

The M.V.G.A. News

December, 2011

"Sleigh bells ring, are you listenin'... in the rough, surlyn's glistenin'...
What a beautiful sight, I'm happy tonight...

'Cause I knocked it in the leather from the sand!" *Golf Carol*

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from MVGA headquarters! It is our sincerest wish that you all have a wonderful holiday season. We had a great December and there's much to share so pour yourself a glass of egg nogg and let's get to it!

December's Tournament

This month's tournament was a 2-man scramble format which replaced the traditional "Beat the Pro" which normally takes place in December. I thought that this was a good move because I'd rather beat the pro in good weather! The best gross score was turned in by the team of Greg Whatley and Michael Slocum Jr. They fired an eight-under-par score of 64 which was pretty good in the wind. The lowest net score of the day, using handicap indexes, was turned in by Dick Gillespie and Doug Chambers. Dick and Doug brother-in-lawed to a gross 75 which translated into a net 56.8 after all of the math applications were calculated. Great playing by the two young bucks!

The two big cash cows of the day were John Minckley and Johnny Scott. Both men had a \$65 close-up and shared in a \$135 skin. John Minckley and Dave Sweeting eagled #7 to win one of the two skins while Johnny Scott and A.O. Jackson birdied #16 which amazingly held up for the only other skin. I believe we had 60 players or so which is a pretty good showing for December. Tell Buddy you enjoyed the event when you see

him!

President's Cup

The individual match-play championship came to a close recently after almost four months of matches! The final-four came down to Stacy Cochran, Sunny Singh, Bob Beneda and Barney Tucker. Congrats to these four men for making it to the semi-finals. In the championship match, Stacy Cochran bested Sunny Singh to capture the trophy. I sat down with Stacy to get his thoughts about his big win. I asked him to sum-up the championship in one word and his reply was "lucky shirt". I asked him to repeat his answer carefully and he reiterated that he had unknowingly worn the same "lucky shirt" in all of his matches. I then asked him to sum-up each match with one word and these are his answers:

Steve Niager- "Yips"...unfortunately Steve struggled with the short putts that day!

Mike Slocum Sr.- "Tough"...this was supposedly Stacy's toughest match. Nice suck-up Stacy!

Tim Lester- "Par-save"...Stacy thought that his incredible par-save on #15 was the turning point of the match.

Barney Tucker- "Collapse"...it seems that Barney had Stacy on the ropes but bogies on the final three holes let him off the hook.

Sunny Singh- "Two holes"...Sunny double-bogeyed the second hole of the match, struggled mightily the rest of the day and Stacy won the final match 7&5.

I offered all of the men a chance to reply to Stacy's "lucky shirt" theory and here are their replies:

Steve Niager- "More like a lucky snootful of snail snot".

Mike Slocum Sr.- "How 'bout lucky pot of possum poop! Lucky shirt my a**!"

Tim Lester- "Are you serious? That lucky pint of penguin piss? He couldn't beat me again from the ladies tees!"

Barney Tucker- "Oh for Pete's sake! More like a lucky dollop of doggie dung! I got his lucky shirt right here!"

Sunny Singh- "That is one lucky vat of viper venom! Hope that he bought a lottery ticket that day."

Well, as you can see, Stacy's victims don't quite echo his sentiments. No matter, Stacy Cochran is your 2011 President's Cup Champion and deservedly so. I'm sure by now you realize that I didn't really interview any of the men mentioned above with the exception of Stacy himself. As a junior member of the media, I reserve the right to make stuff up and then pass it off as truth!

Chip Shots

- Stan Tate was seen walking around at the December tournament. Stan is recovering from surgery for stomach cancer. He had a tough time at first, but he looks good and is recovering nicely.
- Longtime MVGA member Ronnie Samples passed away recently. The oldtimers may remember the antics of Ronnie and his partner-in-crime, Chris Roper, at many a skins game.

Richie's Head

(don't go there!)

Well gentlemen, I write this last segment with a heavy heart. I turned in my resignation to Nazar and told him that I would not be able to serve as secretary next year. That was a hard thing to do. However, the good news is that I was offered the position of Tournament Chairman at Meadow Lakes Golf Club in Cedartown. As many of you know, I live in the Dallas/Villa Rica area and Mystery Valley is almost 60 miles away from my house. I have been playing golf in Cedartown for the past two years and they have a great group of guys. The pro over there wants to

organize more tournaments so I told him that I'd be willing to help him. Meadow Lakes is only 30 minutes from the house which will be a big help.

I have truly enjoyed my time as an officer in the MVGA. This year's group of officers may have been one of the best ever assembled. I appreciate the hard work put in by Nazar, Buddy, Gary, Jimmy and my dad, Dick Gillespie. Pops filled a void for us when Mike Ngo resigned as president. We had a great year in 2011 and it has been my pleasure to report to you the facts and the fictions that came along the way. I'm not going away completely. Pops and I plan to play with Dave Rabideaux and his bunch on Wednesdays and I plan to play in the major tournaments. Thanks for all of your kind words and thanks for giving me plenty to write about! The MVGA is the best golf organization anywhere and I hope that you'll continue to support the new officers for 2012. Y'all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

On behalf of the 2011 MVGA Officers,

Richie Gillespie, Secretary