avoid the annual aeration schedule. Once again the format was changed from medal to match play.

A vote of thanks should be given to the following members and their respective committees:

Greens Committee: Steve Esakov

Publicity: Tony Imondi

Rules: Al Kozel

Hospitality: Skip O'Leary

New Member Recognition: Tom Kelleher & Wendell Booth

Webmaster: Loring Michaelis

BEMS: Jack Carlson & Tony Imondi

Handicap Committee: Jim Rademaker

A subcommittee of the STMGA Board chaired by Bob Gallick reviewed the existing Constitution and By-Laws. Five amendments were presented to the Board for discussion and approval. The 5 proposals were approved unanimously by the Board and submitted to the membership at our annual meeting on September 26, 2006. There were 108 members in attendance at this particular meeting. In accordance with our Constitution a positive vote of 67% (72 votes) is needed for any proposal to pass. The following is a summary of the proposals and the outcome for each:

1. The first amendment would allow all male Sea Trail property owners (whether they paid the Sea Trail Plantation Golf Initiation Fee or not) to be members of STMGA and participate in our events.

Outcome: Defeated (69 in favor - 39 opposed) (Needed 72 to be approved).

2. The 2nd proposal would result in a change in the make-up and selection of the STMGA board members. There would be 9 members on a 3-year rotating basis. After the three new members are elected each year, the Board would decide among themselves who would occupy the six officer and three at-large positions.

Outcome: Approved (72 to 36)

3. The 3rd amendment would result in the inclusion of the Rules Committee as a permanent committee in our By-Laws with a specific scope of activities.

Outcome; Approved (89 to 19)

Match Tournament; and Joe Carpinello, Club Championship. Also, a new Fall Two-man Match Play Member/Member was put together by John Olson, which was very successful and will be added to our Tournament Schedule for next year.

In an effort to promote our Tuesday League, we had nine cookouts, which were well accepted. Attendance was good and we hope it will continue to enlarge our player base.

We started a STMGA Data Base survey to determine what back-up people are needed to have the data base run smoothly. This should be completed shortly.

The Memorial brick costs have increased and the painted bricks are wearing. STMGA will handle the problem and continue to fund the membership brick program.

A lock-box was installed in the computer room for tournament and dues payments by the membership, which is working very well. This is the first year that dues will be billed via e-mail. We have 340 full members and 87 handicap-only members.

Tee Times for group members during peak times have not improved. Early in the year, Tom Plankers indicated he is aware of the problem, but had no answers to improve the situation. ST continues to solicit outside business and real estate continues to add to the membership. We do not expect any improvement, but with the economic downturn of 2008, things could change. Time will tell.

All the wall plaques were updated by Dave Salisch and placed on the wall at the Pink Palace.

STMGA designed and presented an Osprey logo to the membership, which was overwhelmingly accepted. A new golf shirt with the logo was presented to the membership at half price till the end of the year. The full cost of the Antigua moisture-wicking shirt is \$30. Ralph Gardner designed and did the research work to make this happen. The logo will continue to be used for shirts, jackets, bag tags, etc.

2008 Club Championship winners:

Scratch Flight	Monte Beebe
A Flight	Bob Perry
B Flight	Jim Hunt
C Flight	Rich Chamberlain
Gold Flight	Phil Ebel

Osprey logo. Ralph also volunteered to finish a project started by former board member Dave Salish to provide our membership with bag tags that reflect our new Osprey logo.

During this year the practice of meeting at the Pink Palace for cook-outs after playing golf in the morning continued. Our members enjoyed five opportunities to partake of grilled items, soft drinks and malt beverages.

The issue of fading memorial bricks at the Chapel on the Green was addressed this year. A change in vendors had resulted in a labeling process where names and dates faded over time. The Board decided to replace all faded STMGA bricks with properly etched bricks and transported the faded STMGA bricks as well as other faded bricks to the vendor for etching.

John Olson has started the process of updating our plaques in the Pink Palace with the names of tournament winners.

Early in the year we were advised by Sea Trail that due to their staffing constraints they would be unable to take the time to participate in official Greens Committee meetings. They did however state that our representative to the committee, Ron Dubas, could contact Eddie Pratt and/or Matt Owens with issues and that they would respond to issues as time permitted.

Due to lack of maintenance and an uncaring attitude by some players it was decided to put a local rule into effect regarding footprints and washout areas in sand traps. The rule, in essence, is that with the concurrence of those you are playing with you may remove your ball from a footprint or washout area in a trap and place it in an undisturbed area.

The first tournament of the year was the BFA Christmas tournament scheduled for December 2nd. The tournament was postponed to December 9th due to adverse weather conditions. The tournament was managed for the sixth year by Tom Kelleher who later in the year advised the Board that this tournament would be his last year as tournament chair. Tom as always conducted a "Captain's Draft" to form the teams the day before the scheduled tournament. Approximately \$4,000.00 was donated to the Brunswick Family Assistance program.

During the balance of the year there were five major STMGA tournaments. The tournament date, name and chairmen are as follows:

March 2009	St. Patrick's Day	Ralph Gardner
April 2009	Spring Member/Member	Wayne Hellman
May 2009	Team Match Play	John Olson

