

# WIGWAM UPDATE

Wigwam Country Club • January 2024 • [Wigwamcc.com](http://Wigwamcc.com)

## President's Message

by Eric Perez, WCC President, [eric@wesellhay.com](mailto:eric@wesellhay.com)



Hello WCC Members!

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! December was packed full of events. Thank you to everyone who attended the WCC Holiday Party. A great time was had by all, and the karaoke was a hit. If you are new to club, please check the social calendar and sign up for upcoming events. It is a great way to meet fellow members and get the full value of your membership. For those of you who have been members for a long time and haven't attended a social event in a while, I challenge you to sign up. You're missing out on good times and great memories.

I want to give a quick shoutout to the West Valley Mavericks for hosting another incredible Patriot All America Tournament! Every year the event gets bigger and better. It has become a signature event not only for the Wigwam but the West Valley. Thank you to those members that graciously volunteered your time to create an amazing experience for the participants and the patrons. I'm looking forward to seeing how the Mavericks top this year's event next year.

As we make the turn to 2024, please check the event calendar. Registration is open for all events through the end of the club season. The 2024 Men's Invitation registration is currently open for last year's participants. Starting January 15th registration will be open to Premier Golf Members, Jr Golf Members, and International Golf Members. Finally, starting January 31, registration will be open to all WCC Golf Members. We expanded the field to 104 teams this year in hopes to accommodate everyone interested in participation. You don't want to miss this event.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve the membership.

## Golf Happenings

By Rick Cicci, Director of Golf, [rcicci@wigwamarizona.com](mailto:rcicci@wigwamarizona.com)



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It's very special for us to end the year hosting the Patriot All-America. I know this event also has a special place in your hearts. Thank you all so much for your time and effort in making this event happen.

Thank you for understanding that we have a limited number of tee times while we hosted the Patriot All-America and the upcoming Wigwam Inter-club Challenge. We are fortunate to have three courses and to be able to hold a golf course for the members each day of the two events.

There have been several questions regarding the waitlist for golf memberships. As of right now, the current initiation fee is \$10,000 for any golf membership, and we estimate a two-year wait until we can offer a membership to anyone added to the list today.

The staff appreciated the many holiday gifts and money our club members put together. There were so many groups and individuals who went above and beyond to make everyone

feel appreciated and make their holiday season memorable. Thank you all very much for your kindness and generosity.

Fairways and Greens,  
Rick Cicci

## Nominations Committee

By Matt Haid, [matthaid66@gmail.com](mailto:matthaid66@gmail.com)

Dear WCC Members.



Our Board of Directors (BOD) election will be upon us very soon. This year two seats are up for election as directors Matt Haid and Nancy Todd's terms are coming to an end. WCC directors are elected to three-year terms. Election is open to any member in good standing; however, only one person from a membership may serve on the Board at a time.

Joining the board is a unique opportunity to serve the membership of the Wigwam Country Club (WCC). As a Director you will have the opportunity to develop and execute ideas that will continue to enhance the experience of our members, adding value to our membership. There will be opportunities to aid in planning social events, golf tournaments, tennis events, and much more. The BOD is looking for individuals who are interested in furthering our community and bringing new ideas to the table.

The WCC has several committees dedicated to ensuring the club functions run smoothly for our members. Election to the BOD is purely voluntary, and Directors are expected to serve on one of our seven committees: Social, Golf Tournament, WWGA, Tennis, Grounds and Greens, Handicap, and Nominating. The Chairs and their committees are responsible for scheduling event dates, times, venues; building formats; food and beverage plans; and managing their BOD allocated budgets. Committee Chairs are required to submit a report at each monthly Board meeting. Board meetings usually take place from October to May.

### How to apply:

- Submit a letter of intent detailing your qualifications and why you are running, as well as a photo, to Vice President Matt Haid ([matthaid66@gmail.com](mailto:matthaid66@gmail.com)) and to Secretary Oliveira ([rickoliviera821@gmail.com](mailto:rickoliviera821@gmail.com)).
- Letters and Photos are due no later than 2/11/2024.

