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**“The Tee Box”©**

***“The Only Official Newsletter of Rolling In Golf Club”***

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***“Heading toward the end of 2017”***

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

Well, I finally made it to your fair neck of the woods and was able to catch some RIGC action in person. And it was some very good action as I attended the annual Member-Guest Tournament held at Metamora G. C. on September 13. True, several of the hot players and some of those whose antics I’ve frequently written about weren’t present, but still a super day nonetheless. This issue will be fully devoted to reporting on the results of the M-G . . . . . . DF

**MEMBER-GUEST A ROCK SOLID AFFAIR**

The third annual RIGC Member-Guest Tournament was contested without a hitch on Sept 13 at Metamora G.C. Even Hurricane Irma was scared off and stayed well to the south. As M-G’s go it was top notch, easily as well as or better organized than those I usually witness. Congratulations to Rodney Cooper, his wife Leslie, and others who played a part. And a bit of good luck allowed me to witness the action in person. The first clue that told me this would be a unique event is when I inspected one of the swag bags. OK, a towel and a divot repair tool, normal stuff. But then here’s a 4” by 4” chunk of marble cut into the shape of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Now that I haven’t seen anywhere else. I was told that these were donated by a member, MaxFair, and his company Hard Rock Stone Works. A very generous gesture on his company’s part. Sure beats the package of washers donated by a plumbing contractor at one of my other club’s M-G.

Now on to the action. There was a total of 28 two-man teams which were divided into four flights. The format was a Shamble, which seems to be a favorite of your club. As any serious journalist should do, I spent the previous evening holed up in the hotel bar perusing the teams in the flights. This enabled me to identify the teams I liked in each flight.

The “A” flight contained some of the low handicappers in the club such as Fair, McKay, and Solomon. McKay is your reigning club champion and he and his guest Perrone played in last year’s M-G, so this was the team I liked in the “A” flight. And they did well, coming in second with an excellent score of 61. But, good grief, here we go again. A team turned in an absurd score of 57, just like in your Member-Member! This time it was the team of Miller/Dagenais. An upset win. Very impressive guys! Third place went to the team of Hagedorn and another Dagenais with a very good 62.

The “B” flight contained another low handicapper, Quintana, who again this year played with his son. I like that. And another experienced team to boot. Karam always seems to do well in this team events and I gave some consideration to his team as well. But I liked Team Quintana in this flight. And again this pick came in second with a score of 61. They tied for second with the team of Blanton/Kozlowski. But the winning team included one of the season long hot golfers, Dwyer, along with his guest Shubeck. And what a team it was by shooting an excellent score of 59. Congratulations to you on that fine round!

In the “C” flight I spotted your reigning senior club champion, Hussong, on one of the teams. A team worth considering. Also, there was the Teller team and the Landis Team and both of those members have had good 2017 campaigns. But in the end I settled for the Hussong Team, and once again this team took second place with a score of 67. Winning the “C” flight with the score of 63 was the team of Saluccci/Nichols, another veteran team. Good job fellas! Third place was claimed by the team of Downey/Gnewkowski with a 68.

Finally the “D” flight. Here I narrowed it down to three teams: Goldner/Tomasik, Coffey/Fischer, and Polizzi/Nuygen. A tough pick since all of those members played very well this year. But I seem to remember in last year’s event Coffey sunk a chip shot on the second playoff hole. So that broke the stalemate, and I liked the Coffey team this year. Wouldn’t you know, wrong again, as my pick came in second with a score of 62. Instead it was the Polizzi team taking the top honors by shooting an excellent score of 60.

Then it was off to the tee for hole #18 and a one hole scramble shootout involving the four flight winners. I could see the club President, Scott Moore, officiating the shootout in his flashy RIGC blazer. All eight of the opening tee shots found the fairway, but there was an audible gasp when the tee shot of Miller’s guest, Dagenais, finished on the hillside about 50 yards ahead of the nearest competitor. Of the eight approach shots easily the best one was hit by Dwyer as his shot came to a stop about 15 feet short of the hole. The second shots of the Polizzi and Salucci teams failed to find the green, while a shot of the Miller team was on the green with a very lengthy putt. The Polizzi and Salucci teams weren’t able to salvage a par from their positions on the hole settling for bogeys. The Miller team managed to two putt from just off the green for a par. That left it up to the Dwyer team and their 15 footer for a birdie and the championship. With the assembled members and guests looking on with blank stares neither Dwyer nor Shubeck was able to get their birdie putt to drop.

Off to a blind chip off for the Dwyer and Miller teams. The competitors were faced with a downhill shot of approximately 40 feet. First up was Miller and his chip shot finished well short of the hole. Next was Dagenais, using his pitching wedge. And it was a good choice as his shot finished about 15 inches short of the hole. A tough task now faced the Dwyer team. First to hit was Shubeck and his shot came up short. Down to Dwyer. He got a little too much mustard on his shot and it rolled well past the hole. So that was it. Game over. Hello to the Champions of the 2017 RIGC Member-Guest, Wynn Miller and Rich Dagenais! Well done both of you!

I thought the granite cutouts of the lower peninsula in the swag bag were impressive. But then I walked into the event tent and here were two much larger cutouts made from black granite and emblazoned with “2017 RIGC Member-Guest Champions”. I made the mistake of picking one up for a closer inspection. Damn! Trophy must weigh 25 pounds! Made me think of the opening scene in the movie “2002 A Space Odyssey” when there is a black monolith on the ground and all the apes are going bonkers looking at it. Miller and Dagenais didn’t go bonkers, but did manage to hold the trophies proudly during the awards presentation.

In summary, I thought it was an excellent event, good food, well planned, and excellent service by the golf course staff. As the event was winding down and players were heading to their cars I was informed that Miller, your Handicap Chairman, was on the winning team in two of the three M-G’s held so far. Oh? That raised the eyebrows of this seen it all, suspicious by nature scribe. At that point I could see Miller stumbling quickly to his car under the weight of the granite trophy. In response to my shouted question as to how the Handicap Chairman could win two of the three M-G’s his barely audible, hurried response was something about picking the right partner. Seems to work it appears.

**NO REST FOR THE WEARY IN THE RIGC**

Two more big team events are coming up for your Rollers. On September 20 is the annual Mayor’s Yellow Ball Challenge which will be played at the two Birmingham muni’s, Springdale and Lincoln Hills. Picnic to follow the event in the Lincoln Hills clubhouse. Then on September 27 is the inaugural Team Match Play Tournament is being played at Greystone. This is going to be a President’s/Ryder Cup format pitting two teams of Rollers against each other, with the teams captained by Rob McKay and Max Fair. Two man teams from each team will square off against each other. The format will be best ball, with full handicap. A sandwich and soup meal to follow in the Greystone clubhouse. And your RIGC members thought the golf season ends after Labor Day. I’ll report on the results of these two events in the next Tee Box.