

History of Local 222 CAW Retirees Golf League

1999 Founding Year

President: Russ Rak
Secretary Treasurer: Lloyd Dussault
League Handicapper: Alex Simon
League Captain: Fred Schneider

Russ Rak retired from GM on January 1st 1994. Prior to his retirement, he was a member of the regular Local 222 Union Golf League and served on the Executive of that League for 20 years, until 1996.

At this time with over 6000 retirees, Local 222 did not have a Retirees Golf League. Russ talked to Lloyd Dussault and Alex Simon about starting a Retirees Golf League. A meeting of interested retirees took place on April 9, 1999 and 36 retirees signed up at \$30 membership fee each. The Local 222 Retirees Golf League was officially founded.

That first year the League played at Sunnybrae Golf Course in Prince Albert on Mondays. The Opening Day Tournament was held on May 10 1999. The Closing Day Tournament was held on September 15, 1999 followed by a delicious steak dinner at Park Place Sports Bar, paid for out of the League membership fees. There was also a well stocked table with prizes for all the members. There were three holes in one in 1999: Don Dionne (2) and Harry McConnell.

Year 2000

President: Russ Rak
Secretary Treasurer: Lloyd Dussault
League Handicapper: Alex Simon
League Captain: Gary Harding

The League increased to 70 members and moved to Whispering Ridge Golf Course, just north of Brooklin, with league play every Tuesday. During the year Russ and Lloyd approached Terry Spence, Local 222 Financial Secretary to sponsor the retirees' league and to provide a trophy for our Annual Local 222 Retirees Trophy Tournament, which is played every July. Terry also agreed to approach the Local 222 Executive to purchase a Hole in One roster plaque for the League and pay for the Closing Day tournament dinner to be held at the CAW Hall. The trophies can be viewed at the CAW Hall. Membership was 36.

Our representatives, Ross Davis, Steve Ferenc, Harry McConnell and Ugo Chiodo played in the GM Tournament of Champions and emerged as overall winners. One Hole in One in 2000: Ray Boudrias from 200 yards.

Year 2001

President: Russ Rak
Secretary Treasurer: Gary Harding

League Handicapper: Alex Simon
League Captain: Fred Schneider
Tournament Convener: Harry McConnell

Membership grows to 96 and the games are played at Whispering Ridge again on a Tuesday morning. Closest to the pin games on 3 holes are played and 2 scrambles, which really go over well. The 4 CAW Trophy Tournament winners represented the League at the GM Tournament of Champions. We introduced a weekly updated handicap, scheduled tee-off-times and a starter table manned by league members rather than course officials. Bernie Heming helped to keep track of handicaps and scheduling. The Closing Dinner was held at the Union Hall courtesy of the Local 222 Executive. The years champions were honoured and prizes were available for all 92 members in attendance.

Year 2002

President: Bernie Heming
Secretary Treasurer: Scotty MacLellan
League Handicapper: Alex Simon
League Captain: Stan Comerford
Tournament Convener: Harry McConnell

The signed up numbers declined to 90, but weekly attendance increased to an average of 72. Whispering Ridge was selected again. Game time was Tuesday mornings from 9:30 AM on. This is the last year of the GM Tournament of Champions because GM withdraws its sponsorship. The executives were very busy this year since the planned activities on game day and over the season as a whole were increased. Namely, a 3 flight match-play, 5 scrambles and 12 quota point games were introduced, as well as closest to the pin holes every game day. The closing dinner was held at the Union Hall and the winners of the three tournaments and the match-play competition were honoured. The Retirees Chapter became a major sponsor of the activities this year and the prize table was one of the best yet. The CAW National Retirees Section also contributed some very nice prizes.

Champions:

Opening Day	Jack Brown low gross	Ray Boudrias low net
Annual Trophy	Jack Brown low gross	Joe Monaghan low net
Closing Day	Harry McConnell low gross	Bernie Debosky low net

Matchplay "A" Flight	Ross Davis
Matchplay "B" Flight	Glen Hughes
Matchplay "C" Flight	Glen Baird

Year 2003

President: Bernie Heming
Secretary Treasurer: Scotty MacLellan
League Captain: Stan Comerford
Tournament Convener: Harry McConnell

Golf Course Negotiator: Jim Weist
 Scrambles Convener: Eric Smith
 Match-play Convener: Bill Vesters

Paid membership increased to 104, and 25 games were scheduled to be played starting on the 3rd Tuesday of April and finishing on the 1st Tuesday in October. The scrambles increased to 6 and a longest putt competition was added. The biggest and most important changes from past practices was the introduction of play on 4 different courses and the scheduling of an out-of-town tournament in June. The executive selected 4 courses, Whispering Ridge, Sunnybrae, Kedron and Bowmanville and negotiated similar contracts with each. The League played 6 games at each of the courses. The whole concept was very well received by the membership and the season went off without a hitch. The 25th game was played at Pineridge Golf and Country Club near Warkworth. Tee-off-time was 1 PM; most got there early and had breakfast. The game was arranged as a shotgun start with most finishing at 5:15 PM. A steak dinner was served as part of the green fee. Another planned first was a trip to Hawk Ridge Golf Club for an overnight stay (Thursday & Friday) with a visit to Rama for a Thursday evening buffet dinner. Both outings were the highlight of the season.

The Local 222 Executive replaced the former GM Tournament of Champions with a great excursion to a Golf Course in Sarnia. There were 22 retiree members and an equal number of GM workers took part. The Retirees representative team won the overall competition. This is also the first year of the Local 222 Retirees Golf Website.

The Retirees Chapter sponsored two golf events and asked the League to raise the teams. Harry McConnell succeeded in the CAW National Playoff Competition and was invited to the National Finals in Windsor.

The Closing Banquet was held on October 7, 2003. An entertainer was hired for this event and a slide show showing pictures taken during the season.

Champions:

Opening Day	Harry McConnell low gross	David Harrison low net
Annual Trophy	Jack Brown low gross	Reg Storms low net
Make-Up	Harry McConnell low gross	Joe Taylor low net
Closing Day	Harry McConnell low gross	Bill Wielinga low net

Matchplay "A" Flight	Harry McConnell
Matchplay "B" Flight	Bill Gutsell
Matchplay "C" Flight	Ken Bradley

2003 League Champion	Harry McConnell low gross	Art Atkinson low net
----------------------	---------------------------	----------------------