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**“The Tee Box”©**

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***2017 Club Championship is ON***

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

So you think the golf courses you play are dangerous? At Greystone, you could always drive your cart into the lake around holes 16, 17, and 18. You can get a nasty case of poison ivy on any course. In addition, you could be served a bottle of skunky beer anywhere; or, you could get a severe whiplash injury checking out a seriously sizzling cart girl. That is nothing. In Indonesia, there is a golf course located at the base of an active volcano. Then there is the golf course located right next to a federal prison in Louisiana. In South Africa, there is a course where lions often roam. In South Korea near the DMZ, there is a course with a green surrounded on three sides by minefields. Finally, you have Furnace Creek G. C. in Death Valley where summer temperatures can reach 125, or more. Now those are some dangerous courses.

In this issue, you will find a complete run down of the action in the first round of the 2017 Club Championship and other vital & news worthy items. Be safe . . . DF

**STENCEL PRESCRIBES VICTORY AT PINE KNOB**

You Rollers got in a final golf game tune up for the club championship at Pine Knob on July 26. And for the first time the “Hawk” nine hole course was made a part of the golf shot foray. That addition, this must have been just what the good doctor ordered for Gary Stencel, who broke 80, carding a blistering 79, for a net score of 64. Wow, well enough for first place in the net score race. Excellent round Doc! Almost just as good was the round shot by Kurt Teller, also a “Hawk” fan, shooting 80 right on the button, for a net score of 65 and a second place finish. Not to be totally out shown was the other Stencel brother, John, who turned in a fine round as well, 84, net 70, for third place. Must be something in the genetic makeup of those two siblings.

In the “A” Flight Cooper fired a hot round of 82, net 71, to take first place, barely edging out Fair who had a 77, net 72. Gary Stencel and Teller dominated the “B” flight, and in the “C” Flight Dwyer took first place with a nice 90, net 69, while Gumbel grabbed second place with a spiffy 103, net 70.

**ROUND one OF THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE BOOKS**

Talk about distractions. There were apparently plenty in the first round of the Club Championship played at Metamora on August 2. Speedy greens, tricky pin placements, rain showers, thunder, lightning, firmly enforced USGA rules. It was enough to make a player abandon his round of golf. Ooops, some of you Rollers did just that. However, I am told there was indeed lightening, which is reason enough to get off the course, so, do not be too hard on those is made a quick exit. As described in the last issue, there were three divisions in the championship, Open, Senior, and Masters. Winners of the divisions will be determined solely on gross score.

So what happened on Round 1? In the Open Division, eight members vied for the top spot. In the very early morning, consecutive two-time winner Fair stumbled a little and turned in an 86. A round in the mid 70’s was on his mind, so this was not the start he wanted. However, that was the start McKay came home with as he carded a fine round of 78 in spite of stroking an alarming couple of sh\_\_\_\_ks. However, he recovered well. Two members tied for third in the Open Division, Siegert and Teller both shot ho hum rounds of 94. Therefore, in the Open Division it looks like McKay is to lose. Fair will have to go low in round two to be a factor and get the elusive three peat. The winner of this division will play in the GAM Tournament of Champions, this year being played at Indianwood C.C. on October 10.

Plenty of heavy hitters teed it up in the Senior Division. Playing from the blue tees the leader after round one is really no surprise. That leader is Hussong who shot an excellent round of 82. Well-placed tee shots, and adjusting to the speed of the greens are the reasons he cited for his fine round. Quintana is defending his two consecutive wins in this division, trying for the three peats, and he is off to a good start as he turned in a round of 84, just two shots back. Bonjernoor has been enjoying a very successful 2017 RIGC campaign and it continued at Metamora as he shot an 85, finding himself in third place after round one. Solomon was one of the dew sweepers who teed off around 7:30 and it suited him well as he shot an 86 to claim 4th place after round one. Two players share 5th place in the division, Small and Wedell both turned in rounds of 87. Finally, club President Moore got into the mix with an opening round of 88. This division is very much up for grabs. An exceptional round two score by any of the above could propel him to the top spot. The winner of this division will play in the GAM Senior Tournament of Champions, being played at Warwick Hills C.C. on September 27.

The Masters Division played from a hybrid course of white and red tees, total yardage almost 5,700 yards. This course setup was favorably received by all of the elder statesmen in this division. In addition, in what is no surprise, Cooper cruised to the top spot in this division by shooting a fine round of 79. In second place back is Goldner who shot a respectable 87, and third was claimed by Miller with a 92. Therefore, Cooper finds himself to be the prohibitive favorite to win this division. As a result, wagering on Cooper has been taken off the boards at the sports books in Las Vegas.

Finally, there is a battle for the low net scorer in the CC. After round one, the low net score belongs to Gumbel with a very impressive 66. Since being on the winning team in “Double Trouble” Gumbel has been doing well. In second place is Sands with a fine 68, and three players are tied for third with net scores of 69: Cooper, Goldner, and McKay. Also, in possible contention are: Smith 70, and Hussong & Wedell, both with 71’s

There it is, round one in the books. Of course, you are wondering how the bold predictions made by this scribe stand after the first round. Well, you will recall that in the Open Division I picked McKay, who has the lead. In the Senior Division, I picked Diedrich. Problem is he withdrew from the tournament due to pressing business issues. Therefore, that pick is off the books. In the Masters Division, I made the not so bold pick of Cooper, and it looks like that will be a runaway correct pick. I picked Lederman to be the Net Score Champion. But, my Magic 8 Ball failed to see that he would be one of the Rollers who high tailed it in the middle of round 1, so that pick is off the books as well.

**JUG CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE**

JUG point standings as of 8-2-17 will be on the website very soon. There has been some movement since 7-26-17. Increased JUG points will be available in the JUG Shootout on August 16, to be played at Cherry Creek. Here is how the points will fall: the low net score for the day will receive 100 JUG points, second will get 90, and third will get 80, fourth 70, and fifth 60. Those finishing from 6th place thru 10th place will get 50 JUG points, and those finishing from 11th to 15th place will receive 40 JUG points. Meaning fifteen golfers (and ties) will get JUG points out of a total field of around 30. Making a big move in the Shootout will be possible with all of those points available. The presentation of the JUG to the 2017 winner will be made at the dinner following the Member-Member tourney at Twin Lakes on August 23.