****

**”The Tee Box”©**

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

***Vol #5 June 15 2018***

***PMMPC Semis and the Club Championship Coming Up . . . . . David Failuretee***

***It’s getting hectic in RIGC Land. The quarterfinal matches in the 2018 PMMPC are done and the matchups for the semifinals are ready to go. Plus, the first round of the Club Championship takes place on June 27. I’ll cover all that in this issue, plus have a JUG update, results from Greystone, and finally, my report from the U.S. Open.***

***I should get paid for this . . . . . . . . . . . . DF***

***My U. S. Open . . . . . . . . . .***

***So, did anything newsworthy happen at the U.S. Open this year, you ask. OK, here are some of my takes.***

***My commute to Shinnecock Hills (Shinne) was from my friend’s house in Hicksville on Long Island. I, along with hundreds of other golf nuts, took the Long Island Railroad (LIR) to the course. The train was loaded, each way, with people talking about golf while drinking. Nothing bad about that kind of commute.***

***Lots of people kept referring to Shinne as a links course. It’s not. It’s an inland parkland course, just with no trees. You have to play an air golf game, not a ground game, due to the elevated greens.***

***Did you see the empty seats in the stands? None of the rounds were sell outs, mostly due I’d guess to the headaches in getting to the course.***

***Now you want to know my thoughts about Michelson. First, keep in mind that he’s always been a rebel at heart. He likes to push what’s considered to be the appropriate norm. You see this in his shot selection over the years, and in his well know wagering games held on the Tuesdays prior to tournaments. He’s even had some close scrapes with outright illegal activities. I saw the incident on hole #13 on the tube, and, like you, thought “Is he really doing that?”. Turns out he did it on purpose, and has considered doing that in the past.***

***So it wasn’t like the time John Daly did the same thing, that was just frustration and stupidity. All of the Phil haters and golf curmudgeons were screaming for his immediate disqualification. But on what grounds? That takes you into a very murky, subjective realm. The two stroke penalty was plenty and consistent with the rules. And, fear not, this won’t become a regular occurrence on the tour.***

***What about the course and the setup. Most of the time weather conditions play a big part in the course conditions, negating the plans to setup a course. But at Shinne the weather took a back seat and the USGA was able to set up the course as they wished on the weekend. And they got overzealous with a few of the pin placements on Saturday, leading to the problems. Then on Sunday they got accused of overreacting and set up the course too easy. Poor Mike Davis, he can’t win. So they’ll have to learn from that.***

***I agree that par should always be a good score in the U.S. Open, players should be more than satisfied with a par on any hole. The U.S. Open should require shots that are precise, smart, and conservative. Keep the birdie barrages for the other regular tour events. And when the dust settled that’s what happened, Koepka accomplished the back-to-back with a score of +1, very close to par. Problem was, there were a lot of bumps in the road getting there.***

***PMMPC Quarterfinals are done, on to the Semi’s……………***

***Don’t worry about the fat content. The cream is definitely rising to the top in the 2018 PMMPC. Of the four semi-finalists all are low handicappers from the A Flight. First time for this. In fact, of the eight players in the quarterfinal matches, seven were A Flighters, with one interloper from the B Flight. So, “The Chaulk” is ruling this year, that’s for sure. Past PMMPC champs have typically come from the middle of the pack, indexes in the 15 range, plus or minus.***

***Three of the matches were played at Greystone on June 13. In the first match Hussong reeled off eleven straight pars against Diedrich, and that consistency will do a number on any opponent’s psyche. In the end Hussong took the match by a score of 7 & 6. In another match it was a battle to see who would self destruct the least. The match between John Stencel and Wedell was all square going to the 16th hole. What happened after that was a series of shots clearly affected by the mounting pressure of the match, which is totally understandable. Finally, Wedell brought the match to a merciful end with a gutsy second shot which ended up on the back of the 18th green. The final match of the day was between McKay and Siegert. A well fought match, back and forth in the early going, but McKay got his mojo going on the back and enjoyed a 4 & 3 victory. In the last match played a couple of days later there was an big upset as Solomon eliminated the pre-tournament favorite, Fair, in a 3 + 1 result.***

