

Hello all,

9-17-12

This has been a most exciting week for the USBGA golfers. Amazingly, four of our members have gotten a hole-in-one in one week. Ty Thompson, Ron Plath, Brian Macleod and Kevin Edwards all managed to do something that every golfer wishes he or she could do and for Ron, this was his fourth hole-in-one. Huge congratulations to each of them.

This newsletter may be a little lengthy, but we have lots of good news and we will still have more to share when the Kentucky tournament is over.

The first article is a press release that tells the story about the four holes-in-one. Secondly, we are proud of four of our golfers who went to Columbus, Georgia, to help raise funds for victims of the 911 disaster. The third important message is from Dick Pomo giving us a heads up on the Arizona Regional Tournament next April. The final notice is for veterans regarding a cruise/golf vacation this November.

Article One:

Four Blind Golfers Hit Hole in One, in Single Week

Whether it's out West, the South, or Canada, people say it's mostly luck. But surely something greater is going on here.

Ty Thompson, a severely vision impaired golfer in Lexington, KY, hit his hole-in-one on Monday, September 10. A former national sales executive, Thompson, whose impaired vision now causes him to see the ball only as a peanut-shape, and nothing of the fairway, said "I told my sighted coach and the rest of their sighted four-some, "Ok, I know you say it went in, but I'm not going to get excited until we get up to the green and verify." Sure enough, 145 yards up the fairway, his 9-iron shot sat comfortably in the hole.

Ron Plath, Portland, OR, struck his own good luck the following day. Having been given alignment help by one of his threesome, Ron hit his gap wedge to a short secondary green, one that is used only when the more distant green is under repair or being given a rest from regular play. But being a super short hole of only 85 yards at the Stone Creek course in Portland doesn't mean it's an easy one. According to Ron, "The green is nearly surrounded by water, and offers no flat surface whatsoever. It's extreme slope makes it almost impossible to keep the ball on the green from the tee." Seeing the ball role slowly side hill until it at last hit the pin and drop, Ron's friends yelled out their joy and delight in unison. And from that fact alone, Ron Plath, who can barely see the ball at all over every shot, let alone the fairway, said "I thought they must be telling the truth." They were.

One of Ron's best friends, Bryan MacLeod, totally blind, of Truro, Canada, hit his own

"ace" on Wednesday while visiting in Columbus, Georgia. They were in town early that week to join up with three out-of-town members of the United States Blind Golf Association, and their coaches, to support a nation-wide community golf scramble. It's purpose: to raise scholarship money for the children of 9-11 first responders who were tragically killed at the World Trade Center.

Staying a couple of days after, MacLeod and his sighted coach, Kevin Lemmon, played nearby Bull Creek, the home course of the Columbus State University golf team. "I wish there could have been more people around to witness," said McLeod, "but Kevin was there, and that's plenty for me. I chose a 5-iron to a flag that was 150 yards away, thinking I wanted to be sure and clear the trap in front. Once Kevin walked me up to the green, he said he didn't see the ball anywhere. I jokingly asked Kevin, have you checked the cup? He did," said MacLeod, "and there it was, my first ever hole-in-one!"

And if that weren't enough wild coincidence, a fourth came just four days later at the United States Blind Golf Association Regional tournament in Lexington, KY. While there, severely sight impaired Kevin Edwards, Springfield, Tennessee, capped off his first-day play on Sunday with an ace of his own. It came at the 8th hole from 154 yards out. "My wife, Anna, lined me up to hit the center of the green. The ball landed, and they said it rolled straight to the pin just like a putt. After what seemed like forever the silence was broken by loud yelling and celebrating." Edwards added a sudden jolt to the end of the story. "As soon as the cheering stopped, one of the scorekeepers spoke up with the words, "But it's a shame your shot there cannot count as an official hole in one." "What do you mean?" asked Edwards with eyes wide open. "You didn't see it!" quipped the other.

Is something else besides luck going on? "Something good for golf and for people everywhere is going on." said United States Blind Golf Association past President David Meador. For more information, visit www.usblindgolf.com

Article Two:

Recently three of our U.S. blind golfers, along with Brian Macleod, from Canada, participated in a nationwide fund raising event in Columbus Georgia. The event commemorated those who lost their lives in 2001 at the World Trade Center. Thanks guys for helping Scott Ressimyer and others raise funds for a most worthy cause. Next is a quote from David Meador following the trip.

According to Jim upon our arrival back home, with Everett at the wheel, "We accomplished what we went for." And indeed we did. All of us played well, and represented Scott Ressimyer and Blind Golf to the best of our ability.

At the dinner wrap-up at the course immediately after, the Master of Ceremony, golf teaching professional Mark Emmilman, introduced his younger brother, 2008 Master's Champion, Trevor Emmilman, who

took questions from the floor.

After all other questions were raised from the floor, I stood and asked, "What is the single swing thought that you would recommend to the average golfer in this room." His answer: "Balance. Finish the swing, and be sure you are in a position to hold the pose, facing the target on balance. Do this every time, and your troubles will be over."

Good advice, we thought, as we stumbled out of the building.

Article Three:

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to let those of you who were not able to participate in this year's nationals, know that we are again planning to host the Arizona regional USBGA tournament next year.

The tournament will again be held in Green Valley at the Torris Blancas Golf Course. A practice round is scheduled for Saturday April 20 followed by the 36 hole tournament on Sunday and Monday April 21/22 2013.

Applications will be accepted on a first come bases with the closing date being March 1, 2013. This note is just to help you reserve the dates. Specific information will come out after the first of the year.

Dick Pomo

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Article Four:

Subject: BLIND VETERAN GOLFERS

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Well, that's it for this time, but don't forget that it is again time to pay those dues for another year. Also, if you have any news to share with your fellow golfers and coaches, let us know so we can include it in an upcoming newsletter.

So long for now.

Joan Dietz

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