

How Gals in Golf Came to Be

By Mollie Manning

In 1985 Plano Newcomers Club was a large and active organization. Several times the topic of starting a golf league came up. After some serious thought, Pat Oburn, Lillie Crain and Norma Gill decided to take on the challenge.

Twenty-two ladies showed interest. Donna Hansen and Norma Gill were chosen as the co-leaders. They decided to meet at Plano Municipal Golf Course (now known as Pecan Hollow) at 8 am on Wednesday mornings hoping to get on the course. They did not take tee times. It was first come and get in line.

They did not collect dues. Instead, everyone that showed up, chipped in a quarter. Teams were not set up. Norma Gill was in charge of the team. She had the 10's, Jacks, Queens, and Kings from a deck of cards. Everyone drew a card and the cards that matched was the person you played with. They played 9 holes, then met at the club house to determine the winners. It was a good day if 12 ladies showed up to play.

Pat Oburn contacted USGA on how to figure handicaps. She purchased a slide rule just for figuring handicaps.

Lillie Crain kept track of players and phone numbers. They made a directory of names and phone numbers. It consisted mostly of address labels pasted to sheets of paper, kept together with a ribbon.

At the end of the season a luncheon was held and prizes awarded. The luncheon meant meeting at a local restaurant and having lunch. Prizes were mostly donated because there was no money in the treasury. There would be six or eight people in attendance. It was very informal. Basically, just a fun lunch after golf.

In 1986 the league broke away from Newcomers. They wanted to expand the league and make it available to all women who wanted to play. Everything was covered except one big thing, A NAME. After a couple of weeks of serious thought, "GALS IN GOLF" was born and still thrives today.

When the league was formed, membership ran around 22 members. In the 1988 Mollie Manning was given the task to expand the league. She took on the challenge by advertising every way she could think of. By 1990, the membership had grown to 79 members.