**COMMENTARY . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . DAVID FAILURETEE, EDITOR**

It shouldn’t surprise you that I’ve played in many member/guest invitationals over the years. Some huge, some modest, some well run, some not so much. It pleases me to report that the RIGC Member/Guest Invitational (MGI) on 9-14 at Metamora G. C. was a huge success according to my sources. It was well-planned, well run, assisted by a knowledgeable staff at Metamora, and well supported by you RIGC members. Congratulations to all! In this issue will be a complete report on the MGI results, an update on the Yellow Ball event, and an update on the JUG competition.

Crap, you guys are keeping me too busy . . . . . . . . . . . . D.F.

**All’s Fair in the RIGC Member/Guest Invitational**

It’s been a banner year for Max Fair. He won the club championship and now he can add the championship of the MGI to his expanding golf resume. Max and his partner, Dennis Wedell, survived a four hole playoff against the four other flight champs to claim the top prize. Great job by you two!

In the A Flight, the winners were Fair/Wedell with a net score of 63. Taking the runner up spot with a score of 64 was Team Quintana, Greg & son Greg, Jr. In the B Flight newest member Dick Coffey and partner Mark Lubnick prevailed with a 63, while second was taken by George Karam & Don Hallop with a 64. The C flight was won by John Huizdos & Guy Williams with a 66, and claiming second were Bill Siegert & Rob Ring with a 69. Flight D was won easily by Joe Dwyer & Bob Walker who fired a sizzling 58, the best round of the day. Finishing second was the hard luck team of Kevin Downey & Jim Gnewkowski with a 62, a score which would have been good enough to win or tie in the other four flights. Finally, the E Flight was won by Team Henderson, Mike and son Jesse, with a 62. They beat out Team Stencel, John and son John IV who managed a 64. I see a trend here. The father/son teams all finished in the money, so guys get your sons involved next year. That’s a trend I really like so see.

After the results were tallied the five flight winners headed back cross country to the #15 tee for a 4 hole playoff to determine the champion team. The format was a two-person scramble. On the #15 hole the Henderson team and the Dwyer team tied with 6’s and were faced with a chip off to see which team advanced. Sadly, neither Dwyer nor his partner was able to keep their chips on the green. Next up was Jesse Henderson who saw his chip shot stay on the green, bye bye Dwyer team. On to the #16 hole for the remaining four teams. From about 15 yards left of the green Coffey’s partner shocked the other combatants and gallery as he slam dunked his chip shot for a birdie 3! That meant the other three teams had to birdie to advance. But all three teams made pars and then faced a nerve wracking chip off, from the same spot as the previously made chip shot. The Huizdos team both came up short of the green with their chip shots, so long to them. After all three teams parred the short #17 hole it was decided to proceed to #18.

On #18, all three teams found themselves in the fairway about 80 yards short of the elevated green. The Coffey and Fair teams landed shots safely the green, but the Henderson team struggled to make the short grass. This eventually led to a bogey for the team, and a sad elimination. The Fair and Coffey teams both missed makeable birdie putts to settle for a par, meaning another chip off to determine the 2016 MGI champions! With a large gallery watching and the pressure suffocating, the Fair team went first, and Max managed to get his shot to settle about 8 feet from the hole. Next up came the Coffey team facing a tough task, and the best shot they could make was about 10 feet from the hole. **Game,** **set, and match for the Fair team!**

There were only five skins won during the day by these teams: Anderson, Henderson, McKay, Palazzolo, and Phillips. CTP winners were these teams: Karam (2), Cooper, Henderson, and Fair.

I received word that my picks to win the flights and eventual champion were met with controversy. Gentlemen, that’s what sports writers like myself have to face day in and out as we make our predictions, which our readers demand from us. I continue to believe that my team picks were solid, they just didn’t have their best day.

**“Quest For The JUG” Update**

It’s down to the final JUG point event which will be played at Bay Point G. C. on 9-28. There are plenty of “Bubble Boys” in each of the three flights and here they are:

Palmer Flight J. Stencel, Siegert, McKay, Bonjernoor, Skiragis, Tolbert, and Cooper

Nicklaus Flight Miller, Grace, Goldner, Sands, and G. Stencel

Woods Flight Palazzolo, Schloss, Dwyer, and Salucci

The following players have pretty much secured their spots in the two round JUG championship on 10-5 and 10/12:

Palmer Flight Walenczak, Diedrich, Fair, Karam, and Quintana

Nicklaus Flight Hansinger, Gross, Hagedorn, Whitty, Landis, and Polizzi

Woods Flight Schiff, Smith, Lederman, Ventura, McMurray, and Whitmore

There are a total of 155 JUG points available in each flight for the final event. So, a good round by you Bubble Boys will go a long way to get you a coveted spot in the JUG Championship. The complete JUG point standings are on the website. Good luck Bubble Boys!

**Next On The Schedule . . . . . . . . . The Mayor’s Yellow Ball Challenge on 9-21**

The much anticipated “Mayor’s Yellow Ball Challenge” will be played on 9-21 at both of the municipal courses in trendy Birmingham, Springdale and Lincoln Hills. The event is hosted by former Birmingham Mayor and RIGC President, Scott Moore. The action will start at Springdale with a tee time of 9:30 and then shift to Lincoln Hills for a 1:30 tee time. Arrive at Springdale early to enjoy a breakfast buffet being generously offered by Bob Diedrich. Thank your Bob! Then enjoy a picnic cook-out at Lincoln Hills after the round there, followed by a challenging putting contest. It will be another fun filled day for the club, guaranteed. The four man teams will be finalized soon and this will be communicated to you, along with the rules of the competition as well as the total cost, which will be in the $45 range (greens fees & cook-out).