***Here you go. The semi-final matches are set and will be played soon. Hussong will be taking on Solomon and giving him three strokes, while McKay will take on Wedell and give him six strokes. I foresee a final between Hussong and McKay which will be a real crowd pleaser.***

***JUG Update***

***Here are the members of the Century Club in the “Quest for the JUG” as of June 13. The following have accumulated at least 100 JUG points thru the first seven events: John Stencel (165), Fair (155), McKay (150), Wedell (145), Schiff (140), Diedrich (125), Dwyer (125), Goldner (125), Bonjernoor (115), Huizdos (110), and Hussong (105). So, Fair and Dwyer are making solid efforts to get their names on the JUG for the second consecutive year. But, much can change as there remain ten events in which JUG points can be won, play on.***

***Rollers Surprised By Gale Force Winds at Greystone***

***I’m told you all were enjoying near perfect weather conditions for most of the round at Greystone on June 13. But then, right out of the blue, some sort of front came through bringing with it winds of 20 - 30 mph. Jim Cantore at the Weather Channel never returned my call to him efforting to determine the expected duration of the wind event. Even worse, the Santa Ana winds hit just as you were entering the advertised “Toughest Three Finishing Holes” in Michigan golf. At least that’s what Greystone calls holes 16, 17, and 18. I have played them and, yes, I can clearly see how winds of that magnitude coming out of the southwest could make that task more daunting.***

***When the dust, and the cotton balls from the cottonwood trees settled, the round drew to a close and some admirable scores were shot. The best being a round of 88 shot by Joe Dwyer, for a net score of 66, good enough for first place in the Net Score competition. Good job, Joe! Bonjernoor claimed first place in the A Flight with an 81, net 68, and he was followed by rookie Muchortow with a net score of 71. Dwyer took the B flight and was followed by Fillion, fully recovered from his knee injury, who had a net 71. Lusk had a fine round of 98, net 69, to garner first place in the C Flight, and in second was Goldner with a net 71.***

***Club Championship On the Horizon***

***The first round of the 2018 Club Championship is fast approaching. The first round will be played on June 27 at Metamora. Now it’s time for my annual predictions. The Open Division will probably be dominated by two players, Fair and McKay, with Diedrich a possible contender. McKay prevented Fair from getting the Threepeat last year, and something tells me Fair will get even this year and win the Open Division. The Senior Division is much more difficult to discern. Last year’s winner was Hussong, who also prevented a Three-peat, this time by Quintana. There are others who could pull off a surprise victory: Bonjernoor, Fillion, Moore, Muchortow, Siegert, and Whitty. Of all of those named it appears that Hussong has been playing the most consistent golf this year. Quintana seems to be just a little off, and I’m not sure the others can put together two rounds solid enough to take the title. OK, I have to go with Hussong to repeat this year in the Senior Division.***

 ***The Masters Division is a little tricky, only because prohibitive favorite Cooper is coming off shoulder surgery and that could become a problem for him. However, the first round is being played at his home course, Metamora. After Cooper the pickings get really slim in this Division, so, I’m going with Cooper to repeat in this division.***

***Finally, picking a winner of the Net Score competition is a total crap shoot. I’m looking for someone with a mid to high handicap who has been playing reasonably well this year. There are some to pick from: Goldner, Graham, Dwyer, John Stencel, McMurray, Miller. Give me my Magic 8 Ball please. There it is, the Net Score Champ for 2018 will be Dwyer.***

***Finally, your club should be commended for the support it provided to the Chuck Curtiss, Beauty-in-Life Golf Outing. This was an event arranged by one of your members, John Skiragis and his wife Jan, for a close friend who recently unexpectedly passed away.***

***Well done . . . . . . . . . . . . . DF***