****

**“The Tee Box”©**

***“The Official Newsletter of Rolling In Golf Club”***

***Vol. 16 Special Edition 8/142016***

***“1st Round of CC is on the books, MY OH MY”***

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

Wow! The Fourth of July is way behind us, but I’m told there were plenty of fireworks at The Orchards on Wednesday, 8-10, for the first round of the RIGC Club Championship. Sounds like the heat was on, HOT weather, HOT rounds of golf (a few), and some guys HOT under the collar (more about that later). I’m not on site in Rio, but am glued to the TV watching the Olympics golf coverage. However, a complete report of the action at The Orchards has been supplied to me, so here it is . . . . . . . . . . DF

**Schiff Stuns Rollers At The Orchards . . . . . . Event Marred By A Few Bad Apples**

Say Hello to the most recent “MR. 59”! Your very own Richard Schiff who blazed his was to an eye popping net score of 59 in the first round of the 2016 RIGC Club Championship (CC)! He was getting a total of 32 strokes and then went out and posted a startling 91, there you go, a net 59. Not a total surprise as Schiff has played several good rounds this year, on the PGA Tour they’d say he was “In The Flow”. Congratulations Richard!

But remember that the Net Score champion will be determined based on the two CC rounds, so there is more work to be done next week at Pine Knob. Here are the top ten players after round one along with their net scores: Schiff (59), Quintana (67), Mc Murray (68), Whitty (69), J. Phillips (69), Downey (70), Lederman (70), Miller (70), Plumley (70), and Smith (70). So, a victory by Schiff is by no means a slam dunk.

Moving to action in the Masters Division. Here we see a close race after round one. Leading the way is Ventura with a solid round of 94, followed closely by Hansinger with a 95. On their heels are two members who carded a 100: Filak, and J. Phillips. Rounding out the top five is another Phillips, Ed, who struggled slightly to a 103. Any of these top five could be the Division winner. My pre tourney pick of Goldner failed to show, so my wager on him to win it all will be returned to me.

Moving to the Senior Division. I liked the odds of 3-1 on Quintana to repeat as champ this year and I fancy my chances of cashing out after he carded the low gross round of the day with a 78. He enjoys a comfortable, but by no means commanding, lead over Match Play Champ Whitty who is in second place with an 83. Right behind him are three players who, with good rounds at Pine Knob, could become factors: Bonjernoor (84), Moore (85), and Kemp (85). But I’ll hold tight to my winning ticket on Quintana.

Finally, the Open Division. Here I also went with the 4-1 favorite of Fair to repeat as champ and once again I like my chances. Fair shot an OK opening round of 83, and enjoys a five stroke lead of Diedrich (88). Following them are: Skiragis (91), Gross (91), and McMurray (92). And I have also secured my winning ticket on Fair, but he has to be careful because Diedrich has proven he can fire a very low round at any time.

Speaking of Diedrich, congratulations to him for winning the City of Birmingham Senior Golf Championship recently. As a result, he’s punched a ticket to the GAM Senior T of C to be played at Forest Lake C. C. Now he really wants to win the Open Division so he can double down and also play in the regular GAM T of C Championship. That would be quite an accomplishment!

**“Quest For The JUG” Update**

The competition for the cherished JUG is nearing it’s conclusion with only four JUG events still on the schedule: 8-17, 8-31, 9-7, and 9-28. There are a number of players who have already secured spots in the two round JUG Playoffs, and there are a number of players who are either barely in or barely out of being included in the field and they are: Hussong, McKay, Bonjernoor, Tolbert, Siegert, Moore, G. Stencel, Miller, Sands, Henderson, E. Phillips, Lusk, Filak, Dwyer, and Schloss. So you guys need to play in the final events and rack up as many JUG points as you can. Standings as of 8-10-16 will be on the website soon.

**More Commentary . . . . . . . . . . . . DF**

In my extensive golf travels around the country I’ve witnessed firsthand how plenty of golf clubs operate. It’s true that many operate as if they think they are Augusta National Golf Club. The words that come to mind are snobby, intolerant, condescending, and in one word “jackasses”. The majority of such places are not the private clubs, nor the resort courses. It’s mostly the public courses who refer to themselves as an “Upscale” course, or “Your Private Club For The Day”. Based on what I’ve heard and read it appears that The Orchards could fall into that category. Apparently on Wednesday there were several exchanges between members and course staffers which could be termed “heated”, and not something you’d ever see on an episode of “Leave It To Beaver”. That is indeed unfortunate and not something you want to see happen. But believe me it does, all the time, everywhere. I’ve interviewed both sides to these types of confrontations and my advice to the course staffers has been to lighten up and make your points in a more considerate and even handed manner. Usually that works. And my advice to the golfers is to realize there is most likely a legitimate reason why the course staff has their panties bunched up. And 99% of the time it’s two very key words “Slow Play”. So that is something you need to continually address within your club, which has been done several times. My final advice to the golfing group is very simple . . . . . . . don’t return to the course.

FROM the Publisher, co0mmentary----------------------------------------------------RC

Thank you for that insight DF on “yes” slow play. In defense of the RIGC membership, we try our best and we usually are not hassled except at the Orchards. Have to say and agree with DF, do not go back. We at RIGC, like to have the courses show us some LOVE---and many do.

In tournament play, and mind you all, we are not the USGA Championship, or the PGA TOUR –but we do want to follow the rules, you do not have some yahoo PGA PRO (and I would question that) come out and change our rules in a middle of a round, without first coming to the Competition Committee. That is what started the mess.

As publisher of this weekly newsletter and Chairman of our Clubs Tournaments and play, I will always stand up for our club, its members and our founding….. I may at times get a bit load at the other party, but believe me—do not get this bear pissed off.