

A HISTORY OF THE IWGA SENIOR WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

The Senior Women's Tournament began in 1966 as a part of the IWGA Women's State Tournament, which was held at Elmwood Country Club in Marshalltown. The Senior division was formed to give the older women an opportunity to play in the tournament without having to compete against much younger women. The "Committee" for this first tournament is listed as Fran Rust (Mrs. J. Bradley). She is apparently the first Director of this part of the tournament.

The records for the first eight years of this event are not complete and there is no mention of the winner of the first tournament. In 1967 the tournament was held at the Cedar Rapids Country Club with Fran Rust again the Director. Mrs. R.R. Griffel of Eldora was the winner. Ann Griffel won again in 1968 at the Spencer Golf & Country Club. From this date through 1973, the records do not name a Director or Champion of the Senior division.

In 1973 all seniors were required to ride in carts but no reason for this decision could be found in the Historian's box. From 1982 through 1984, apparently the women were allowed to bring their own carts because the entry blank has a place to designate this.

Ann Griffel was the Senior Champion from 1974 through 1978. In 1979 and 1980 this division was won by Rosemary Mueller of Davenport.

1981 was the year that the Senior finally grew up and got a tournament of its' own. The field was limited to 120 players with handicaps under 35. All entrants qualified with 18 holes, and all flights, including Championship played 36 holes. Entrants must be 50 years of age and must ride in carts. The entry fee was \$30.00, which included the banquet, of course. The Director of this first "stand alone" tournament was Mrs. H.W. (Dee) Erickson of Algona. The Senior Champion this year was Corkey Nydle. Although there is no record of the winner in 1982, 1983 saw the first of eight straight Championships for Corkey Nydle – 1983 through 1990. She also was the winner in 1992 and 1993. She is the holder of 11 Senior Championships!

In 1992, the Super Senior Division was added. This division is for women over 60 years of age.

Mary Schneider of Sheldon was the Senior Champion in 1994. There are no records in the Historian's Box of the Super Senior winners. They may be in the Senior Tournament notebooks. There are no records or any score of the winners or records of the runners-up.

2005 brought a change in the format of the IWGA Senior Women's Championship. It was voted for 2006 to have one overall field using the current trophy for the overall winner of the tournament; the current trophy for the winner of the Super Senior division (60 and above); then give medals for winners of age groups 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s.

Written by Martha Kemble, IWGA Historian, in 1995

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