

RPEA NEWSLETTER

RETIRED PRUDENTIAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION FALL, 2007



The President's Message

"Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening - and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented."

With these words of Arnold Palmer in mind as I drove to meet them, it was a pleasure and honour to have the opportunity recently to lunch with our good friend Cliff Barnard, his sister Mary, and her husband Bob. Cliff and I had often discussed this possibility and it was one I had looked forward to for some time. You see, Bob is a member of the Golf Historical Society in Canada, a book collector and club maker. I am a member of the Society and have a real fondness for the Society and its eclectic membership because of my family history (the previous two generations were players, teachers and club makers) as well as my love of the game and the camaraderie that John Updike describes like this:

Golf camaraderie, like that of astronauts and Antarctic explorers, is based on a common experience of transcendence; fat or thin, scratch or duffer, we have been somewhere together where non-golfers never go.

It was a delightful day as, before lunch, we 'toured' through the wonderful collection of hickory shafted golf clubs from the late 19th and early 20th century. Many times we confirmed that wonderful line of Henry Longhurst's that:



2004 Pru Alumni Golf Tournament winning team

Fashions come and go in golf clubs as they do in clothes and often what is hailed as the latest thing is only a revival of what was all the rage 50 years ago.

Old Henry could have said 100 or more years ago, I thought, as we tenderly handled the many variations of putters, cleeks, mashies, brassies and other golf clubs. So much history, so much ingenuity, perspiration and inspiration in these artifacts, and it was indeed a privilege to have a chance to hold and admire each one. And then to browse through the treasured collection of golfing books too before we heard the call from Mary that we had better get going on to lunch.

As we prepared to leave, Bob took me by the arm and placed in my hands a remarkable gift: a hickory shafted mashie niblick with my grandfather's signature and the stamp of his first pro golf course in Canada, Rosedale GC, on it. Must date back to the mid-1920's. What a thrill! It's a handsome and treasured addition to the several other clubs by my



2004 Pru Alumni Golf Tournament held at Deer Creek Golf Clubs in Ajax, Ontario

Fall Meeting

Wed., October 17th, 2007, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Blue Danube, Scarborough, Ontario

Latest time to cancel: October 8, 2007

See Page 9 for Fall Registration Form



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The team that plans our lunch etc have asked me to let you know that we will be serving coffee and tea only in the morning - the cost of the Continental breakfast "has risen dramatically" and is no longer justifiable.

Also, the committee has chosen "a Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus menu" for lunch. Sounds good! And VP Lillian has ordered the horseradish. :-)

Hope to see you there!

Finally, in case I haven't mentioned it before, we have arranged to post this and upcoming Newsletters on the YAHOO Group site (rpeacanada). You will find other files and things there available for downloading, some of interest and some helpful. (If you are not a member of our YAHOO Group, see the ad in this issue for details on how to join or e-mail me.)

Take care!

Brian

PS: For more info about the Golf Historical Society of Canada (GHSC), go to:

http://www3.sympatico.ca/bill.macdonald/index.html

Report of the Spring Meeting

Blue Danube Restaurant, Toronto

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Brian Logan, President, opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. welcoming everyone, and asking all new members to stand for recognition. After his opening remarks, he reviewed the agenda for the day and reminded everyone to obtain their 50-50 draw tickets.

Brian introduced Rick Eldon, Vice President, Human Resources, Canadian Operations. Rick said that this was the last opportunity for him to address the group as VP, Human Resources. The eleven year journey from the date of the sale of Canadian

grandfather, Hugh Logan, that we have on our walls. Thanks a million, Bob!

As for my own golf career, I like Sam Snead's line:

"If I had cleared the trees and drove the green, it would've been a great shot!"

Anyway, I will be off the golf course and looking for you, if you are able, at our next general meeting at the Blue Danube on October 17th. Frits has lined up the dance band we all enjoyed last year again so, between telling stories about golf and Prudential and what we were up to this summer, we can kick up our heels and work up an appetite for one of the Danube's delicious lunches.

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