### What is the process?

- All qualified nominees will be presented to the Board by VP Matt Haid during the 3/13/2023 board meeting. Approved nominees will be contacted and informed that they are candidates for election.
- The candidate names will be posted in alphabetical order on WCC bulletin boards.
- Candidate letters and photos will be published in the March & April editions of the Wig-wam Update Newsletter.

Voting will open 4/1/2024 and close at midnight 4/14/2024 and will take place electronically. Only one vote per membership will be accepted. Election Judge Kevin McElvain will verify the results and certify the election. The candidates will be informed of the results by VP Matt Haid. Results of the Election will be announced via email on 4/18 and the introduction of the new Board of Directors for the new season will be done at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2024.

I would like to personally encourage any of you to apply for these open positions and help make your ideas a reality. It is encouraging to know that our members are thinking about how to improve the club, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve our WCC community moving forward.

Matt Haid,

V.P. and Nominating Chairman

## Golf Tournament Committee

By Denise James, [denise.james@pridetransport.com](mailto:denise.james@pridetransport.com)



Happy New Year!

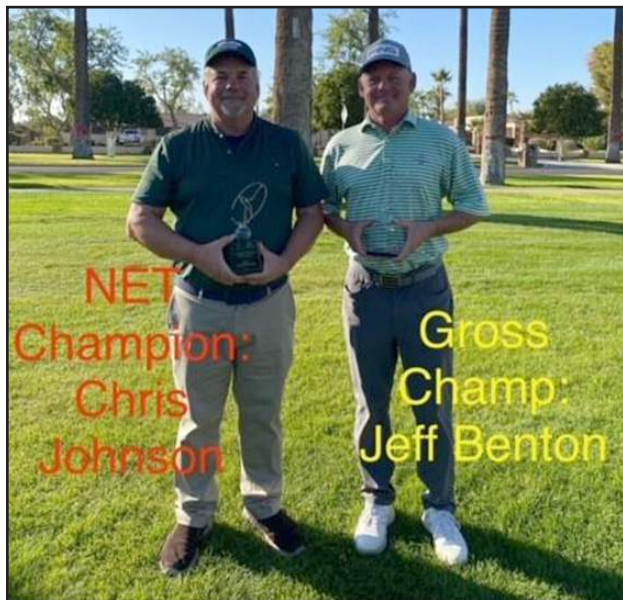
As I am writing this, my kids are out of school and my family has hopped a plane to the beach and we are getting ready to celebrate the Christmas holiday with our families. What a wonderful time of year, I am so grateful!

The Patriot All America will be over by the time you read this article, and I hope that you all took the opportunity to come out and watch or volunteer for this amazing event, held in our backyard.

We have had several club events that are already complete, and I want to thank everyone that has participated. We have several more coming up, see below.

### Results from previous events:

**Dec. 10 – Divorce Open** to see brackets, [click here](#) (WCC 23-24 League:: All Event Results (Drop down menu) (golfgenius.com). 2nd Round matches need to be completed by Jan 20, 3rd Round matches need to be completed by Feb 28. All Rounds must be played on the Blue course, make sure to notify the pro shop (call or email: [golfshop@wigwamgolf.com](mailto:golfshop@wigwamgolf.com)) when you've set your match for so they can have the scorecard prepared.



**Dec. 9 – Men's 4Ball Team Match Play-** to see brackets, [click here](#) (WCC 23-24 League:: All Event Results (Drop down menu) (golfgenius.com). 2nd Round matches need to be completed by Jan. 10 and the 3rd Round must be completed by Feb. 7. All matches must be played on the Gold course, make sure to notify the pro shop (call or email: [golfshop@wigwamgolf.com](mailto:golfshop@wigwamgolf.com)) when you've set your match for so they can have the scorecard prepared.

