

Silvermine Ladies Golf and the WMGA – A History

The mission of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association (WMGA), celebrating 125 years of service in 2024, is 'to foster women's amateur golf while promoting integrity, respect for the game and good fellowship through competition'. Interclub Team Matches, first played in 1900, are the cornerstone of the WMGA. Approximately 170 clubs participate in the Team Matches, across three divisions in the Metropolitan New York area. Silvermine joined the WMGA in 2001, on the initiative of SGC member Poppy Holmes, with the support of Stuart Waack.

Team Silvermine

In the spring 2002 Team Match season the fledgling SGC team competed for the first time, in Series 10 of 10, the bottom of the Westchester/Connecticut division. The division was comprised of 60 clubs, including many of the most famous and challenging private country clubs in our area.

Each Series in the league consists of 6 teams who play 5 matches (once against each team in the series) over 2.5 weeks in late April/early May. The format is head-to-head match play (no strokes for handicaps). Each team fields five players per match. Twosomes play for a total of 3 points over 18 holes; 1 for the front 9, 1 for the back 9 and 1 for overall. The winning team, the team with the most points over the five matches moves up a series, and the bottom place team moves down.

What happened over the next 11 years is remarkable: Silvermine managed to win their series a total of 9 times, moving up one series at a time, to rise to Series 1 in 2013! The golf skills and competitive prowess of the Team from 'Little Silvermine' surprised and impressed everyone.

Some of the veterans from these years whose names you may recognize are Poppy Holmes, BJ Lee, Kim Barker, Candie Robertson, Kathy Swedock, Suzanne Rand, Bev Griffith and Nancy Carlson. Still playing with the 18 Holers are Janet Karabin, Joan Evans, and Carla Thompson.

Team Silvermine 2024

Since 2013, the Silvermine squad has evolved with a largely new generation of competitors. Longtime team captain Poppy Holmes retired and passed the captain's torch to Vyvyan Burns. The 2024 squad consists of Janet Karabin, Raquel Welsh, Lynne Scerbo, Leslie Caruso, Grace Hansford, Vyvyan Burns, Donna Phillips, Amy Blount, Samantha Jones, Mary Jo Weiss, Vivian Sweeney, Susan Sergio and Deb Morea.

Playing on the Team gives players access to some of the nicest private courses in their area and is an incentive to work on their game early in the season. Also, we have great camaraderie on the Team. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Vyvyan Burns.