



# 2020

NOVA SCOTIA  
GOLF ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT



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JAGUAR LAND ROVER HALIFAX





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## WENDY SENTNER

As I reflected on this last year, it started with so much uncertainty. The world was in turmoil with COVID-19 wreaking havoc; with self-isolation, face masks, social distancing, sanitizing and “Stay the blazes home” becoming the new normal. Nova Scotians were in mourning after the most unfathomable attacks against innocent lives, ever on our home soil and we had no idea that the loss of two more native Nova Scotians would occur in the weeks that followed, including one of Canada’s Snowbirds and a Canadian Navy Soldier, both in devastating accidents while on duty.

As I started my term as President of the NSGA, it was a year like no other in our history. Nothing could have prepared us for the uncertainty within our sport, both provincially and globally. We didn’t know when or if there would be golf during this unprecedented time. We took stock and came together as an executive leadership group, board of directors and staff, with passion and a focus on transparency, communication, integrity and collaboration, to ensure we could get through what the future held, to support our community and to return to golf.

We were humbled as a sport and as a Golf Community, to be able to enjoy the beautiful game of golf last year, albeit with varying degrees of restrictions and protocols. Golf courses around the province, nationally and beyond were capping memberships and had full tee

sheets! It was an unprecedented year for participation and the resurgence of our sport, during the most unlikely circumstances – we remain humble amongst our peers in sport, as others weren’t as fortunate. The leadership from our provincial governing body for sport and our provincial health authority guided us at every turn and we are eternally grateful to Dr. Strang and Jamie Ferguson for their leadership. We were further humbled to be able to host most of our provincial championships, with the exception of our Atlantic University College Championship.

Our staff worked within unprecedented circumstances to continuously pivot under the changing climate of COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, to continue to run operations and our tournaments. For that we owe you great thanks for all that you have done and continue to do. With the resignation of our Executive Director in December, again our team pivoted and rose to the occasion, for that we are thankful to Anne Balser and Bryce Zinck for their unwavering efforts. With the resignation, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Jason Lohnes to the role and look forward to Jason’s contributions to the NSGA.

The executive and board of the NSGA simply moved mountains in this last year. Thank you hardly seems enough to bestow on a group of unpaid volunteers, who for the first time in

years, stayed committed and focused on modernizing policies and creating and solidifying a structure demanded by the golf community in Nova Scotia to move forward in a better way. Board Members, Chair people, Committee members and our Executive worked tirelessly in this last year and have made a lasting impact on the NSGA. Sean Stuart, VP Finance and Geoff Baker, Chair of Human Resources made incredible contributions this year. Sean, new to the role of VP Finance, took on a tremendous amount of work due to COVID-19 and a commitment to transparency and accountability of our finances. Geoff led his committee over a period of months, to hire our newest Executive Director in 15 years and did so seamlessly, throughout the holidays and with great leadership. Both of these individuals have full time, demanding careers and equally demanding home lives and families. To both I say an especially fond thank you for all that you have done for the association.

It goes without saying a very special and heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and our referees for your tireless efforts, especially during COVID-19. Without our tournament volunteers, rules officials and course raters, golf in Nova Scotia just wouldn’t be the same – thank you!

I feel the association accomplished some great things together this year. We are committed to Diversity and



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D

Inclusion and have struck our newest committee committed to same. We have been very fortunate to witness the first ever Black Lives Matters Golf initiative, created by an incredible group of men with a vision for a better tomorrow. The NSGA has committed to play a supporting role in helping them to achieve their goals and dreams. In my tenure on this board, we've gone from one female board member to five female board members as of this AGM and also include a person of colour from the African Nova Scotia community on our board. The board also includes one individual in their 20s and another in their 30s, providing younger representation on our Board, as we remain committed to being a reflection of the community we serve.

After more than four long years and many obstacles, we are in the midst of carrying out our strategic plan to create a clear vision of how we will grow the game of golf in Nova Scotia and how we will better serve our golf community and all stakeholders. We are committed to youth and will be outlining our strategy for scholarships, development at every level and community reach, further into this year. We are committed to hearing what our membership has to say and committed to working harder to grow the game, maintaining transparency and accountability. We are all committed to being great stewards of this association.