**Men's President's Cup: REMINDER** - 2nd round matches should have been completed by Dec. 24, 3rd round matches by Jan. 28, Qtr. Finals Mar. 3. Again, all matches need to be played on the Gold course. [Click here](#) for the brackets (WCC 23-24 League:: All Event Results (Drop down menu) (golfgenius.com)

**Dec. 12 & 14 – Men's Senior Club Championship-** Overall Gross winner was Jeff Benton. Overall Net winner was Chris Johnson, CONGRATULATIONS!!



Congrats to all of our winners, [click here](#) for results: WCC 23-24 League:: All Event Results (Drop down menu) ([golfgenius.com](#))

### Upcoming Events:

**Jan. 13-14 - Men's Ryder Cup** - sign up now for some fun and friendly team competition. Your captains, Carmine Nesta and Bob Opeka will pick their teams to battle it out in team match play formats. Sign up now!

**Jan. 21 - Couples - Fah-Get About it Mixer-** fun couples event, sign up as a foursome or sign up as a twosome and you will get paired with another twosome. Another great event for couples to get to know other couples/golfers.

**Feb. 3-4 - Couples Club Championship** - two days of a super fun team format (Chapman), come out and have some fun and meet other couples. Sign up asap, only ten spots left!

**Feb. 17-18 - Men's Spring Member/Member** - pick your partner and sign up today!! First round BB and 2nd round Chapman, Limited to 40 teams, so sign up asap.

**Mar. 8-10- Couples - Member Guest Invitational-** more detailed information will be put into ForeTees about this event, but it is limited to 22 teams (foursomes) and we are already halfway there! Teams must consist of a male/female WCC Golf member and a male/female nonmember. This is a fun event for you to show off the Wigwam to your friends, lots of golf, gifts, food, drinks, and fun!! This will fill up so sign up soon!

I wish each and every one of you a healthy, happy New Year! Again, I would like to thank everyone who participates in the WCC Golf events, I look forward to another successful year!

If you have any questions about the events, please feel free to contact me.

## “By the Rules”

By Kevin McElvain, [kevinmcelvain@msn.com](mailto:kevinmcelvain@msn.com)



### Penalty Relief

Last month we talked about free relief. This month let's look at the dark side – penalty relief.

Penalty relief applies when your ball is in a penalty area, is lost or out of bounds, or is in an unplayable lie.

Easy ones first. If your ball is lost or out of bounds the penalty here at the WCC is always stroke and distance. We do not use the local rule permitting a drop near where the ball went out with a two-stroke penalty. If you think your ball is headed for the OB or may be lost outside a penalty area, hit a provisional, it might save you a trip back to your previous spot. Remember that if a ball you are searching for has not been found within three minutes, it is deemed lost.

**Unplayable Ball.** If you are unlucky and find your ball in an unplayable lie, you have three options. First, you may, with a one-stroke penalty, drop a ball within two club lengths of the original lie, no closer to the hole. Second, again with a one-stroke penalty, you may drop a ball as far back as you would like on an extension of the line between the original lie and the flagstick. When using this option, once the ball is dropped on the correct line it may roll up to one club length in any direction and still be within the proper relief area. Third, stroke and distance is always available as an option.

If your ball ends up in a penalty area, you may play the ball as it lies, or you may take penalty

relief. The reference point for penalty relief is the point where the ball last crossed the margin (e.g. red line) of the penalty area. Option 1, since all penalty areas here at The Wigwam are red, you may, with a one-stroke penalty, drop within two club lengths of the reference point, no closer to the hole. Option 2, you may drop as far back as you would like on an extension of the line between the reference point and the flagstick. As mentioned above, when using this option, once the ball is dropped on the correct line it may roll up to one club length in any direction and still be within the proper relief area. Again, stroke and distance is always available as another option.

Happy New Year to all and here's hoping your handicap in January 2025 is lower than it is now.

Cheers, Kevin

## Women's Golf

*By Sheila Riordan, [shebear1949@gmail.com](mailto:shebear1949@gmail.com)*



It's the most wonderful time of the year. We wish each and every one of you a Merry and Blessed Christmas, as well as a Happy and Healthy New Year. If you are traveling, we wish you safe travels and no delays, hopefully the weather will be cooperative. Please come back to us at the Wigwam in good health and ready to play golf and tennis, run, bike and swim and do everything you enjoy doing here in the Valley of the Sun!

