



TOMGC Rules and Greens September 2020



Last year's Club Champion, Val Primante, hands the Champion's trophy to this year's Club Champion, Russ Friesen. Congratulations Russ!

Ok, I hate to bring it up again, but I have actually been receiving some complaints which revolve around a particular putting practice. Do you all remember in the 2018 US Open when Phil Mickelson, on the 13th hole at Shinnecock Hills, hit a putt, and then ran after the putt which was going off the green, and hit it again while the ball was still moving? Do you also remember, that he was awarded a two stroke penalty for this action, which gave him a 10 on the hole? Well, I have received complaints, that this seems to be occurring during our club play, and this cannot be tolerated. We have already talked about conceding a putt in stroke play, which is not allowed, however, seems to be occurring in the name of pace of play. Personally, I don't have a big problem with this as long as we are being careful to protect the field when doing this. A par putt, which is outside the "circle of friendship" as I like to call it, is a putt that should not be conceded. In the old days, in match play settings, the phrase, "inside the leather" was used to describe a putt which was, inside that circle of friendship, and might be a concede able putt. When this term began, inside the leather was the distance from the sole of the putter to the bottom most part of the putter grip, which in those days was a leather wrap that ran down the putter a significant distance. I would guess that a putt that was inside the leather at that time, was probably about 18 inches. However, to hit a putt by the hole, and then reach across and hit it back to the hole while it is still moving, and close to the hole, or to just pick the ball up and concede the next putt to yourself, is not acceptable, and should be awarded a two stroke penalty at each occurrence. I know we are all friends here, but there are times that you will need to step up and remind your fellow players as to what is fair and acceptable. Good day, and good golf.