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**“The Tee Box”©**

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

Golf Digest recently issued it’s list of the 100 best public golf courses in the USA. Of the top 15 courses, I’ve played these eight; Pebble Beach, Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, Whistling Straights, Pinehurst #2, Bethpage Black, Spyglass Hill, TPC Sawgrass, and Blackwolf Run. Four of the top 15 courses are at Bandon Dunes in Oregon, which I have yet to visit. The other three courses I need to still play are; Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, Erin Hills of U. S. Open fame, and a course right there in the your State of Michigan, Arcadia Bluffs.

Disregarding cost, which one of these courses is the one I would most like to play again and again. Easy answer for me, Pinehurst #2. I love how it was restored back to its original condition, and I love the vibe and tradition of the Pinehurst area. It reeks with golf history. The second course I would choose to play over and over is Bethpage Black located in New York. It’s a brut of a course, but the condition and topography of the course is amazing. Finally, the third course I would like to repeatedly play is Spyglass Hill, the Monterrey Peninsula course always in the shadow of Pebble Beach. The course is more of a challenge than PB and very scenic, cut thru the Del Monte forest, just no Pacific Ocean. In addition, it’s on the Monterrey Peninsula, probably my favorite location to visit in the country.

I hope you have, or will get to play many of these courses . . . . . . DF

***STUNNING SCORES IN THE 2017 MEMBER-MEMBER***

The wildly popular RIGC Member-Member Tournament was played at Twin Lakes on August 23. Twenty-seven two-man teams partnered up to play in the 18-hole Shamble format. And wouldn’t you know something came up preventing me from attending in person. Oh well. You’ve heard of the phrase “Déjà vu all over again”. Last year in the 2016 M-M, the team of Karam/Hansinger turned in a shocking, eyebrow raising score of 59. Incredibly, that same team turned in another 59 in this year’s M-M. Excellent job again you two! BUT WAIT!! WHAT!! There’s a 57 on the board at this year’s event! Sorry Karam & Hansinger, you have to settle for second place this year. Rather, all hats off to the winning team in 2017, Bill Hussong and Steve Sands. 57! Wow! What a round. Now that is a score that should stand for a long time. When interviewed afterwards I’m told they offered the usual golf clichés of ham & eggs, dropped long putts, near chip ins, etc. Fantastic. Finishing in third place with an excellent score of 60 was the team of McKay/Solomon, one of the pre-tournament favorites. Keep in mind that this team received very few strokes, and usually on the same hole. So, their score of 60 was close to a gross score. Very impressive effort.

After the round the club popped for some ingestible goodies from the Twin Lakes kitchen and all seemed to be well sated upon their departure. Sounds like a very fine event, enjoyed by all, and kudos go out to all those involved in the planning.

***RIGC SMOOTHIE DWYER CRUSHES CHERRY CREEK***

Regular tournament action took place at Cherry Creek on August 16 in addition to the PMMPC final match and the JUG Shootout. And in one of the best rounds played this year Joe Dwyer blistered the course shooting an 83, net 60, to take top place in the net score contest. Way to go Joe! Three players also had hot rounds with net scores of 63; Polizzi, Krutty, and Schiff, who is firming up his place as the RIGC Most Improved Golfer Of The Year, if there was such an honor. The winner of the “A” Flight was Fillion with a fine 80, net 65. Polizzi took the top spot in the “B” Flight, and Dwyer ran away the “C” Flight.

***RIGC 2017 TEAM CHALLENGE ON THE HORIZON***

The inaugural RIGC Team Challenge will be played at Greystone on September 27. The membership will be divided into two teams captained by a low handicapper and his assistant. It was determined that the two captains will be Max Fair and Rob McKay. Fair chose Rod Cooper to be his vice-captain, while McKay selected his Member-Member partner, Jerry Solomon. During the meal after the Member-Member, a draft was held as the two captains selected their team members. A listing of the team members will be on the website soon.

Briefly, it will be a two-man team full handicap net score match play contest. Very similar to what is called “Four-Ball” matches in the Ryder and President’s Cup events. There will be much more about this event in the days ahead, count on it. As of now I haven’t seen the composition of the two teams. However, rest assured, after I see them and perform my analysis of the metrics, I’ll be making a fearless forecast of the winning team.

Most of the other clubs I cover have a Ryder Cup/President’s Cup style format event. Without fail, they create much interest and enthusiasm, along with a good deal of pre event trash talking. Good job by the Competition Committee coming up with this event!

***JUG CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE***

I have contacted JUG Czar Miller to get details of what happened at the JUG Shootout at Cherry Creek on August 16. But he’s not saying much, just to show up at the Awards Banquet in October to find out. Still, as a seasoned journalist, I pressed hard and was able to get him to disclose that just like last year there is a tie between two members for the 2017 JUG Championship.

Commentary--------------Rod Cooper, Publisher

As usual, David comes through with some wonderful thoughts, I have thrown out the invite to him to attend our MGI along with the end of the month first event try of the TEAM MATCH PLAY….

Hope he can make it to both, but he fedex cup is on and he is right in the middle of it… I did notice him the other night on TV chasing down the Web.Com tour for some inside on who may be on the big time next year,,,,,we will see. As far as RIGC, are next stop “Championship Week” then on to the third annual

Member-Guest Invitational.