We have laid a foundation this year, which will lead to a clearer path to success in the years to come with our

strategic plan and vision, First Tee and continued grow the game initiatives and opportunities to "Tee it Up." We have experienced a changing of the guard on some level and as you look at the names, skills and abilities, experience and reputation of those on this incoming board, you will see the future and the future is bright for golf in Nova Scotia.

As a Public Player and committed volunteer, passionate about the game of golf, I hopefully leave this association a little better than I found it. It has been my sincere privilege to serve as the President of The NSGA and to serve along side of my peers. I have grown immensely and can't wait to see the fruits of our collective labour in the years to come.

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## 2020 NSGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **PRESIDENT**

**Wendy Sentner**

NSPPC

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**David Bolton**

Ken-Wo Golf Club

### **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**Geoff Baker**

Ashburn Golf Club

### **VP FINANCE**

**Sean Stuart**

Ashburn Golf Club

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Ernie Muise**

Clare Golf & Country Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Rob Collins**

Clare Golf & Country Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Jim Ogilvie**

Hartlen Point Forces Golf Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Cathy Beaton**

Antigonish Golf & Country Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Bill MacMillan**

Hartlen Point Forces Golf Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Bruce Smith**

Ashburn Golf Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Kent Rogers**

Brightwood Golf & Country Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Karla Wilms**

River Hills Golf & Country Club

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Alix Digout**

NSPPC

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

**Duan Ash**

Grandview Golf & Country Club





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## JASON LOHNES

As I write this report, I am seven weeks on the job as the NSGA's Executive Director and still pinching myself. I have been very lucky to have spent most of my career within the golf industry. I have been a PGA Professional for twenty plus years and have held positions such as Director of Golf and General Manager. Having been away from the industry for a few years has made my heart grow fonder for golf. The sport has been my passion since I was eight years old, and I am honored to be in this role.

Needless to say, 2020 was a year to remember. As the pandemic struck our region in March, it halted the normal opening of the golf season and the industry was thrown for a loop. Soon after that, the NS golf community came together, shared ideas and worked tirelessly toward opening golf courses. Golf was the first

sport and recreational activity to re-open since the onset of COVID-19 and facility operators and managers did a magnificent job of creating a safe environment for people to enjoy the outdoors and our game. More rounds were played and there are more people participating in the sport, than maybe ever before.

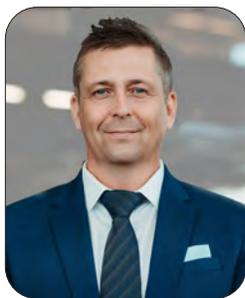
The 2021 golf season will not be without its pandemic related challenges. That said, I am confident that golf community will, once again, come together to provide a healthy and safe environment for golfers in Nova Scotia.

The NSGA has been a part of my life for a long time. As a young competitive golfer, the NSGA were officials, course raters, tournament organizers and promoters of the game. Today, the NSGA is all of that and much more. We are embracing diversity and inclusion,

we are finding new ways to promote our game and we have embarked on a new Strategic Plan for the Association which will guide our goals, direction and operation through our next chapter.

While COVID-19 provided, in many ways, a much-needed boost to golf industry, stakeholders will need to remain creative to retain at least a portion of this heightened interest and we will need to be innovative to spark new interest. We need to remain focused on development and provide programming to beginner, intermediate and junior golfers. In partnership with Golf Canada, the NSGA needs to support its membership and foster the success of member facilities. I am motivated, enthusiastic and extremely passionate to lead the Nova Scotia Golf Association through its next exciting chapter.

## NSGA OPERATIONS TEAM



Jason Lohnes – Executive Director



Anne Balsler – Technical Director



Bryce Zinck – Operations Manager





# VP FINANCE REPORT

## SEAN STUART

### Draft Financial Statements:

The financial statements were completed in April of this year by Shupe & Company and placed on the Association’s website in early spring. This process of having the financial statements prepared in the spring will continue, as these statements are important for the Board and our members to understand the financial health of the Association.

