

We had an excellent meeting yesterday with an outstanding speaker. The subject was golf, but more than that it was the business of golf and the implications of the Saudi entrance into the field.

Joe Watts called the meeting to order by Joe Watts. Charlie Foss offered the “Words of Inspiration,” taken from a Robert Frost poem. We had two guests who attended as potential members: Dave Cole was introduced by Joe Watts, and Dick Thielen was introduced by Bill Helm. We also had three one-time guests. Lunch followed with generous portions of salad, fish & chips, coffee and dessert.

After lunch, Dave Wood introduced the speaker, Maynard Goldman. Maynard is a resident of Eastman and has been a frequent speaker and study leader at both Osher@Dartmouth and Adventures in Learning at Colby-Sawyer College. He is an attorney by training and a sports enthusiast. Maynard’s theme began with the comment that when people say the issue is not the money, you can be sure it is about the money. Using the size of purses as a measure, he detailed how golf has moved from being a local country club event to an international phenomenon. The Saudi entrance is only the most recent of a series of Saudi moves in sports. It is all about “washing” the kingdom’s image. The entrance into golf is a \$2 billion investment in a tour that could become a “league” akin to the AFL or ABA. The “all about money” theme continued with Maynard noting that each Saudi tournament will have a purse of \$25 million with the winner earning \$4 million.

The meeting closed at 2:00. The August meeting will feature Neil Shifrin on the subject of health. Details on the speaker and his subject will follow from the Program Committee.

Art Rosen
Secretary