

## **Vision Cup 2015**

### **Another Spectacular Milestone for Blind Golf**

**From: Linda Port**

**What a glorious golf experience ... the setting at the Golf Club Villa d'Este was absolutely gorgeous and one of the most challenging venues we have ever played; every hole was like a golf postcard with lush green fairways and forests to 'protect' each hole. Dog legs, sand traps, hills and unexpected locations (from our errant shots) provided more than enough challenge. Our hosts could not have been more welcoming throughout our entire stay. And the food ... and the wine ... and the camaraderie with our friends from around the world ... it was wonderful.**

**As most of you know by now, our North American team was defeated by the Rest-of-World team 14.5 to 9.5. They played well and deserve our collective congratulations. Each 12 person team included the best four players for each category of visual acuity: B1 – totally blind; B-2 – high visual impairment; and B-3 – low visual impairment.**

**As with each of our events, there were several people and organizations that made it possible. Perhaps one**

**of the most important is Andrea Calcaterra, whose hard work and good planning helped make the event a success, And then of course, thank you to: ISPS Handa; International Blind golf; Blind Golf Association of Italy; and, the President and staff of Circolo Golf Villa d'Este.**

**A special thanks to our team: Jim Baker, Darren Douma, Harry Hester, Greg Hooper, Derek Kimblewhite, Doug Penner, Jeremy Poincenot, Linda Port, Derrik Sheridan, George Thirkill, Ty Thompson and Mario Tobia, I am happy to report Brian Macleod is recovering well from his medical treatments and our best thoughts to Ron Plath with his unexpected loss in the family. Brian and Ron essentially organized everything for the North American Team.**

**And to the golf ... the matches were terrific, with some fought to the final hole and all contested. Visitors were (as they usually are) sort of amazed to watch our remarkable athletes as they walked off their putts, read greens with their feet, hit it out of deep sand traps and drilled it down the middle of the fairway. If you didn't know better ... you would have no idea these are our BGA champions ... each an accomplished athlete.**

**A few of the unreported highlights (as least**

**suspicious): Doug fell about 10' into a sand trap; Linda gained 10 lbs. going to the gelato store each night; and, George was George – competing every shot, no matter the score, walking the course like a 17 year old and definitely earning the nickname 'Bulldog'.**

**Plans are underway for our next Vision Cup in 2017. I am sure all of us on Team North America are looking forward to the challenge. Once again, 'gratis mille' to all who made it possible.**

Thank you, Linda, for sharing this article with us.