

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

gm@walloonlakecc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Harry Dixon

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year & Executive of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Walloon Lake Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1998

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Dear Michigan Section Awards Committee,

Thank you for the nomination of PGA Professional of the Year and Executive of the Year! I have been a member of the NMPGA since 1990. I have been a class A member since 1998. I have served on the Northern Chapter and Section Board of Directors.

I am married, my wife's name is Kelly. I was fortunate to marry my high school sweetheart. We just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last month. We have two beautiful daughters, Mallory age 22, who graduated from Central Michigan University, and Haley age 19, who is looking forward to going to Michigan State University next fall.

I am finishing my 35th season at Walloon Lake Country Club, a private club in Petoskey, MI. I started working at Walloon when I was 15 years old in the bag room. After graduating from Petoskey High School, I attended NCMC and studied accounting. At the same time, I became an apprentice in the PGA. I changed career paths and went through PGA Business Schools 1, 2 and 3. I became the Assistant Golf Professional at Walloon at the age of eighteen. I was the Assistant until the age of twenty-three, when I was promoted to Club Manager. I still had responsibilities in the golf operation during the time as Club Manager. At the age of twenty-eight, I was approached by the board president inquiring my interest in becoming the general manager of Walloon Lake Country Club. I told him it was something in which I was extremely interested. At the age of thirty, the club named me General Manager. The position I currently hold today.

My responsibilities include overseeing the club finances, overseeing the golf & grounds operation, the food and beverage operation, tennis/pickleball operation, kid's camp operation and all social events. The club employs up to 95 employees during the season.

I have been through many capital projects at the club. I have been involved in the construction of a new clubhouse, golf shop and maintenance facility, renovations to the clubhouse and golf practice facility. We are currently working on adding to our employee housing needs and adding two modular houses. The club has also decided to add two more pickleball courts for the 2023 season.

During my time as general manager, we have increased membership equity from \$4.2 million to over \$9.0 million. We have been able to increase initiation fees from \$10,000 to \$60,000 and currently have 92 people on our waitlist. Most importantly, the club is debt free.

Something I most proud of is being a part of the Harbor Cup and being a member of Team Harbor. A golf event that puts 12 golf professionals from the local golf courses in Northern Michigan against 12 golf professionals from Boyne USA in a Ryder Cup format. We just completed the 26th playing of the event, my 25th year of playing in the event. Over the 26 years of the event, we have raised a substantial amount of money for the local charities in Northern Michigan. I was told next year we may surpass the \$1,000,000 mark. The golf professionals that have participated in this event over the years have helped changed the lives of many. Another example of the satisfaction you get from being a PGA professional.

It is an honor to be nominated for both of these awards, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Dixon, PGA
General Manager
Walloon Lake Country Club

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