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**“The Tee Box”©**

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***CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK IS HERE***

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

So what did you think of The Open?  Almost everyone was saying that Royal Birkdale is the best course on The Open rotation, so it must be.  But, unlike Erin Hills, guys hitting drivers were scarcer than short shorts on the ladies among the gallery.  But, for whatever reason, I can accept that at The Open courses.  And, based on my experience, the weather was exactly what you can expect when you play there.  I found myself screaming at the tele during the fiasco at #13 on Sunday.  Spieth running around in and out of the equipment trailers on the practice range, and the TV commentators adding to the general cluster fu@k.

Hey, it was a simple drop decision, should have taken five minutes max.  And nothing special about the shot he had, nice level lie.  Poor Kuchar, didn’t do much to help his mojo.  However, the two putts Spieth sank on the subsequent holes were just cold-blooded.  That’s how to close out a championship!  Problem is, most golfers on the tours don’t have the nads to close like that.  Good for Jordan.  And I also learned something valuable.  Do you know what a Clegg Hammer is?  Thought so.

Well gentlemen, it’s that time.  The first round of the RIGC Club Championship is less than a week away, being played on August 2 at Metamora.  And, as always, it’s my duty to analyze the field and to make my fearless forecast of who the victors will be.  Good luck and play well to all . . . . . . .  DF   

**RIGC  CLUB  CHAMPIONSHIP  IS  HERE**

Here we go guys, time for the RIGC Club Championship.  This is the reason you have been practicing and playing all year long, right?  The first round will be played on August 2 at Metamora and the second round is set for Greystone on August 30.  There will be three divisions in the championship.  The Open Division is just that, open to all members.  Also in this division are the members under 60 years old.  The player with the lowest two round gross score in this division will represent the club in the GAM Tournament of Club Champions, with the club paying for his entry fee.  This should be an easy division to pick a winner, at this time there are only three participants: McKay, Fair, and Gross.  It’s possible several others will take on the challenge of competing in this division.  Fair has won this division the last two years and is looking for a three peat.  But something tells me it won’t happen and McKay will win and make a return trip to the GAM tournament.

The Senior Division is for players from 60 to 69 years old, and, no surprise, it’s the most densely populated  division.  The player with the lowest two round gross score will represent the club in the GAM Tournament of Senior Club Champions, again with the entry fee paid by the club.  Also, in this division there is a player looking to threepeat, as Quintana has been the victor two years in a row.  Picking the winner in this division will take all of the power of my newly acquired Magic 8 Ball.  Looks to me like there are nine legitimate contenders in this division: Bonjernoor, Diedrich, Fillion, Hussong, Moore, Quintana, Siegert, Skiragis, and Solomon.  Quintana will be heavily challenged to get his third in a row, and it’s something I don’t see happening, apologies to him.  Should Skiragis win the PMMPC he’ll definitely be motivated to add the club championship to his resume for the year.  Diedrich has played in the GAM senior tourney in the past and you know he wants to go back.  Fillion has played very well in his rookie season, Bonjernoor has played well all year, as has Hussong.  I wouldn’t call Moore, Siegert, and Solomon exactly long shots in this division, but they will have to put together two excellent rounds.  OK, what say you Magic 8 Ball?  OK, I agree with that pick . . . . . . . .  the winner of the senior division this year will be Diedrich.  He’s battle hardened and thrives on this type of competition.

That leaves the Masters Division which is for players who are 70 years old, or over.  In other words, the very well seasoned veterans.  There are sixteen players in this division and I need to find one who is capable of putting two good rounds together at Metamora and Greystone.  And two names easily jump out to me: Karam and Cooper.  Cooper plays often at Metamora and knows Greystone like the back of his hand.  Karam, meanwhile, has had an up and down year.  So, I’m setting the Magic 8 Ball aside for this pick and will go with Cooper to win the Masters Division in 2017.

There will also be one Net Score Champion from all of the participants.  Damn, talk about a tough pick.  Alright, let me ask you this.  Whose name has appeared consistently among the net score winners this year?  Correct, Lederman.  And that is my pick to be the Net Score Champion for 2017.

Whew, glad that’s over with!

Oh, a clegg hammer is a device used to measure the softness of greens.

***Comment by Publisher------------------------------------------------------------------------R Cooper***

Every time we look around, Failuretee has a provocative comment---satirical at times but his insight on RIGC is pretty darn good. I do like some of his picks and just after his article, Siegert jumped into the Open division to contest those young bucks up there. I am certain there will be a couple more before we tee it up for the first round.

I want to thank him for having the faith in me in calling me out for the Masters Division—to me that was quiet the honor from him. His picks have been almost dead right.

We will have to see and all there is left is to tee it up at Metamora on the 2nd. Be safe, be smart, and most of all play well………………………………………