The women of the WWGA participated in the three-day cactus cup tournament this December. Marla Graybill, and Sandi Biasi pulled out all of the stops and worked very hard to run a spirited tournament. Congratulations to the victorious Prickly Pear team, the competition was fierce, especially on the final day, which was head-to-head match play. It was exceeded only by the great sportsmanship and camaraderie exhibited by all who played. The hard work on the golf course was rewarded by a beautiful Christmas luncheon, thank you, Betty Scott, and all of your committee, for the fantastic celebration. The tables were decorated with adorable handmade Gingerbread houses and a lucky person at each table was able to take one home. I am sure they will bring your families great joy throughout the years. A very spirited gift exchange then ensued and the only unhappy people in the room were the ones who had their gift taken from them, however, they were then able to go and choose another one, thank goodness we are all such good friends, and in the holiday spirit. The atmosphere was indeed electric and festive.

The Patriot All America tournament, once again, was an event that Wigwam can be proud to host. It has become one of the Valley's premiere amateur golf tournaments. Our golf course provides a spectacular venue, our club members have proven to be generous in volunteering and the golf staff works very hard to accommodate everyone. We are so thankful for all of the hours our members so generously put in. There is not a spectator or participant in the tournament that is not complimentary. Well done!

In January on the 18th and 25th, our WWGA members will be competing in the Partnership Eclectic. It is one of our most popular tournaments so be sure to get a partner and sign up as soon as possible and sign up on Fore Tees. You don't want to miss this one, it's so nice to have someone to lean on for two days.

We hope you have all been sensible in making your New Year's resolutions. I can tell you from experience that I personally hate to be miserable, and feel so guilty, a mere month after making said resolutions. A sure-fire way to start the year on the wrong foot! I now resolve to be kind to everyone I meet and treat every fellow competitor on the golf course with respect! (I just have to remember to bring that "A" game with me!)

May this New Year be the best ever!

# Tennis & Fitness

By Carlos Hassey , Director of Tennis, [chassey@pyramidglobal.com](mailto:chassey@pyramidglobal.com)



Happy New Year! Now that the blur of the holidays is past, we look ahead to some exciting things in store for us. But first we'd like to review some recent events.

Our annual Singles Championship did not disappoint. We saw plenty of matches demanding high physical intensity where players had to dig deep. Playing singles matches is the closest tennis gets to running a marathon. Now the results.

On the men's side, Gary Blandino won the 50 & over division and Shawn Dunn finish 1st in the Open division. On the women's side, Audrey Feliz won the 50 & over division while Danica Dunn took 1st in the Open division. Congratulations to the players and thank you to all the competitors who participated.

The Ladies Holiday Tennis Luncheon was lively, fun, and full of good spirits. The ladies played several rounds of doubles before gathering on stadium for a beat the pros challenge, and Around-the-World and Hit the Target for prizes. Then, for part two, we gathered at Red's for lunch and held our white elephant gift exchange. And honestly, we don't know what was more competitive, the tennis or the gift exchange. But we had a wonderful response and look forward to doing it all over again next year.

Our next event is the Winter Tennis Classic on January 20th. We like to keep things classy with this one, encouraging tuxedo tennis (black and white tennis attire) while we serenade the players with Sinatra crooners under the moonlight. Keep an eye out for the official announcement coming soon. Hope to see you there.

The Winter/Spring season for the junior program has kicked off as of January 8th. We are excited to get back in the routine with all the kids with this new season. And to everyone, we look forward to seeing you on the tennis courts. You can bring your step-trackers with you!

## Social Committee

By Nancy Todd, [nancy.todd@ymail.com](mailto:nancy.todd@ymail.com)



Happy New Year! 2024 is Here!

First off, we had a tremendous turn out for our December holiday party. There was some spectacular karaoke and a super fun photo booth!

