

BREC, Beaver Creek to the rescue

BY CARR MCCALLA

The LGA owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to BREC and its Beaver Creek Golf Course in Zachary for hosting our 48th LGA Junior Amateur Championship early last month. Due to some conditioning issues at the Lakes Course at Pelican Point Golf Club, we were forced to find another venue at the eleventh hour. After a number of phone calls to Baton Rouge area facilities, Ken Caldwell, Director of Golf for BREC, and Haze Brignac, Director of Golf for Beaver Creek, gave us the go-ahead to bring the Championship to their 3-year-old facility in the northern Baton Rouge suburb of Zachary. While it's always a challenge to move a championship to a new venue on such short notice, Brignac, course superintendent Gene Demars, and their respective staffs went way beyond the call of duty in allowing us to make the change and helping us conduct what turned out to be a memorable championship. The championship had a tremendous finish, coming down to the last hole and the last two groups. Local Baton Rouge junior Andrew Loupe, who has already had an eventful summer, took the title by one shot over a trio of runners-up, 2004 Champion Thomas Galloway of Covington, Colin Richwine of Marrero, and Ryan Peters of Destrehan. Loupe, who fell two shots short of qualifying for the 2005 U.S. Open at Pinehurst and also made the cut, as an amateur, in the Tight Lies mini-tour event earlier this year at The University Club, finished at 6-under par 210 over 54 holes. He puts his name on the list of LGA Junior Amateur Champions that includes both Hal Sutton and David Toms. Both Loupe and Galloway will also represent Louisiana in the USGA Junior Amateur Championship at Longmeadow Country Club in Massachusetts.



AUGUST: A BUSY MONTH FOR LGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

We're heading into our busiest month of the year for LGA Championship events. August 4-6 finds us at The Bluffs on Thompson Creek for our annual Senior Amateur Championship. Alexandria's Frank Brame returns to defend the title he won last year at the Links Course at Pelican Point.

Monroe's Bayou DeSiard Country Club is the venue for the Mid-Amateur Championship (eligibility is open to those 25 years of age or older) Aug. 12-14, with 2005 Amateur Championship runner-up Jeff Calloway of Baker trying to make it two Mid-Am titles in a row after his win last year at Gray Plantation in Lake Charles. As we highlighted last month, Aug. 27-28 are the dates for our Net Amateur and Net Club Team Championships at the Links Course at Pelican Point. While the entry deadlines for the Senior Amateur and Mid-Amateur have already passed, if your club is a participant in the LGA Handicap Network and you'd like to enter the Net Amateur Championship you can do so online at www.LGAgolf.org, or by downloading an entry form from our website.

The entry deadline for the Net Am is Aug. 16. Our final event of the year is the LGA Four-Ball Championship, set for The University Club of Baton Rouge Sept. 17-18. Online registration and entry forms are available on our website or you can call our offices at (337) 265-3938 if you'd like more information.

2006 LGA DUES RE-STRUCTURE

Early this year the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Golf Association passed a re-structuring of our membership dues that will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2006. When we began the LGA Handicap Network in 1998, an unintended consequence of that initiative was the creation of some inequities

relative to our dues structure. The 2006 restructuring will serve to bring equity to our membership dues across the board and will enable our constituency (member clubs and individual members alike) to more equitably support our actual costs in governing the game in Louisiana. We'll spend more time in a future column describing what the LGA does to protect the values and traditions of our great game, as well as the specific benefits and services that our Member Clubs and their individual members receive from the LGA.

We'll also go into a good bit more detail on the dues re-structure as January first nears. In brief, a LGA Member Club in 2006 will pay annual dues of \$150 (a decrease from the \$175 of previous years) plus \$9 per golfing member. We typically define a golfing member as one who is eligible to play golf at a member facility and also receives handicapping services at the facility. We're confident that one would have a hard time finding a better value than LGA membership. For an investment of only 75 cents a month (yep, that's no typo, 75 cents/month), or \$9/year, individual members of our LGA Member Clubs have a significant impact on both the current status of the game in Louisiana, and perhaps more importantly, on the future of the game (i.e., the services and benefits that our children and grandchildren will receive as they grow to love the game as we all do).

If a club wishes to participate in the LGA's Handicap Network (which we strongly encourage) there is a small additional fee per golfing member per year. If your Club is a LGA Handicap Network Club (we currently have over 90 of our approximately 110 Member Clubs as Network participants), your club receives a Dell CPU, touch-screen monitor, label printer, report printer, handicapping and tournament management software, and other benefits too numerous to mention.

USGA STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur, Women's Open, etc. Most of you are pretty familiar with these most visible of USGA Championships. You may, however, not be aware of the most recent addition to the lineup of USGA Championships, the USGA Men's and Women's State Team Championship. It's an event conducted by the USGA every other year and the 2005 Championship will be hosted by Berkeley Hall Golf Club just outside Hilton Head, South Carolina, in late September. The Men's event will be held on The South Course at Berkeley Hall while the women will play The North Course.

This is a three-person team event with top players from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico competing over 54 holes on behalf of their state's golfers. Team scores are computed by taking the best two of the three scores each day. This year marks the sixth edition of the USGA State Team Championship.

The LGA utilizes a points system (based upon how individuals finish in USGA and LGA events over a two-year period) to select the team to represent Louisiana while the Louisiana Women's Golf Association uses a similar means to select their representatives.

Our next two events, the LGA Senior Amateur and the LGA Mid-Amateur will help finalize our men's team for 2005. We'll keep you posted on who will represent Louisiana at Berkeley Hall and how well they do! See you next month.

Carr McCalla is the Executive Director of the LGA. He can be reached at (337) 265-3938 or by e-mail (cmccalla@lgagolf.org). Visit LGA's website at www.lgagolf.org.