### Income Statement:

The Association ended FY20 with a cumulative net profit of \$75000, compared to a net profit of \$19,099 in FY19.

Revenue collected from membership dues was within a percentage point of F19.

The expenses of the Association saw a significant decrease which contributed to the net profit. Lack of travel expense and the inability to put on junior programming during COVID-19 were a couple of the main contributors. There was also a conservative approach taken overall back in April when we weren’t sure what the season would bring.

### Cash Position:

From December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2016 the Association’s cash on hand declined from \$201,331 to \$106,186 (\$95,145 change).

Cost cutting measures were brought to the forefront in 2017 considering the low cash buffer. I am pleased to report that the Association is back to having a healthy reserve should another

tough stretch occur. This does not mean we will start to be complacent with spending. However, it does open up more flexibility to grow the game and work on value added initiatives for members.

### Tournaments:

The provincial tournaments are meant to be as close to break-even as possible. This was very close to being the case in F19. However, in 2020, tournaments were profitable due to a few factors: Reduced volunteers at events due to COVID-19, no money spent to send teams to Nationals and full fields at the big events.

The F20 tournament profits will be going back to competitors in F21 via a 20% entry fee decrease that spans all NSGA competitions.

The Association in FY17 changed several key components on how provincial tournaments are conducted. Payments made to clubs are based on a percentage of their normal green fee, this was done to make it more financially viable for clubs to host provincial events.

### Member Fee Increase :

No member fee increase is being proposed at this AGM for FY21. We will continue to work diligently to limit fees to members. There are slated to be inflationary increases in F22 thru F24. Here is to hoping golf and specifically, memberships continue on a similar trajectory to what we have seen over the past couple years.

### COVID-19:

This time last year, no one could have predicted how COVID-19 would affect the golfing community, and there was a possibility that golf was off the table. This could have led to one of the worst financial years in NSGA history. In hindsight, much of the opposite was the case as the memberships were strong combined with a limited ability for the association to conduct its regular expenditures.

There is some uncertainty for F21 also, but I’d like to think we are more bullish than we were this time last year. Strict contingencies were put in place this time last year to reduce operating costs. F21 budget is closer to a pre-Covid version with some exceptions remaining due to the pandemic.

Ultimately, the financial goal of the Association is to support the golfing industry in Nova Scotia and be prepared, and financially able to offer all the services and products that our members have come to expect.

### Conclusion:

Before 2020, the global golf industry experienced declines over the past half decade as the Tiger effect cooled off. We do not plan on becoming complacent just because of the revival we saw in 2020. Detailed budgeting and cost control will continue to be a top priority at the Association in the years to come, to ensure we do not experience material losses.





# AMATEUR COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT

**BILL MACMILLAN**

After having a successful 2020 championship season, the NSGA was able to run all our provincial tournaments, with some date changes due to COVID-19. Thank you to all the club volunteers and NSGA referees and staff who worked tirelessly to make the 2020 season happen.

For the 2021 season, a Junior Team Championship has been added to the Tournament Schedule.

## 2021 NSGA SCHEDULE

Tournament	Date	Location
Halifax Jaguar Land Rover Junior Team Championship	May 29	Paragon G & CC
NSGA Men's Four Ball Championship	Jun 12-13	Hartlen Point F GC
NSGA Women's Amateur Championship	Jul 2-4	Clare G & CC
NSGA Women's MID-Amateur Championship	Jul 2-4	Clare G & CC
NSGA Women's Senior Championship	Jul 2-4	Clare G & CC
Halifax Jaguar Land Rover Bantam & Pee Wee Championship	Jul 6-7	Digby Pines
Halifax Jaguar Land Rover Boys & Girls Championship	Jul 6-8	Digby Pines
NSGA Men's Amateur Championship	Jul 9-11	Avon Valley G & CC
NSGA Men's MID-Amateur Championship	Jul 23-25	Paragon G & CC
NSGA Women's Pinehurst (2-Ball) Championship	Jul 27	Abercrombie CC
NSGA Women's Bronze Championship	Aug 10	Oakfield G & CC
#GolfBeattieStrong Men's Senior Championship	Aug 11-13	Brightwood G & CC
NSGA Men's Senior Four Ball Championship	Aug 19-20	Granite Springs G & CC
Atlantic Golf Championships	Sep 18-19	Mill River, PEI
NSGA Atlantic University/College Championship	Sep 26	Antigonish G & CC

