Commentary . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Failuretee, Editor

As I compose this diatribe, Olympics golf is almost here and big name men pros have dropped out like flies citing concerns about the ZIKA virus. It is a concern, but I am thinking it is also a convenient excuse as well. As of yet not many women pros have bailed out, but that could start as soon as the teams are announced. In addition, you cannot blame them, especially the ones who are married and on the verge of starting families. Would you let your LPGA pro wife go? Hell no! I mentioned "convenient excuse" a few sentences back. I think that many of the big name tour pros would prefer not to have to squeeze the Olympics into their busy schedules, and sacrifice the bucks they could earn elsewhere. Gosh, for most of these pros this could be a once in a lifetime opportunity. In addition, just think of the pros over the last 100 years who never had the chance to play in the Olympics. Not to mention that in the Summer Olympics there will be about 10,000 free condoms available to the Olympians. Whoa mama, let the games begin! Therefore, what we could see in Rio is mostly mid-level men pros along with a few amateurs. In addition, personally, I would not object if the field consisted mostly of amateur golfers. There is no shortage of amateurs worldwide with excellent golf games and watching them compete would be intriguing to me. Heck, it still would beat watching gymnastics, swimming, and the other sports no one gives a hoot about except every four years.

So who among you are having mental problems with the game? What I thought, many hands went up. Well, help is on the way. My friend Dr. C. Mund Floyd is a noted sports psychologist who works with some PGA Tour pros and spends a lot of time trying to keep their heads on straight. In addition, I have asked him if he would submit a periodic article to this publication for your benefit. He owes me some favors, so up next you will see his first submission. Read closely.

Keep your head on straight . . . . . . . . . . D.F.

I am Here For You . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dr. C. Mund Floyd

As a sports psychologist I am part of the "Team" for several PGA Tour pros. I find it to be a very rewarding experience, mostly due to the hefty hourly fee I stick them with. However, fear not, my friend Dave Failuretee has asked me to do a little pro bono work and to periodically write an article for your club newsletter, which is fine with me. In them, I will give you some of the same advice I give to my paying pros, and I hope it helps in some way. However, always remember, you get what you pay for.

First, let us discuss the mid round meltdown. You have all had them, more than once. Over the course of two or three holes you chili dip several shots, blade a shot over the green, miss a two foot putt no one gave you, yank a tee shot OB, lose a brand new Pro V1, hit an ugly shank. All sorts of ugliness. Then the volcano erupts and any semblance of focus is long gone. Your aggravation is on full display to your playing companions. Now let me guess, usually these freak outs happen when you are playing with good friends, correct. Consequently, since they are good friends, you feel no inhibition in releasing the firestorm. After all, they have seen it before and are used to it.

Now let me ask you this. Think about a time you were playing in a foursome of complete strangers or someone you may not know very well. In addition, when things went south did you have the typical meltdown? No, you did not. That is because your lack of familiarity with your playing companions kept you from the normal explosion. In the industry, we call this a "behavior inhibitor.” In addition, I bet as a result the adverse effect on your overall play was lessened. That's because you were forced to deal with the adversity in a more appropriate and effective manner.

So here's the free advice. Within your club and at club events sometimes play with members who you may not know quite as well. This should result in rounds of golf with less severe meltdowns, and give you more experience in dealing with adversity. Then, make an effort to carry this behavior over when playing rounds with your good buddies. Your score should improve and your pals will appreciate it as well. We call this "behavior transference". It will help, guaranteed. In the future I'll address how to better take your practice range game to the course, game management, stress reducers, and improving focus on shots. You are welcome. Dr. C. Mund

Wow! The Dual at Troon . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Failuretee

