



RULES OF GOLF SEMINARS A SUCCESS

The LGA recently completed a series of Rules of Golf seminars across the state. Beginning at Bayou DeSiard CC in Monroe and continuing to Alexandria G & CC, Santa Maria GC in Baton Rouge, Beau Chene CC in Mandeville, and Oakbourne CC in Lafayette, LGA members participated in seminars where a number of rules issues were discussed. Items covered were: "How to use the Rules Book," "Most Used (and sometimes abused) Rules," and "Rules Changes for 2008." We are most appreciative to those clubs that hosted these seminars and to the LGA individual members that participated. It is our intent to make these seminars an annual affair. Our plans are to conduct the seminars a bit earlier in the year in 2009 and will plan on announcing the schedule sometime in late 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations are in order for 2008 Amateur Champion Jarrod Barsamian of Baton Rouge and 2008 Junior Amateur Champion Travis Wilmore of Alexandria. Barsamian bested a strong field of the top amateurs in the state in early June at Gray Plantation in Lake Charles, while

Wilmore emerged victorious at Santa Maria GC in Baton Rouge this past month. Wilmore's proud papa Randy is a former LGA Junior Amateur Champion himself, having taken home the crown at Bayou DeSiard CC in Monroe in 1979. We will plan on recapping both of these events in a future column.

Wilmore and Netherton to represent Louisiana in International Junior 4-Ball

Travis Wilmore and Taylor Netherton will participate in the International Junior 4-Ball Invitational in Savannah, Georgia, the weekend of August 2-3. Held at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, site of the Champions Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf event, the two juniors will represent Louisiana in this event. The LGA sends a team of juniors to this event each year to represent the state. Other states typically sending teams are South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Florida, as well as a number of Canadian provinces. We wish Travis and Taylor the best and know they will represent us well.

UPCOMING EVENTS, DEADLINES, ETC.

LGA events are coming fast and furious. By the time you read this we will have conducted the 4-Ball Championship at Carter Plantation (also site of the 2009 LGA Amateur Championship), and will probably be in the middle of our Mid-Amateur at Ellendale CC in Houma.

Deadlines for our last two events of the year, the Senior Amateur at the Farm d'Allie GC in Lafayette, and the Senior 4-Ball at Lake Charles CC, are right around the corner. The Senior

Am deadline is Tuesday, August 5, with the Senior 4-Ball deadline falling five weeks later on Tuesday, September 9. Entries must be in the LGA office by 5 p.m. on the deadline dates. Online registration continues to be available for these events; simply log on to LGAgolf.org and follow the prompts to register.

USE THOSE LGA DISCOUNT CARDS!

We encourage all of our LGA individual members to utilize their LGA discount card. As we've mentioned in this column previously, each person that is a member of a LGA member club and has paid their LGA individual membership dues (\$12 annually for non LGA Handicap Network clubs, \$16 annually for clubs that utilize the LGA Handicap Network), should have received a LGA discount card, entitling them to one free cart fee at 12 Audubon Golf Trail facilities once a year. Participating facilities include: Atchafalaya GC, Audubon Park, Black Bear, Calvert Crossing, Carter Plantation, Cypress Bend, Gray Plantation, The Island, OakWing, Olde Oaks, Tamahka Trails, and the TPC Louisiana. Use your discount card once and you've, in essence, paid for your membership. Use it all 12 available times and you've received \$180 worth of value for \$16. Cards were distributed to clubs as soon as individual dues were remitted to the LGA. If you've not yet received your LGA discount card, please contact your LGA member club.

RYDER CUP.....CAN THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE TAKE BACK THE CUP?

With Tiger on the mend and the Europeans riding unprecedented success in this event, what kind of chance do the Americans

have of wresting the precious Cup away from their competitors across the pond?

It should be an interesting competition. Will the Americans close ranks and play with a bit more passion without Woods? Will Captain Azinger be able to instill the doggedness that he always exhibited as a player in his team? There are a number of peripheral stories emerging as we move closer to the Cup dates. It looks as if Kenny Perry has all but guaranteed himself a spot on the American team with his great play of late. As a Kentucky native, he'll certainly be a sentimental favorite with Valhalla hosting the matches. Will Faldo pick Montgomerie? Regardless of whether he does or doesn't, it will make for some interesting news stories with their history over the years. My hope is that the competition will continue to return to the kind of matches that were envisioned when they were begun many years ago. As great as the "War by the Shore" was in 1991 at Kiawah Island, it did begin a series of matches that moved away from the friendly competition that had taken place and towards a more intensely competitive type environment. And while I'll be the first to recognize that golf is, and should be, a competitive game, I also feel very strongly that one of the things that sets our game apart from others is its sense of fairness and sportsmanship. Being able to win with compassion and lose with graciousness are traits that are important. The Ryder Cup has lost some of that over the last 15 or so years, and regardless of the outcome at Valhalla in September, my hope first and foremost is that the true meaning of the Matches will return.

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