# Theodore Wirth Golf Association - President’s Letter

# Welcome everyone! We are now poised to start another great season of club golf at the beautiful and challenging Theo Wirth golf course.

# At last week’s board meeting, the 2022 tournament/event schedule was finalized. As you can see, we are one of the most active clubs in the Twin Cities with events just about every week. See the attached Schedule.

# We have a new event this year: Marathon Matchplay. The format will be 9-hole matches with players from each foursome playing against each other. The 2 winners and 2 losers play the second nine against each other on the second nine. Then the winners go another 9 holes to determine the flight winners. More details on this event to follow.

The first tournament is scheduled Saturday, April 16. It will be a four-person team event set up by the tournament committee.  The competition is a two-person net best ball with everyone playing their own ball and counting the best two net scores for each hole.  Guests are welcome.  Signup online at the club website (**wirthgolfassociation.org**) by Wednesday, April 13 at midnight.  For all events this season, the Wednesday deadline is crucial so that the tee times can be sent to players by each Thursday evening.

The second event on Sunday, April 24 will be the beginning of the year-long Wirth Cup. The first rounds of the Individual and Team Match Play will begin in May.

We encourage players to stay around after each event for socializing and prizegiving soon after the last group has finished.

Please note, the MPGA events and those weekend dates are listed on the Wirth Calendar of Events. We do not have any Wirth events on the MPGA dates, so club members may enter those events.  The first MPGA event begins with the Best Ball at Elk River on May 21/22.

The 2-day Twin Cities Championship event is on June 25-26 and the 1-day Best Ball at Hiawatha on June 26 which all players are eligible.

Also note, our yearlong team events include Metro Seniors, the 8 Man Senior, and the 12 Man Match Play events. Dates for these events are listed on the Wirth Calendar of Events for those who qualify. The Team Captains are as follows: Metro Seniors, Gary Prevost E: gprevost@csbsju.edu, 8 Man Senior, Eric Sisler E: ericsisler@yahoo.com, and 12 Man Match Play, Derek Pyle E: derekpyle@aol.com

Finally, all members should be encouraged to send in their membership dues as soon as possible and no later than the first event in which they play.

Guests with established handicaps are welcome at all events with the exception of the club championships. As you know, we are always recruiting new members!

# **Reminder**: To qualify for the Club and Sr Club Championships, a member must play in a minimum of three (3) club events prior to either Championship.

# Next, we hit on a hot topic: SLOW PLAY. This brought lots of discussion and aired some serious frustration on the pace of play during events. I think we can all agree 5+ hour rounds are simply too long. We need to get serious about improving our times. The goal for each foursome should be to complete their round in **4 hours 30 minutes or less**. That means 2 hours 15 minutes or less for each 9 front and back. We all contribute to this problem and it’s up to us to fix it. Slow play starts with players arriving late on the first tee.  All players should be on the first tee fifteen minutes ahead of their scheduled tee time. Here are two actions that we will take at the beginning of the season:

#  Tracking foursome times Each group’s tee off time will be recorded on the foursome’s scorecard and the time the group has completed the 18th hole. Total times for each foursome will be recorded on a spreadsheet.

# Posting Times on website This “Times” spreadsheet will be posted on the Wirth website after each event for all members to view. If there is a pattern of slow play by certain individuals, they will be contacted to discuss “remedies.”

# If you have any comments on this issue or any other topics, please feel free to contact me.

# Again, our first event will be on Saturday, April 16. Hope to see you there!

Tom Sletten

President, TWGA