Scratch Golf Group History

A Little History:

Once upon a time, about 2005, a small group of low handicappers' (3-6 players) got together informally and decided to form a group that played and competed without any handicaps, hence, the name – Scratch Golf Group.

In those days, we were all younger and played from the Blue tees. The group attracted several of the better players in Sun City Grand and grew to about 3-4 foursomes and the game format continued to evolve, but everything was scratch.

Here is a score card of a "Dream Team" back in those days of playing scratch:



New members joined the scratch group and we had close to 5 foursomes at one time. That was a real mess trying to manage that many players.

I initiated a Scratch Ryder Cup match with PebbleCreek low handicap golfers and we played a yearly 2-day event the 1st week of April – one day at SCG and one day

at PebbleCreek. We could only take 12 golfers and I had a down-selection based on low handicap with some weighting to those that played more than 1 day / week in my group. The Scratch group won the Ryder Cup matches easily three years from 2009-12. After our last match, PebbleCreek wasn't very interested in playing anymore.

One of the scorecards from the 2010 matches from SCG vs PebbleCreek:



We were feeling pretty good about our Ryder Cup wins, so I also initiated a SCG Ryder Cup tournament against our local Pros in early April each year from 2012-14. The Scratch Group amateurs won the 1st two years and the Pros won the last year. The Pros really looked forward to the matches. Some of our golfers that were not selected for the Ryder Cups during those years decided to move on and started their own group.

As we all aged, the Blue Tees become too long for some of our players, so I created a set of Blue-White Combo tees that we started using. Holes over 400 yards, we played the White tees. Par threes over 200 yards, we played the White

tees. I gave my modified combo score cards to Jeff Hochman, our Golf Director, and he liked the idea and created combo tees from all the sets of tees that are on today's score cards.

Over the years, we have migrated to the Blue-White tees, to the White tees, to the White-Gold tees and the Gold tees. I think the Red tees are around the corner for some of the players.

We have had lots of players come and go from the Scratch Group. Players have left the Scratch Group for several reasons – moved, health, formed their own group, etc.

In 2018-19, there were too many players in the group, and I had to downsize based on number of days played during the week with the scratch group and single digit handicappers. The Scratch Group had too much success in attracting players – we had too many players on Monday and Friday for that season. I can only book 5 foursomes (20 players) in Chelsea that can play together. Priority is given to those that play more than 1 day a week in my group.

A similar condition exits in 2021. Lots of great players in the Scratch Group and more people wanting to join. There were 31 players in January 2021.

Thanks.

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PS:

Here are a couple more scoring Records for the group.

Total Number of Birdies in one day.

Total Daily Birdies		
Date	# Birdies	Course
27-Nov-17	34	GFS
4-Dec-17	31	GFS
15-Dec-17	36	DS
2-Oct-19	32	GFS
16-Oct-19	31	GFS
17-May-22	32	CIM

Four Man Team - 1G + 1N + Birdies



Three Man Team - 1N + Birdies

