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**“The Tee Box”©**

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***“French Lick”?***

**COMMENTARY . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . DAVID FAILURETEE**

Scratched off another item from my Bucket List by visiting French Lick Resort in southern Indiana.  No French were encountered, and the only licks involved ice cream.  An amazing place, which goes way back to the 1800’s.  The original hotel was built in 1845.  The attraction was the “Miracle Waters”, sulfur springs natural to the area.  The resort became very popular in the early 1900’s with people traveling there from all over the eastern U.S.  A second hotel was built called West Baden Springs, this is a huge circular domed structure which, prior to the Houston Astrodome, was the largest such building in the country.  All of the sulfur springs have now been capped, but frequently you still get a whiff, or at least I’ll assume that’s what it was.

There is a casino, and, yes, plenty of excellent golf.  Donald Ross built a course which opened in 1917 and is celebrating it’s centennial this year.  In 2009 Pete Dye, an Indiana native, opened a course which can be stretched to over 8,000 yards.  Hang around long enough and you might experience a Larry Bird sighting.  He grew up in the area and still lives there.

Over the years the resort has hosted numerous celebrities.  A number of Presidents, and entertainers including Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Bing Crosby, Lucille Ball, and even Tony Dow of “Leave It To Beaver” fame.

I’d advise all of you to put French Lick on your own Bucket List.

Frappe bien la balle . . . DF

**SKIRAGIS  ADVANCES  TO  FINALS,  HAGEDORN  TO  SEMI’S**

John Skiragis appears to be a man on a mission in this year’s PMMPC.  Ignoring thunder and lightening, and fortified by a generous pour of potato distillate he rallied on the back nine at Metamora on July 12 to a convincing 4 and 3 victory over John Fillion.  So, it’s off to the PMMPC finals for Skiragis.  Congrats John!  When asked about his mid round libation Skiragis merely shrugged his shoulders and stated “You do what you have to do”.  After the round, Fillion remarked that for the first time in this year’s PMMPC he was feeling the pressure which is pervasive in the PMMPC.  Still, this was an excellent showing for a RIGC rookie, and expect Fillion to again be a factor next year.

In another critical match Bob Hagedorn was taking on Dick Coffey in the last remaining quarter-final  match.  And this one was a barn burner with Hagedorn claiming a 1 up victory on the first extra hole.  Hagedorn said he had to draw upon all of his considerable RIGC experience to win this match, and he congratulated Coffey for making it as far as he did.  Coffey, meanwhile, said he just couldn’t on this day get enough magic out of his well worn putter.  Again, a fine showing by a relative newcomer to RIGC.

So now it will be Skiragis taking on the winner of the Walenczak vs Hagedorn match, which will be contested at Bay Pointe on July 19, in the final match of this year’s PMMPC.  Who will get the President’s Medallion placed around his neck?  Good question, and it should be a classic.  So, now my pre-season pick of Walenczak has made it to the final three.

While the two PMMPC matches were being played at Metamora regular play was taking place at the same time.  Unfortunately, for the second time this year, nasty weather interrupted the round and sent some Rollers scurrying for safe haven.  Still, 34 dedicated souls completed their rounds, and hats off to the “C” flighters who had a total of 16 scores turned in, while there were just a total of 18 “A” and “B” flighters.  Now for the results.  Is this a broken record?  The overall Net Score Champ was Myron Lederman who carded a yet another super net score of 66.  What’s this, his second, or third top net score finish this year?  Myron whatever you’re doing it is working, congratulations!  Among the nine “A” flighters the #1 net score was turned in by Solomon, 69, and following him was Hussong, 72.  There were nine “B” flighters turning in scores and the best of that small bunch was Goldner, 68, and he was followed by Wedell, 69.  Lederman sailed away with the “C” Flight and taking second place was McMurray, 69.

**“DOUBLE  TROUBLE”  IS  BREWING**

It’s arrived, next up is the much anticipated “Double Trouble” two-man team event to be played at Bay Pointe on Wednesday, July 19.  This event was dreamed up by your Competition Committee in response to requests for more team events.  As I understand it, players were paired in accordance with their recent USGA handicap indexes.  Lowest index is paired with the highest index, and so on.  I’ll commend that setup, have seen it at other clubs and it makes for an interesting competition.  I requested a listing of the teams and have been supplied with one, and even though there’s a good chance the teams will change prior to the event I’ve agreed to make my predictions based on the current lineup.  I see four teams that I find interesting.  First is the team of Bonjernoor/Lederman.  Bonjernoor made a lot of noise in the PMMPC, and you’ve already read about Lederman’s recent heroics in RIGC events.  The next team I like is Small/Dwyer.   Small has had a solid year as has Dwyer, and they should make good use of their combined handicap.  The next team is Moore/Salucci.  If my memory is correct Salucci was part of the winning Member-Member team last year which tells me he has a knack for these team events.  Finally, I like the team of Kemp/Ed Phillips.  Two members of the Twin Lakes posse, and, even though this event isn’t at Twin Lakes, I like their chances.  So, time to get off the fence and pick a winner.  OK, here it is,  the winning team of the first ever “Double Trouble” will be the team of . . . . Bonjernoor/Lederman.

There’s more.  After the event, I hear that the group will be making their way to the home of Ron Graham for a potluck picnic.  Sounds like a perfect day and evening to me.  Enjoy it . . . . DF