## 2020 NSGA SCHEDULE

<b>MCT MEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 3-5, 2020</b>	<b>KEN-WO G &amp; CC</b>
144 Competitors		
Winner: Benjamin Chasse, Oakfield G & CC		(67-70-68—205)
Runner-up: David Williamson, Ashburn GC		(66-69-72—207)
<b>NSGA WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 3-5, 2020</b>	<b>OAKFIELD G &amp; CC</b>
17 Competitors		
Winner: Allison Chandler, Chester GC		(76-77-73—226)
Runner-up: Cristal Romero, Grandview G & CC		(78-76-75—229)
<b>NSGA WOMEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 3-5, 2020</b>	<b>OAKFIELD G &amp; CC</b>
48 Competitors		
Senior Winner: Debbie Arsenault, Grandview G & CC		(78-77-78—233)
Runner-up: Joanie McCarville, Ashburn GC		(81-74-86—241)
Super Sr. Winner: Debi Karrel, Ashburn GC		(85-81-80—246)
Super Sr. Runner-up: Jill Rafuse, Ashburn GC		(84-82-87—253)



<b>HALIFAX JAGUAR LAND ROVER BOYS &amp; GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 8-10, 2020</b>	<b>THE LAKES GC &amp; R</b>
57 Competitors		
Overall Boys Champion: Owen Mullen, Truro GC		(72-73-70—215)
Junior Boys Runner Up: Mark Chandler, Chester GC		(72-77-72—221)
Juvenile Boys Champion: Benjamin Childs, Ashburn GC		(76-76-73—235)
Juvenile Boys Runner Up: Dimitri Mihelakos, Ashburn GC		(77-76-81—234)
24 Competitors		
Overall Champion: Abbey Baker, Ashburn GC		(75-84-76—235)
Junior Girls Runner Up: Haley Baker, Ashburn GC		(79-85-75—239)
Juvenile Girls Champion: Abbey Baker, Ashburn GC		(75-84-76—235)
Juvenile Girls Runner Up: Abby Wamboldt, Northumberland		(83-81-79—243)
<b>HALIFAX JAGUAR LAND ROVER BANTAM CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 8-9, 2020</b>	<b>THE LAKES GC &amp; R</b>
16 Competitors		
Boys Champion: Simon Mullen, Truro GC		(82-88—170)
Boys Runner Up: Matt Brooks, Oakfield G & CC		(82-92—174)
4 Competitors		
Girls Champion: Olivia Seaman, Ken-Wo GC		(89-101—190)
Girls Runner Up: Annika Parkash, Ashburn GC		(102-98—200)
<b>HALIFAX JAGUAR LAND ROVER PEE-WEE CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>JULY 8-9, 2020</b>	<b>THE LAKES GC &amp; R</b>
14 Competitors		
Boys Champion: Blake Wilson, Oakfield G & CC		(81-84—165)
Boys Runner Up: Kooper MacKay, Ken-Wo GC		(82-87—169)
3 Competitors		
Girls Champion: Avery Cohen, Abercrombie CC		(98-109—207)
Runner Up: Clara Frizzel, Hartlen Point FGC		(105-105—210)
<b>MCT MEN'S MID-AMATEUR</b>	<b>JULY 17-19, 2020</b>	<b>AMHERST GC</b>
88 Competitors		
Overall Champion: Stuart Lenehan, Grandview G & CC		(70-70-72—212)
Runner Up: David Williamson, Ashburn GC		(74-68-71—213)
MID-Master Champion: Trevor Chow, Oakfield G & CC		(72-73-70—215)
MID-Master Runner Up: Aaron Nickerson, River Hills G & CC		(73-72-73—218)
<b>NSGA WOMEN'S BRONZE CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>AUGUST 4, 2020</b>	<b>CHESTER GC</b>
14 Clubs (58 Competitors)		
Champion: Avon Valley G & CC – Lorraine Purcell & Cathy McGinnis		(61-67—128)
Runner Up: Oakfield G & CC – Judy Kiley & Joanne Murphy		(64-66—130)
<b>#GOLFBEATTIESTRONG MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>AUGUST 5-7, 2020</b>	<b>CLARE G &amp; CC</b>
89 Competitors		
Overall Champion: Tim Yorke, Green Gables, PEI		(73-73-69—215)
Runner Up: Robert Collins, Clare G & CC		(77-71-69—217)
Super SR Champion: Edward Dumeah, Osprey Ridge		(74-72-76—222)
Runners Up: Gary Melanson, Covered Bridge, NB		(77-75-74—226)
Gerry MacMillan, Paragon G & CC		(75-75-76—226)