With that being said, start to save your dates for upcoming events.

**Member Mixer - January 31st**

**Casino Night - March 9th**



# Secretary's Corner

By Rick Oliveira WCC Secretary, [Rickoliveira821@gmail.com](mailto:Rickoliveira821@gmail.com)



Whew! I love the holidays but just can't help feeling a bit of relief when January rolls around and I can decompress. Lots of great stuff has been happening and there are still four months left in our season!

Hopefully you were able to catch at least some of the Patriot All America tournament. This year they made the wonderful offer of providing our Veterans and First Responders (plus a guest) with an opportunity to get FREE VIP Passes. If you've never watched the tournament from one of the Maverick's VIP tents with free food and drink all day... you're missing out. The alumni list from this event is getting pretty impressive too. It wasn't that long ago that we hosted Justin Thomas, Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau, Colin Morikawa, and Cameron Champ to name a few... and I have a hunch that list will continue to grow each year.

Sometime in January, I hope to wrap up two major projects I've been working on. Our Legacy Wall in Red's is only waiting on three more tennis plaques to be completed by our vendor. Once finished they will be installed providing a very good history of our Singles and Doubles Champions over the years.

The second project I hope to complete in January is the digitizing and cataloging of our club's archives. It has been fascinating to read through our 70 years of history. Once I have them packaged for easy access by our members, hopefully many of you will find it as interesting as I have. So many things I've learned during this project have led me to ask the question.....

## Did You Know?

**The year is 1965:** Any new member wishing to be considered for admission to the club must now come before the board for a group interview. (Fortunately, this practice wouldn't last long.) Club bylaws require that Annual Meetings be held to elect new members of the board for the coming year. Steak dinners and open bar are provided entirely at club expense. The meeting portion of the evening is quite short and following dinner, everyone splits up into various card games. Well, not everyone. With almost no exceptions, only men are considered "members", so the Annual Meetings are labeled as "Stag" events. The board votes to place a sign in the swimming pool area "forbidding the use of bikinis, nets, or topless bathing suits by lady members." And last, but certainly not least, the board begins to grapple with how to handle military members who are being deployed to Viet Nam. Two years later when the first "ex 'member" returns from Viet Nam, the board establishes a policy of waiving the standard "reinitiation fee". In 1973 former member Lt. Col Jack Van Loan returns to Tucson after being held in Viet Nam as a POW. In conjunction with ownership, Lt. Col Van Loan and his wife are invited to spend an all-expense paid week at the resort.

Next month... the story about when "Red's" burned down.





# From the Resort:

By Jessica Kelley



## FOR THE LOVE OF BUBBLES

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | 4PM-5:30PM**

Palo Verde Room | \$100 per person

Immerse yourself in an unforgettable celebration of love, luxury, and the captivating world of Champagne! Delve into an enchanting evening steeped in Champagne history, and elevate your senses with a tasting experience, thoughtfully curated and expertly guided by our Executive Chef & Beverage Director, Certified Sommelier Christopher McLean.

*Reservations required.*



Scan to  
Reserve Your  
Seat

## VALENTINE'S DAY IN LITCHFIELD'S

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 5PM-9PM**

Four-course prix fixe menu starting at \$119  
per person

The Wigwam's signature restaurant, Litchfield's, invites you to celebrate your love with our exclusive Valentine's Day offering. Set by candlelight, and complimented with live music, your romantic evening stars a very special 4-course Valentine's Day menu, with culinary add-ons and a featured wine list available for the night. It's a perfect highlight to this most romantic evening together.

*Reservations required.*



Scan to Reserve  
Your Seat



## SPRING BRUNCH PATIO PARTY

**SUNDAYS | FEBRUARY 18-APRIL 14\* | 11AM-2PM**

Spend your Sunday Funday with us at our Patio Party at Wigwam Bar! Soak up the sunshine & perfect weather from the patio, pick up a gorgeous cut flower arrangement from Wondry, and enjoy live music by the most popular & lively local musicians!

*\*Excludes Sunday, March 31*

