

Men's Golf League News, March – 2022

League Highlights

Driving Range Update – Driving range tokens seem to be circulating a little better since last month's request to stop hoarding. A retired couple from Pine Lakes was recently arrested by **Sheriff John Westfere** for attempting to insert counterfeit tokens into the range ball machine. Bond of \$10,000 Lake Fairways Dollars was posted by a sympathetic, philanthropist. The couple will be extradited back to Pine Lakes where they will be tried and sentenced. When confronted with their crime, the unidentified husband said "But I have the shanks and if I don't fix it, my wife threatened to leave me."

Golf Course Improvements – Course improvements continue by our new cracker-jack Greens Keeper, Scotty Helmig. Those of us who regularly find ourselves in the sand traps will agree that they've been raked by the staff and also by the golfers who frequent them. At least when you skull it across the green into the other trap, you can't blame the conditions anymore. It's time to either get better at bunker shots or find a new excuse.

Hole-In-One Watch - At the recent Red, White & Blue Tournament, fashion icon and recent Informer Centerfold, **Tom Ridenour**, playing from the red tees on Hole #1, hit a high soft wedge which found the front pin on two hops and dunked it for his 8th lifetime Hole-In-One. Unfortunately for Tom, this was a Tournament Day and the Sand Trap was crowded with thirsty participants waiting for free beer. It's been reported that Pine Lakes golfers were sneaking in the back door to help drain a few icy pitchers. Good sport that he is, Tom happily picked up the tab, however, announced that the price of haircuts will be going up.

On Thursday February 3, while preparing for his upcoming club championship matches, **Brian Gordon** hit a solid 7-Wood which gently faded towards the front pin on Hole #8 and bounced it in for his 8th lifetime ace. In the group were **Al Cristello** and **Jerry Jaromin** who is known to get a bit too excited when witnessing holes-in-one. With no gals in the group to mask his scream, Jerry just jumped up and down pointing with his other hand over his mouth.

An off-site Hole-In-One was recorded by bowling legend **Ron Faria** at Del Tura CC on the North Course Hole #6. Hoping to skirt the bar bill, Ron decided to keep it quiet and to date has managed to keep his wallet securely in his pocket.

Congratulations to this month's Hole-In-One recipients. We only find out about these by word of mouth so I would encourage any witnessed aces to contact me with details. If you prefer not to share the details, I'll just make it up..... right Jerry?



Golf Fashion Corner – This section of the Men's League Update will be dedicated to the boys who make a conscious decision every day to look good on the first tee. It was not so easy this month to find a centerfold candidate as we had more than our share of cold days and had to cover up our outfits a little more than usual. I waited for Valentine's Day to get some photos expecting to have a fair share of red outfits. Unfortunately it was another cold morning so we will forego the fashion requirement and try to focus on the guys who made an effort to wear something RED.

<<< **John Kline and Dave Fagan**, waiting to tee off, were quick to show their colors and respect for the Valentine's spirit. We applaud the effort wearing red but might second guess the shorts on such a chilly Valentine's Day morning.

Reggie McGuire, just back from a fishing trip, managed to find something red and warm to celebrate the day and was photographed during the 4th version of his story about the big fish that got away.



<<< When **Millie McCarthy** screamed from the kitchen “Make sure you wear something red”, jokester, **Billy McCarthy** yelled back “How bout if I wear red socks?” With Millie’s approval, Bill applied a little **Boston Logic** as he walked out the door and headed to the course. Hard to find fault with his choice of red !

The **February Men’s Shootout** took place on Wednesday February 9th starting on the treacherous Lake Fairways back 9.

The B Group teed off at 12:30 with shootout marshal, Ray Gromacki establishing the rules and letting the participants know that he would keep it fair.

