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**“The Tee Box”©**

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**PMMPC Action Hot & Heavy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Faliuretee**

Along with the temperatures, golf action in your club has heated up. The second round matches of the 2018 PMMPC are in the books and the field has been whittled down to the Sweet Sixteen, more about that in this issue. On top of that the inaugural Ramble Scramble was held on May 30 at Metamora and sounds like that was a big success. More details in this issue. Finally, inside is an update on the battle for the JUG point standings, along with my view on things which should be banned from golf.

**Ban These From Golf . . . . . . . . . . DF**

Golf Digest issued a list of what should be banned from golf. They included: plumb-bobbing putts (even better, ban the green books which pros use to read putts), tour bags being used by amateurs (agree), obnoxious bag tags (I don’t pay attention to them), out-of-bounds (that’ll be better in seven months), handicap indexes (still need them for the competitive people, just simplify it), slacks only dress code (agree, if it really exists anymore). But Golf Digest missed a few more things that need to be banned:

1. Dull scoring pencils. Look in my bag and you’ll find a small pencil sharpener.
2. Governors on golf cart engines. At least set them so a golf cart can get up to 20 mph.
3. Sand bunkers. These are just gimmicky, contrived nuisances that slow up play. Where else do you see these things? And, who among you, has ever said this, “That course sucks, I’m never playing it again, there are no bunkers on the course anywhere”.
4. Paved cart paths running up the left side of a fairway, when 90 % of amateurs hit their tee shots to the right.
5. Fourteen club limit. So what if you have more than that, maybe two drivers, two putters. You’re the only one who’ll be lugging that heavy bag around anyway. Just limit it to one standard sized golf bag
6. Finally, the standard 4 and a quarter inch diameter hole. Make it an even 5 inches. Will speed up play and lead to lessened putting frustration. “You can’t do that, it’ll affect handicap indexes!!!” That’s correct, and it will affect everyone’s index the same.

**PMMPC Cruises To the Sweet Sixteen . . . . . . . . . . . . . DF**

All of the second round matches of the 2018 President’s Medallion Match Play Championship have been played, most of them at Dunham Hills on May 23. The action saw four higher seeds fall to lower seeded opponents. Crafty veteran Goldner took a 3+2 win over Skiragis, John Stencel continued his fine play and disposed of Bonjernoor in a close 1 up match, Grace found a way to get the better of Quintana with a 3+2 win, finally, McMurray squeezed out a 2+1 victory over a slightly rusty Senkyr. There were other nail biter matches. McKay prevailed over Gnewkowski 1 up, Hussong eliminated Miller 1 up after one playoff hole, Siegert eked out a 1 up victory over Graham, and Wedell bested Rende in yet another 1 up match.

Other matches saw Solomon over Huizdos 5+3, Gross over Plumley 3+2, Powell over Gumbel 3+2, Small over Schloss 4+3, Diedrich over Curto 6+5, Muchortow over Landis 4+3, and in a match featuring the two co-JUG champs for 2017, Fair bid Dwyer good bye with a 6+5 win. Finally, my pick to win the PMMPC this year, Fillion, had to forfeit to Moore due to a knee injury suffered the previous evening. So, I’m off the hook for that fearless prediction.

So now it’s the Sweet Sixteen matches at Brentwood on June 6, and there are questions. Will Goldner continue his golden touch versus Solomon? Who will prevail in the match between long hitting Gross versus steady off the tee Hussong? Will McMurray keep the magic going against Wedell? Siegert and Grace have squared off numerous times in previous golf action and who will prevail this time? But the match I’m most intrigued by is Fair versus Moore. With the strokes Moore will be getting, along with his fondness for stroke play, I expect this to be a barn burner of a match.

**“Battle for the JUG” Update**

“Battle for the JUG” Czar Miller has provided me with an update on the JUG competition. The complete JUG point standings as of June 1 will soon be found on the RIGC website. Briefly, the top three players in the Snead Flight are: Fair (135 pts), McKay (100 pts), and Diedrich (95 pts). The top three players in the Hogan Flight are: John Stencel (120 pts), Dwyer (85 pts), and Huizdos (80 pts). And, the top three players in the Nelson Flight are: Schiff (95 pts), Goldner (95 pts), and Rende (60 pts). It’s early in the competition and many JUG points are waiting to be won this year. The one round JUG Championship will be played at Dunham Hills on September 5.

**Ramble Scramble Off To Flying Start**

The Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) sponsors many golf competitions in your state. One of them is called “The GAM Scramble”. In it, four person teams compete in a “Step Aside” scramble format. The player whose shot is selected cannot play the next shot, steps aside, while the other three players hit. There are handicap restrictions. Max of two players with handicap indexes less than 10, and the total team handicap index has to add up to at least 36. And for the Ramble Scramble the RIGC Competition Committee decided to follow the same format as that used by GAM. The prize to the winning team was enough cash to cover the entry fee for the team into one of the GAM Scramble qualifying rounds, decent prize if you ask me.

A total of thirteen teams entered your event. Teams were allowed to bring in one non-RIGC member (also called a “Ringer) to play on the team. Yes, I’m told there were indeed “Ringers” present that day, but that was entirely within the rules. So how did it go? The winning team posted a score of 63, and how could a team consisting of McKay, Hussong, Bonjernoor, and Ed Phillips not win it? Would take quite a “Ringer” to beat that team. Congratulations to them! And good luck in the GAM qualifier. Two teams tied for second with a score of 66. The teams made up of Fair, Quintana, Huizdos, and Hansinger, and the team of Henderson, Diedrich, Stencel, and Dan “Ringer” Perrone. Third place was claimed by the team of John Skiragis, his spouse Jan “Ringer” Skiragis, Kemp, and Small with a score of 67. Jan Skiragis easily ran away with the most attractive “Ringer” award. I’m told there is at least one other RIGC team entered in one of the GAM qualifiers. Good luck to all the teams playing, represent RIGC well.

That’s it for now, coming up are the third and fourth rounds of the PMMPC and good luck to all of the competitors. As for me, I’m heading to the great state of New York, specifically to Long Island where I’ll bunk down at the home of a college pal and check out the action at the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills. Watch for me on the TV coverage, large yellow floppy hat. DF