**NSGA Women's PINEHURST CHAMPIONSHIP**

**AUGUST 18, 2020**

**NORTHUMBERLAND LINKS**

60 Teams (120 Competitors)

Champions: Sandra Comeau & Leanne Richardson, Country Meadows, NB

(72)

Runners Up: Cristal Romero, Grandview G & CC & Jeanie Boudreau, Hartlen Point FGC

(73)

**NSGA Men's SENIOR FOUR BALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**AUGUST 20-21, 2020**

**EDEN G & CC**

54 Teams (108 Competitors)

Champions: Steve Ward, Ken-Wo GC & Paul Batchelor, Ashburn GC

(66-66-132)

**NSGA Men's FOUR BALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2020**

**YARMOUTH LINKS**

42 Teams (84 Competitors)

Champions: Nick Coates & Anthony LeBlanc, Clare G & CC

(63-66—129)

Runners Up: Shawn Johnson & David Fader, Hartlen Point FGC

(67-64—131)

Owen Mullen & Patrick Jackson, Truro GC

(65-66—131)

Teran Newell & Cody Harvey, River Hills G & CC

(67-64—131)

Marc Lombard & Stephane LeBlanc, Clare G & CC

(66-65—131)

**NOTE:** The 2020 Atlantic Championship and the 2020 University/College Championship were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOTE:** All Golf Canada 2020 Championships were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE REPORT

## GEOFF BAKER

### Committee Members:

- Geoff Baker ..... Chair
- Bruce Smith ..... Vice-Chair
- Karla Wilms ..... Member
- Sean Stuart ..... Member
- Alix Digout ..... Member
- Jason Lohnes ..... Ex-officio

### Last Meeting – Feb 20, 2021

### Action Items Completed 2020/2021

1. Ratification of the official NSGA Human Resources Policies.
2. Ratification of the official Terms of Reference for the HR Committee.
3. Reimagining new Executive Director remuneration package.

4. Recruitment of new Executive Director.
5. Development and implementation of annual employee review instrument and process.
6. Development and implementation of expense authorization and approvals, backup documentation and timelines processes.

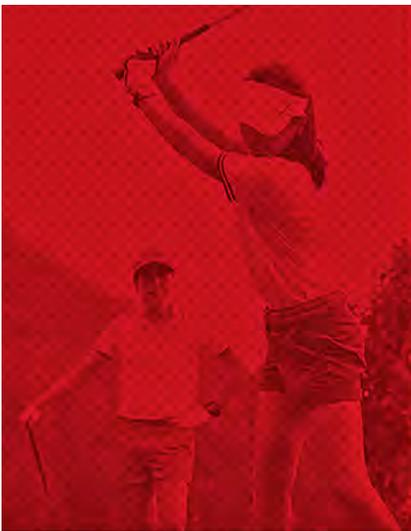
### Action Items In-Progress/Pending

1. Development of a volunteer handbook.
2. Development of an employee improvement program.
3. Redefining the division of labour for staff.

### Chair Comments

It certainly was a busy year for the HR Committee. I am very proud that we were able to ratify the HR Policies for the Association with the addition of the Equity, Accessibility & Diversity Policy, the Harassment Policy, and the Progressive Discipline Policy.