Now that, gentlemen, is how golf should be played. A classic. No club throwing, no complaining, no freak-outs. Enough to make Dr. C. Mund Floyd wet his knickers. Just superb shots, one after another, by both Mickelson and Stenson. In the media tent, we kept waiting for Stenson's putter to betray him, but time after time, there was the opportunity, but it never happened. What a round of golf by Henrik. Only one problem, the expert inscribing his name on the Claret Jug almost spelled it "Hendrick". And how about Phil. Easily one of his best rounds in a major, especially on the final round. Just how good Phil's effort? It would have been good enough to win 141 of the previous 145 Open Championships. That's pretty darn good! it just wasn't to be, but still it tells him he can win another major. Sort of lost was the amazing showing by Steve Stricker, 49 years old, hasn't done much lately, but finishes fourth. Now he gets a Masters invite, and back to the Open next year. So, you have a 46 year old and a 49 year old finishing in the top four in the Open, when the top 13 ranked players in the world all made the cut and played all four rounds. That should be encouraging to all "mature" golfers everywhere, and to each of you as well.

Match Play Finals Are Final, It's Walenczak Versus Whitty

The semi final matches in the President's Medallion Match Play Championship were contested at Shenandoah G.C. on 7-20-16. In one match it was Walenczak taking on Quintana, two of the club heavyweights (in terms of playing ability that is), and in the other match Skiragis, another club heavyweight, was taking on Whitty who has been the hot golfer of the RIGC 2016 season to date. In the first match the steady play of Walenczak paid off with a 2 up victory over Quintana, and in the second match Whitty kept the magic going as he fought his way to a 3 & 2 victory over Skiragis. Excellent matches and kudos to all four for making it to the semi's. Now on to the Championship Match between Walenczak and Whitty which will be held next Wednesday, 7-27, at Greystone. Will Walenczak be the first low handicapper in the last several years to win the medal, or will Whitty continue the string of mid-handicappers who have won the medal recently? We'll find out next Wednesday, and look for a special medal presentation ceremony thanks to the folks at Greystone. Oh, and it should be pointed out that your prescient prognosticating Editor picked Whitty to win it all prior to the start of the Championship. Exciting stuff.

Shenandoah Hosts RIGC on 7-20 . . . . . . . . . . . Hagedorn Lights It Up

The club made it's first ever visit to Shenandoah G.C. in West Bloomfield on 7-20. And Hagedorn immediately starting campaigning for a return soon as he fired a cool net score of 62 to take the top spot for the field. Congrats Bob. In Flight A Bill Hussong finally appears on the money list, with a smooth net 72 and right behind him, again is Max with a 73. Both these players are starting to hone their games, getting it ready for the Club Championship which is just around the corner. The A Fighters were faced with a course of about 6,600 yards, the longest of the year, and this was reflected in the net scores for that flight. In the B Flight the winner was Hagedorn, easily, and second place was taken by Cantor with a very fine net score of 65. In the C Flight the following two gentlemen who fired up 63’s-Schloss and Lederman. This last week, Flight “C” Woods flight had the most participants-17. CTP winners at Shenandoah were Fair (2), Quintana, and Skiragis. After the round the first club social event of the year was graciously hosted by West Bloomfield member Ron Graham. And as is always the case a great time was had by all present. Thank you Ron, and the others who assisted in the event.

Thanks David for your thoughts from abroad. Members, keep in mind, the season is going fast. Here we are with only one more week of July. Greystone in itself, again will host our PMMPC as it has in the past few years. I am hoping most of the club will come out and play along with the two finalist and be at the presentation at the conclusion. We will hold that ceremony in Greystones Banquet Room….

Notations:

Shirts will be ready next week, hopefully they will be with me at Greystone,,,, bring checks for 62.50 per shirt, made out to RIGC, Inc. Those that have some special order, may take a bit longer. Check with Rod, Scott and maybe Bill if he shows later colors and styles….You can order your club shirts anytime—it would be nice for all of us to be in them for Washtenaw CC late August.

See you all at Greystone-again 9.30 shotgun along with a nice continental breakfast like before.

Those of you not playing, let me know, I know a few that are missing it.

Rod Cooper-----------Publisher