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**“The Tee Box”©**

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**The PMMPC Is Here . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Faliuretee**

Believe it or not, the President’s Medallion Play Championship for 2018 has begun, it started earlier this year. Round one matches were played at Boulder Pointe on May 16, and my report on that action is included. Also a report from the open event at Pine Knob. Plus it’s time for the annual lecture about pace of play from my pal, Scooter Cooter.

**Pace Of Play Update . . . . . . . . . . Scooter Cooter**

Failuretee asked me to present my annual effort to speed up play by RIGC. OK, here goes, pay attention.

First, how do you know that your group is not keeping up? Simple. When you get to the tee and the group ahead has already hit their second shots and are well on their way that means you’re behind and need to speed up. If the group ahead hasn’t hit their second shots they’re behind, you’re not, so yell at them to speed it up. Ideally, when you arrive at the tee the last player in the group ahead should be playing his second shot.

If you are on opposite sides of the fairway there’s no need to wait for the player on the other side to hit. Heck, 90 % of the time you’ll never be able to follow the flight of his ball anyway.

After you hit don’t take the time to put your club back in the bag. Just get in the cart, hold onto the club, and then put it back while your cart mate is preparing to hit his shot.

**ALWAYS** post scores when you’ve arrived at the tee for the next hole, **NEVER** post scores by the green of the hole just completed.

Place clubs you’ve used around the green between the hole and your cart. You should almost stumble over them on the way back to the cart.

If your cart mate has to hit to the green from the side opposite the cart parking area let him out to take the clubs needed to finish the hole. Let him hoof it the rest of the way. Be nice and say “See you at the green”.

Always park the cart pin high, or past that point. Never park short of the pin, or, even worse, short of the green.

**Ventura, For Pete’s Sake, Rolls at Pine Knob**

Pete Ventura strung together one heck of a round at Pine Knob on May 9, shooting an eye popping 83 for a measly net score of 63. More than good enough to win the overall net score top prize. Good playing Pete! Especially impressive so early in the season. Rob McKay claimed first place in the A Flight with an 81, net 73. Closely following him were Fair and Wedell who both had net scores of 74. But, the scoring of the remaining A Flighters was basically woeful. You’d think they were made to play the course from the tips. Oh, wait, they did play the course from the tips. Mystery solved. Ventura ran away with the B Flight, followed by Schiff with a net 67, yet another fine round by him. Early candidate for player of the year I’d say. New member Croce claimed the top spot in the C Flight with a 93, net 72, while Rende and Palazzolo tied for second with net 76’s.

**“Play To Index” ??????**

Bet you didn’t know that RIGC has a club statistician. In his considerable idle time he’s devised a way to measure how well the members play as a whole in the open play events. He calls it the “Play To Index” percentage, the PTI percentage for short. Huh? Ok, it’s the percent of members who play to, or better than, their handicap index. He says if you have a net score of 72, or lower, you will count in the PTI percentage. So what’s happened so far in the young season. He tells me the PTI percentage at the Salem Hills opener was 15%. At Pine Knob it was a little better at 18%. I’m still trying to digest this stat, but it seems to me that a reasonable PTI percentage for an open play event would be in the 20% range. Should be about right since the USGA claims you’re only expected to play to your index in 20% of your rounds.

**PMMPC Round One Results**

Fourteen first round matches of the 2018 PMMPC were battled out at Boulder Pointe on May 16, and an additional seven matches were settled by forfeits. The results were: Moore over Smith in a close one, Curto over the hot playing Schiff, Gross over Park in spite of giving a multitude of strokes, Miller over Ed Phillips, Graham over Kemp in a slight upset, Grace over Ventura who couldn’t keep the magic from Pine Knob going, John Stencil over Hansinger in a well contested match, Huizdos over newbie Croce,   
Gumble over Gates in an upset, Powell over Filak, Small over Palazzolo in another close one, Rende over past champ Whitty in another upset, Wedell over Salucci, and in the closest match of the day McMurray defeats Downey after two holes of sudden death and matching of scorecards. The following members were the fortunate recipients of first round forfeits by their opponents: Fillion, Plumley, Gnewkowski, Schloss, Goldner, Dwyer, and Landis, continuing a PMMPC tradition. So those Fortunate Seven will see their first real action in the second round.

Now it’s on to the second round matches at Dunham Hills, the Highland toughie, on May 23. Of course, all of the matches will probably be competitive, but there are several I’m especially interested in and will follow if I’m able to get there. Moore vs Fillion is a match between two very equal players and could be the closest match of the day, can Skiragis hold off the crafty Octogenarian Goldner who has been playing well this year, Grace could give Quintana problems with the strokes he’ll be getting, the Siegert vs Graham match is intriguing as it’s between two good friends and frequent playing companions, finally will Senkyr be able to shake off enough rust to prevail over McMurray, a proven tough competitor.

**Can’t wait and again, good luck to all . . . . . . . . . . . . DF**