The departure of our long serving Executive Director, David Campbell, saw an exhaustive search and successful recruitment of our new ED, Jason Lohnes. The total cost of recruitment was only \$97 thanks to a great effort by our HR Committee and ad hoc Hiring Committee.



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# RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

## KENT RODGERS

The past year saw many challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and administering advice on the rules of golf were not outside the reaches of the protocols for safety and social distancing.

Not touching flag sticks, absence of bunker rakes, not having scorecards signed by competitors were just some of the necessary adjustments to both the way the game was played and issues that needed to be addressed by rules committees throughout the world. Following the lead of the R&A, USGA and Golf Canada, the Nova Scotia Golf Association implemented and embraced protocols to ensure that our provincial championships could be held. Ensuring the safety of the competitors, volunteers and staff was always our # 1 guiding principal. Our staff did an excellent job in communicating the safety procedures to our competitors in advance of the tournaments, so that competitors arrived at the events well informed. I am pleased that at all tournaments, we received excellent cooperation from the competitors, volunteers and the members and staff of the host clubs. Thanks to the education provided by our staff to the competitors and the competitors full cooperation in both learning and following the protocol rules, I am most pleased to report that we had no disqualifications in that regard. I can tell you that going

in to the early tournaments that was very much a concern. On the financial front, these safety measures did increase costs in the area of safety equipment and accommodations. However, we were still able to come in under budget.

Due to the restrictions around gathering limits and social distancing, we were unable to conduct any in-person rules clinics this past year. Moving forward, if we are unable to do face to face seminars this year, we will conduct virtual training sessions over the coming fall and winter.

I wish to thank all of the referees who volunteered this past year. Your efforts in a year of uncertainty were most appreciated. As well a special shout out to David Campbell,

Anne Balsler and Bryce Zinck who put in a tremendous amount of work in the early part of the 2020 season to ensure that we had the appropriate policies, supplies and procedures in place to ensure we were able to conduct our tournaments and allow our members to have a little bit of normalcy in a most difficult year.

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# 2020 NSGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The NSGA Player of the Year program is used to identify and give recognition to top-performing male and female amateur golfers in Nova Scotia during the competitive golf season. A point system is used, based on approved tournament scores and results, to objectively rank each individual's performance. The goal of the NSGA Player of the Year is to provide Nova Scotia's top male and female amateur players a competitive comparison to their counterparts across the province and award those who finished top in the province.

As the 2020 competitive season has come to a close, the NSGA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 NSGA Player of the Year Awards.

For more information on the NSGA Player of the Year format and points system, please visit [www.nsga.ns.ca/player-of-the-year](http://www.nsga.ns.ca/player-of-the-year)

The NSGA is pleased to announce the 2020 NSGA Player of the Year award winners:

## JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS:

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### Junior Girls (U19) – Haley Baker, Ashburn Golf Club

Haley Baker competed in eight Player of the Year events this season, and it's safe to say she was the clear winner of the Junior girl's title. The oldest Baker earned 7015 points this season, after taking home 2<sup>nd</sup> place in nearly all events she competed in. Including the NSGA Girls Provincial Championship, the Antigonish Provincial Prep tournament, the MJT at Ken-Wo Golf Club, the Oakfield Junior Girls Invitational, the Ashburn Women's Club Championship, and the PEIGA Junior Girls and Women's Amateur Championships. Baker also took home 5<sup>th</sup> place at the NSGA Women's Amateur.

### Junior Boys (U19) – Owen Mullen, Truro Golf Club

Owen Mullen dominated the Junior Boys Player of the Year this season. The Truro Golf Club member took home top honours at the NSGA and PEIGA Junior Boys Championships, among multiple local invitationals. Including the MJT at Ken-Wo Golf Club, and the DQ Junior Invitational, and the Truro Men's Club Championship. The Notre Dame recruit also came 4<sup>th</sup> at the MCT Men's Amateur and the PEIGA Men's Amateur respectively.

