

Registration for first three championships now under way

By **CARR McCALLA**

Registration opened on Feb. 1 for the first three LGA Championships of the 2007 golf season. Entry forms for the Club Team, Net Amateur, and Amateur Championships have been mailed to all LGA Member Clubs, 2006 LGA Championship participants, and LGA Gold and Silver Sponsors and may also be printed from the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org. To enter an LGA Championship, simply forward your completed application to our offices prior to the deadline date.

In addition to paper entries, the LGA will be offering online registration once again this year. For those of you that have not taken advantage of online registration in the past, we would encourage you to give it a try in 2007. This will be the third year the LGA has utilized online registration and during this time, almost 50 percent of our entries have come in online. We have been working diligently to improve the ease with which our players can register for an event and are confident it will be faster and more efficient this season. To register online, please visit the LGA website and click on the link for "Online Tournament Registration." From there, simply follow the instructions to complete your entry. Online registration is currently available for the Net Amateur and Amateur Championships.

Registration (online and paper entries) for the Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships will begin on April 1. The Senior Amateur and Senior Four-Ball Championships will open on June 1.

CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FARM D'ALLIE GOLF CLUB, LAFAYETTE

The annual LGA Club Team Championship will be held on April 20-21 at Farm d'Allie Golf Club in north Lafayette. This will be the first LGA Championship hosted by the facility formerly known as The Farm Golf Club and we anticipate a large field will be on hand to participate in this extremely popular event.

The Club Team Championship pits teams representing LGA Member Clubs against each other in a Ryder-Cup style competition. Each six-man team, which consists either of one club professional and five members or six members, competes in four-ball stroke play in the first round and individual stroke play in the final round. In four-ball stroke play, each club will have three four-ball teams competing with only the best two scores counting toward the team score. On day two, four of the team's six individual scores will complete the team total for the event. With twice as many scores counting towards the team total in the final round, it is not uncommon for a team to make a final round charge at the Championship. The Club Team Championship continues to be a truly enjoyable event for all and the team concept provides camaraderie among team members not often seen in our sport.

The 2006 Club Team Champions from Hebert Municipal Golf Course in Lafayette won't have to travel far to try and defend the title it won last year at Copper Mill Golf Club in Zachary.

This event typically fills up before the deadline so please get your teams together and your entries in soon.

NET AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP BEAVER CREEK GOLF CLUB, ZACHARY

The LGA Net Amateur Championship continues to grow. The

2007 event will be the eighth annual championship and we are encouraged that the word is finally getting out that this competition is truly a net event with integrity.

The LGA started this Championship in 2000 in an effort to conduct a true Championship event that would be open to our higher-handicap members. While we do have some lower handicap participants, the bulk of our field is comprised of individuals with handicaps of 10 to 30. Any member of a LGA Member Club can participate. If you are a participant in the LGA Handicap Network your LGA Handicap Network number will validate your Handicap Index. If your club doesn't participate in the LGA Handicap Network, we must have a signature from your professional validating your Handicap Index.

For the event, we utilize the USGA's Exceptional Tournament Score Probability Table to adjust any score that exceeds normal probability for a given Handicap Index. Our policy is really pretty simple. If you shoot a score that the table indicates is outside normal probability based upon your Handicap Index, we will reduce your index based on the USGA's table, recalculate your score based on your 'new' lower index, and you'll play with the lower index for any subsequent rounds in the event.

The LGA is convinced that most players have no desire to 'manipulate' their index and simply want to compete on an even playing field. We're confident we are providing that even playing field by conducting this event under the aforementioned format. The proof is in the pudding; for the first seven years of this event, the lowest winning net score for 36 holes has been 5-under par.

In addition to the Overall Net Amateur Champion, we will also crown four flight winners, with second- and third-place crystal also presented in the four flights. This championship is conducted just as our Amateur Championship is conducted, with a beautiful crystal trophy presented to the winner and gift certificates to the top-five finishers.

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP TPC LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS

The LGA Amateur Championship. It began in 1920 and has been conducted each and every year since that date. It's been held at all of the top courses in Louisiana and this year we're pleased to visit a brand new site that will continue the legacy of top-notch venues. On June 7-10, the LGA will visit the Pete Dye-designed TPC Louisiana course on New Orleans' Westbank for the 88th edition of this, our marquee, Championship. The Amateur Championship will be held just two months after the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic returns to the site for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit the greater New Orleans area.

This year we're also pleased to announce that all entrants not qualifying for Championship rounds play will receive a \$100 refund from their \$200 entry fee. In effect, we're rolling back the fees to what they were in 1995. It will cost the same \$100 in 2007 that it cost 12 years ago to qualify for the LGA Amateur Championship. Our hope is that this change will encourage more to participate in the qualifying process. We'll conduct eight qualifiers across the state in early May in what we trust will result in one of our strongest fields ever. It's hard to believe but the golf season is just about upon us. We're heading down the 'Road to the Final Four,' and everyone knows that once we get there the Masters (and the 2007 golf season) is not far behind!

See you next month.....Inside the Ropes!

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