Hole #10 is tough enough when playing in a friendly 4-some on Sunday afternoon. Add the pressure of a shootout format and a sophisticated gallery scrutinizing every swing and you have the recipe for a humbling golf experience. Praying not to embarrass themselves and not be the first to exit the field, Bob Howland and shootout veteran Tom Craig both pulled their tee shots hard left off the tee. Tom found the water hazard but managed to keep it on the beach and was able to put a club on it. Bob however lost his ball in the bush left and had to take a drop and penalty stroke. Relying on his golf





acumen and shootout experience, Tom kept his cool, focused on each shot and carded a 7 while Bob was reminded how cruel this game can be, carding an 8 and being the first one to hear the dreaded 3 words from Ray Gromacki "Thank you Bob" ouch !

Photo Above - Tom Craig attempts to recover from the hazard following a poor opening tee shot

An all-out search for Bob's wayward tee shot on LF #10

Moving ahead to the final 3, we find ourselves on Hole #17 as pressure builds. Survivors; John Haggarty, Mike Leslie and yes Tom Craig who narrowly escaped his 10th hole debacle prepare to hit their tee shots over an inviting water hazard. John Haggarty, unable to resist the invitation shanked his tee shot right of the green and into the water. No stranger to this kind of pressure, Mike Leslie drops a dart onto the green just 3 feet above the hole followed by Tom Craig who sails it over the green long and left but still in play. Unfazed by the unexpected shank, John digs another ball from his bag, takes his position in the drop area and lofts a soft chip to within 3 feet of the hole. Tom, meanwhile makes an excellent chip to about 4 feet but unfortunately misses the putt for par. Mike Leslie sinks his birdie putt and John sinks his putt for 4 net 3 knocking Tom, who did not get a stroke on this hole, out of the competition. Thank you Tom.

On hole #18, John Haggarty tempts fate one too many times and puts his tee shot into the water hazard right again. Mike, feeling the pressure lifting, drops his tee shot into the middle of the fairway and follows with a solid shot to the green. After a drop and a top, poor John finally clears the 2nd water hazard and eventually concedes the win to Mike Leslie. Way to hang in there boys.



Tom Craig, Mike Leslie & John Haggarty

The A Group teed off at 1:00 with shootout marshal **Larry O'Brien** making it clear that he remains corruptible and could use a little help with lot rent this month.

After watching the drama that played out on the 10th green in front of them, Flight A took their positions on the 10th tee. Hole #10 was no less cruel to **John Hunter**, who hit his tee shot right out of bounds and had to reload. Unfortunately for John, no one followed his lead and left him scrambling to stay alive. His 2nd tee shot was just short and left of the green where he chipped on and missed the putt for 5 where he graciously told everyone to pick 'em up and conceded the hole. While putting his wallet away, Larry looked up and nonchalantly said "Thank you, John".

Following the expected drama and a wide range of fantastic and horrible shots by the dwindling cast of characters, we approach the 17th tee with survivors **Rick Gagnier, Dan Johnson and Nick Martinelli** showing signs of hope tempered with dread at the water hazard in front of them. Unfortunately for Rick, the dread surpassed the hope and he found the water off the tee. Nick and Dan both barely clearing the water were able to chip on to the green to about 6 feet from the hole. Rick decided to putt from the drop zone knowing he needed to sink it in order to have any chance at advancing to the 18th but was only able to card a 5 and conceded the par putts to Nick and Dan.

On the 18th tee, hoping to put a little pressure on Dan, Nick went for the green and sadly found the water. Dan who is no stranger to pressure, stayed in his game, took a deep breath and hit a perfect tee shot to the middle of the fairway. Nick figuring at this point he was committed to the



miracle shot went for the green again and cleared the water just short of the putting surface. Dan, who could feel the golf gods looking down on him, hit a perfect approach shot to about 10 feet right of the pin. Nick, needing to chip it in for a 4, flirted with the hole but rolled about 5 feet past. Not expecting Dan to 3-putt from 10 feet, Nick conceded the hole and the tournament to our latest shootout champion, Dan Johnson.

Well played gentlemen and thanks for an entertaining afternoon.

<<< Flight A finalists: Rick Gagnier, Dan Johnson & Nick Martinelli