### Juvenile Girls (U17) – Abbey Baker, Ashburn Golf Club

Abbey Baker had a stellar 2020 season and managed to sweep the Junior Girls Player of the Year series in the process. She played in nine POY events and earned a whopping 10910 points overall. Baker took home the 2020 NSGA and PEIGA Junior Girls Provincial Championships, along with the PEIGA Women's Amateur Championship. She also took top spot at the Antigonish Provincial Prep Tournament, the Oakfield Golf & Country Club Junior Invitational, and the MCT at Ken-Wo Golf Club. Baker also competed in the Ontario Junior Girls Championship, where she placed 16<sup>th</sup> overall.

### Juvenile Boys (U17) – Owen Canavan, Oakfield Golf & Country Club

Over the course of the competitive season, Owen Canavan played in seven NSGA Player of the Year events, placing top 10 in four of those events. He won the Oakfield Golf & Country Club Junior Club Championship, placed T5 at the MJT at Ken-Wo Golf Club, and a finished 9<sup>th</sup> place at the Antigonish Provincial Prep and the NSGA Junior Boys Provincial Championship. This is Canavan's second Player of the Year award, after winning the HRM Zone Junior award last season.



### **Bantam Girls (U15) – Olivia Seaman, Ken-Wo Golf Club**

Olivia Seaman of Ken-Wo Golf Club has claimed the first ever NSGA Bantam Girls Player of the Year award. This past season Seaman took home the NSGA Bantam Girls Provincial title, and finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall. She also won the DQ Junior Invitational (Bantam) at Truro Golf Club, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the MJT Bantam at Ken-Wo Golf Club, and the MJT Bantam Atlantic Championship at Fox Harb'r.

### **Bantam Boys (U15) – Simon Mullen, Truro Golf Club**

Simon Mullen has earned his first NSGA Bantam Boys Player of the Year award this season. The younger brother to Owen Mullen, won nearly every Bantam tournament he played in, including the NSGA Bantam Provincial Championship, the MJT Bantam at Ken-Wo Golf Club, and MJT Bantam Atlantic Championship at Fox Harb'r. Mullen also took home 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the DQ Junior Invitational at Truro Golf Club.



### **AMATEUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS:**

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#### **Amateur Female – Cristal Romero, Grandview Golf & Country Club**

The short competitive season did not stop Cristal Romero from taking home the 2020 Women's Amateur Player of the Year Award. The Grandview Golf & Country Club member placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NSGA Women's Amateur, and the Oakfield Ladies Invitational respectively. This is Romero's first Player of the Year award.

#### **Amateur Male – David Williamson, Ashburn Golf Club**

David Williamson, of Ashburn Golf Club, has earned his first Men's Player of the Year title this season. Williamson claimed two 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finishes this season at the MCT Men's Amateur and the MCT MID-Amateur Championship. He also took home 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Ashburn Men's Club Championship.

### **SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS:**

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#### **Senior Female – Debbie Arsenault, Grandview Golf & Country Club**

Debbie Arsenault is no stranger to the NSGA Player of the Year Awards. Winning this year's Women's Senior Award marks her third POY title. The Grandview member won the Women's POY back in 2017 and 2019. Over the competitive season, Arsenault won the 2020 NSGA Women's Senior Championship, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Grandview Ladies Club Championship, and T11<sup>th</sup> at the Oakfield Ladies Invitational.

#### **Senior Male – Rob Collins, Clare Golf & Country Club**

Rob Collins dominated the Senior Men's Player of the Year this season, playing in seven Player of the Year events this season. Collins took home top spot at the 2019 Snowball, 2019 Jack Frost and the 2020 Clare Men's Club Championship. He also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2020 NSGA Men's Senior Championship, T9 at the NSGA Men's Amateur, and T10 at the NSGA Men's MID Amateur.





# PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

## JIM OGILVIE

I would like to thank The Player Development Committee for all of their efforts and dedication in 2020. A huge thank you to NSGA Technical Director Anne Balser for her hard work, dedication and passion to come up with new initiatives to help promote and improve the game of golf in our province. The Player Development consisted of Geoff Baker, Rob Collins, Alix Digout, Dr. Lori Dithurbide, Jeff MacDonald, Sean Stuart and NSGA Technical Director Anne Balser.

