

Hello USBGA Golfers and Friends,

9-26-12

First of all we want to take this opportunity to welcome Diane Wilson to the USBGA board. Diane is the newest member of the Board and is replacing Ty Thompson who recently resigned from his board position. Ty, however, continues to work for the USBGA especially working hard on the improved web site. Thanks, Diane for being willing to help in keeping the USBGA moving forward.

Now for the news many of us have been waiting for:

Print copies of the Golf World Magazine for September third are now available to be purchased. This issue of the magazine contains the article and pictures from the 2012 National Tournament held in New York last August. To order the September 3 issue of Golf World Magazine, People should feel free to call the number below to order whatever number of issues desired. There is no mailing charge. You must, however, order with either Visa or Master Card credit card. Back issues are \$5 each, which includes shipping.

Telephone: 515-243-3273.

In our last newsletter we talked about the amazing fact that three of our USBGA members hit a hole in one in six days. Here is a link where you can read the official press release regarding their accomplishment. It is a very impressive story.
<http://musiccityartsupdate.blogspot.com/2012/09/three-usbga-blind-golfers-hit-holes-in.html>

As mentioned above, Ty Thompson is working on the USBGA web site and he would like to include information about any golfer who has had a hole-in-one while blind or visually impaired. Details should be e-mailed to Ty at spatterman@insightbb.com and should include date, name of golf course, length of hole and other interesting facts.

Of course, we can't fail to remind everyone that it is once again time to pay your dues for 2013. Send check for \$25 made out to the USBGA to:

Mary Jane Popp
3911 Dodson Chapel Road #34
Hermitage, TN 37076

The rest of this newsletter is a copy of the message Ty Thompson sent to all the participants of the Kentucky Bluegrass Regional Tournament. We include it so that those of us who could not attend can appreciate what a terrific job Ty and Paul did in putting this tournament together. Enjoy.

Dear USBGA and IBGA members,

It is with great appreciation that Paul and I wanted to thank each of you and your coaches for attending the 2012 KY Bluegrass Regional. We really appreciated the time you took to come visit and share some of our southern hospitality. From the initial feedback, everyone seems to think the venue was very blind and vision impaired friendly. The scores certainly reflect that as almost every player beat their IBGA handicap! Maybe it was just the good feeling that everyone gets started with, by having a massage from the owners of Lexington Professional Massage that gets all of us off to a smooth golf swing. Clearly that was the case for Kevin Edwards with a hole in one on hole #8! Congrats to him and the other three players who had a hole in one in the past six days! (Brian MacLeod, Ron Plath, Ty Thompson). Another amazing fact about the tourney was that the day-long drizzle on Monday didn't affect the scoring, in fact many people actually improved their scores from the previous perfect weather of the weekend! Maybe it was the anticipation of Valli Givens home cooking or the Comedy Off Broadway emcee or maybe even Paul Wiese's unannounced stand-up comedy! Regardless, the friendship and community involvement to assist all our players was what made the event so special.

Everett Davis has already converted the score cards, hole by hole, to a stroke event and is submitting these to the IBGA so your handicaps will be up to date by the end of the month. We also compared the Stableford system to stroke play and proved that the results would have been the same. So the system works and saves time. Congratulations again to the winners! Brian MacLeod, Dick Pomo, Brad Eaton, Ron Murner, Geoff Bull, George Thurkill, Kevin Edwards and Millard Reed.

For those that attended the following day for the Children's Blind and Visually Impaired Golf Clinic, a big THANK YOU! The event was also a huge success, with 55 kids attending! We are most proud of this success they achieved, with about half of the children being totally blind but all decided to come out of their comfort zone and attempt something they never dreamed they could do! The newspaper covered it and had a half page of photos, captions and excerpts about the event as well as the KY Regional. The kids each received a success award plaque that was about one fourth the size of the adult plaques and you would have thought each received a golden nugget! They were all excited that they accomplished something they never thought they could! My personal motto is "You can hear them smile!". Certainly, this was the case as the pros at Man O War golf said they were the best behaved group of children they ever had, and they were so attentive and earnestly gave full effort to try and accomplish the three golf skills that were put before them. To enrich their lives is worth more than any amount of time or money spent to accomplish this success! Now, we hope they carry that forward into their daily lives!

As a side note, we will be sending each of you a CD of the photos taken by both Dick Barnhisel (one of the Short Knocker volunteers and coach) and John Shouse (one of our sponsors). The CD has a custom photo of the clubhouse at the Golf Club of the Bluegrass and contains several hundred photos. Below are some links to both of the TV station aired interviews and I included a PDF file of the Lexington Herald Leader article and photos of the children's clinic.

ABC News - Channel 36 - has a great 3 minute video they did!

<http://www.wtvq.com/content/localnews/story/Blind-Golfers-Come-to-Lexington/g-HlinKckUaixLCmYCRZoQ.csp>

NBC News - Channel 27 - have not been able to find their interview online

It was great having the University of Kentucky Golf Coach, Brian Craig, be our honorary starter on the championship day! He was amazed at the skill set our players bring to the game! Also, we had a representative from the World of Golf who is having 16 veterans at a golf instructional camp this week. He watched how both the coaches and players interacted in all sight classes so he could help train the PGA instructors at the camp. Miles also took back USBGA DVDs of Blind Golf and Training a Coach along with other instructional techniques. We hope that some may seek further help and join the USBGA, as we included some info and applications as well. As with last year we have three new members because of the Regional event; Bob Arnold, a B1 from Frankfort, Kentucky, Herlin E. Atwood, a B3 from Stanford, Kentucky and soon to be member Susan Fuller!

Most importantly, we'd like to remember and thank our sponsors and volunteers, who made both events possible. Without their assistance and dedication, none of these great things would happen:

Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation
Charitable Golf Foundation, LLC
Man O War Golf Learning Center and their PGA Professionals
The Massage Center
Golf Club of the Bluegrass
Comedy Off Broadway (Jordan and Erin Hawley)
Susan and David Fuller (Fairway Golf Course & Charlie Browns Restaurant)
John Shouse (Shouse Optical)
Jeff Baumgardner (Standard Business Machines)
The Short Knockers (volunteers, coaches and scorekeepers)
Lexington Veterans Administration (volunteers)
UK Delta Gamma Sorority (volunteers)
Bluegrass Council for the Blind (volunteers)
Lexington Lion's Club (sponsorship and volunteers)
Valli Givens Catering
Palomar Hills Clubhouse
Lexington Coca-Cola Distribution
Chick-fil-A
Dick's Sporting Goods (Robert Cashman)
Tim Howlett (trophies and awards)
Scott Wilson (Comedy emcee)
Kentucky School for the Blind (Kenny Jones)
Visually Impaired Preschool Services (Mary Moore Yohon)

List of trophy winners:

B1 - Champion	Brian MacLeod / Kevin Lemmon
B1 - Second Place	Dick Pomo / Dan Spanish
B1 - Third Place	Brad Eaton / Linda Smith
B1 - Net Champion	Ron Murner / Pat Murner 3 others had higher net but already had a trophy
B2 & B3 - Champion	George Thurkill / Roger Klein
B2 & B3 - Second Place	Kevin Edwards / Anna Edwards
B2 & B3 - Net Champion	Millard Reed / Mildred Hooper
Senior - Net Champion	Geoff Bull / Walter Calhoun several others with higher net but already had trophy

note: originally had 17 paid entries and thus the number of awards, but 4 cancelled after awards were made

Warm Regards

Joan Dietz
Communication Chairperson

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