

OnCourse

CLUB GRANITE GC,
STOUFFVILLE, ON
HOST ROYALE CUP NATIONAL
WOMEN'S AMATEUR
DATE JULY 30-AUGUST 3

YARDAGE / PAR
6,000/72

ABOUT GRANITE GC

The Granite Golf Club is a private, family-oriented facility built on 300 acres of property on Reesor Creek in the Township of Uxbridge, about 24 kms north east of Toronto.

THE COURSE

Designed by Tom McBroom, the Granite Golf Club sits on the Oak Ridges Moraine and demands accuracy off the tee. Good placement on drives sets up a favourable angle for the second shot into firm greens that slope from back to front. Overall, the key to success will be course management.

FUN FACT

The Granite Golf Club has an adult membership of about 550 and a strong junior membership that totals 180 players between the ages of four and 18. It opened 15 holes in 2000, with the remainder opening the following year. It also has a five-hole practice academy.



CREDIT CHECK

Handicap committees ensure the integrity of the system

An essential element of the RCGA Handicap System (the rules of handicapping) is the Handicap Committee.

Each RCGA member club must appoint a Handicap Committee to protect the integrity of the handicaps it issues and to ensure that the members of the club comply with the RCGA Handicap System.

Being the Handicap Chair at an RCGA member club is an important, but thankless job. With long hours, difficult work and no pay, it takes a special breed to volunteer to administer a particular segment of golf which affects not only members at their club, but all golfers with an RCGA Handicap Factor.

The membership at a club relies on the Handicap Chair to not only provide an even playing field, but to prevent the club from getting a reputation as a haven for "sandbaggers." No club wants that tag.

For Alex Tymochenko, Handicap Chair at Credit Valley Golf and Country Club in Mississauga, Ont., last season – his first as Handicap Chair – provided a full spectrum of challenges and successes for the committee and the club.

Driven by a sense of duty to Credit Valley and a passion for the game, Tymochenko welcomed the opportunity when his name was mentioned as a possible successor to the Handicap Chair who had held the position for six years.

Tymochenko's first step was to form an effective Handicap Committee. Variety, according to Tymochenko, is important and he was able to recruit a full representation of the club membership, including seniors, juniors, men and women, all of them keen on committing themselves to being part of the team.

He then made sure that his committee attended a handicapping seminar conducted by the Golf Association of Ontario (contact your provincial golf association for information on upcoming seminars) where they learned the details of handicapping and the role of the committee.

With great focus, the Credit Valley Handicap Committee began a concentrated education campaign which included newsletters, e-mails, and bulletin boards peppered with information on the core aspects of handicapping such as equitable stroke control.

Tymochenko guessed that the reason members often didn't follow the rules of handicapping was not because they were trying to cheat the system; they simply weren't aware of many of the rules and guidelines.

Most importantly, Tymochenko and his team produced an official set of handicap policies that are applied evenly throughout the club.

These policies were communicated to all members to ensure that everyone was aware of the role of the committee and its powers to modify or remove a player's handicap factor given specific circumstances.

So what reaction has he received from the membership? Has he become the most reviled person at the club? Is he avoided at all cost? Nothing could be further from the truth, he says.

The membership is content in the knowledge that the handicap committee is effectively and evenly administering handicapping and that participants in the club match play tournament have a handicap factor that accurately reflects their ability.

It's perhaps too early to tell, but Tymochenko feels the committee has made a significant step in increasing the profile and importance of handicapping at Credit Valley and will continue to monitor score posting and keep track of abuses, with an eye toward reducing the number of those abuses.

The committee has formed a solid basis for this to occur, and for this we salute Credit Valley's and all other Handicap Committees across the nation. They are an underappreciated bunch.

-Matthew MacKay, RCGA Senior Coordinator, Golf Programs and Services