The Terms of Reference for the Player Development Committee were amended in 2020. I would like to thank our Committee for their contribution in preparing the document for board approval.

The Committee also amended the 2020 Player of the Year system. The Committee decided to recommend to the NSGA Board of Directors that Club Championships would count toward POY. Starting point value will be 100 points. The Committee decided that 10 events would count toward the POY. The 2020 POY System was approved by the Board of Directors.

With the AGM being moved to April we looked to extend the POY schedule, to be from the current season's first

competition to the current season's last competition, from May to October of the same year, rather than having events from September and October overlap into the next year. Based on consistency and logistics this will be an improvement. For 2021 POY we will need to include the 2020 September, October events. The recommendation will be in place for the 2022 season.

Unfortunately, the Canada Games was cancelled due to COVID-19 and moved tentatively to 2022. Two males and two females will be selected for the Nova Scotia Games Team down from three in 2017. The team members will be selected from the POY standings.

The age of eligibility for athletes has been extended to include athletes who would have been eligible for the games in 2021. Athletes must be under the age of 19 as of August 1, 2022 (DOB; August 2, 2003 or later). The search for a coach and manager selections are still on-going.

In 2020, all provincial skill challenges, Golf in Schools and Mobile Clinics were cancelled as per Golf Canada recommendations.

Congratulations to Owen Mullen and Abbey Baker who were selected to attend the Golf Canada Selection

Camp. Owen Mullen was appointed to the 2021-2022 Team Canada Junior squad.

NSGA Technical Director Anne Balser is looking into developing some new initiatives for 2021. Including an Intro to Competition Women's Workshop, Player Development Camps for juniors, and NSGA Regional Development Centers program to work with selected clubs develop a provincial standard for junior programming.



## NOVA SCOTIA GOLF ASSOCIATION





# HANDICAP AND COURSE RATING COMMITTEE REPORT

## DAVID BOLTON

### World Handicap System

In August, 2020 NSGA officially signed on to the World Handicap System (WHS). This is a requirement for continued membership in Golf Canada and access to all of the Handicap and Course Rating support. Only NSGA member courses will have access to the WHS and, for 2020, we automatically included all member clubs due to the COVID-19 challenges. Certificate signatures for member clubs was delayed until 2021.

This year, each member club will be required to have an individual trained in the handicap system, to head up their club's handicap committee. Additionally, a representative of each club will need to sign the WHS contract. Handicap training is straight forward. It is a free, online, self-guided training program on the Rules of Handicapping followed by an open book exam. Once completed, each individual will need to forward a copy of their training certificate to the NSGA.

All of this info, as well as access to the training, reference materials and exam, are found at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/handicapping/>

### Course Rating

The Committee implemented a new strategy to better manage the course ratings by staggering the courses to be rated each year. This change has been placed in our Course Rating Policies.

Primary change is to rate eight (8) courses a year, on an eight-year re-rating cycle. To set this up, a few extensions to courses will be necessary to stagger the courses in each area while establishing the eight-year rotation.

In 2020, course rating was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty it presented to us all. However, despite the unusual circumstance, we were able to complete course ratings on seven golf courses. These ratings were not completed in the normal fashion. We kept the review to a single day which, with the number of new people participating, changed our focus from completing the entire rating on location, to instead focusing on training and course measurements and then completed the rating after the fact. This process resulted in delayed ratings with the last completed in February of 2021.

For 2021, we are planning to complete eight (8) courses – three in Cape Breton and five (potentially six) on the mainland. The tentative schedule for these courses plus the entire planned ratings is added as an annex. This schedule will never be hard and fast as, whenever a course has a major change or redevelopment, it will need to be re-rated. Further, as courses join the WHS they will need to be rated and placed into the rotation.

Courses scheduled for 2021 will be contacted shortly to coordinate timings for measurement and rating.

### Annual Training

We are also expanding our Handicapping and Course Rating training to better inform those that wish to learn, balance the qualifications of those already involved and create a pool of qualified people for Rating succession purposes. In March of 2021, we presented our second webinar series focused on Course rating and the WHS. Additionally, we are collaborating with Golf Canada to provide more topics and better engagement for all.



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