



April / May 2004

Madera Tournament

It's not often that we get to experience all four seasons in the central valley in one day, but at our club tournament, on Saturday April 17th, it almost happened! There's a real good chance, had it snowed, an eyebrow would have been raised by ol' Mr. Guinness.

As early spring comes around each year, anyone whose been around this area for a while knows that the weather can be very unpredictable, so you layer your clothes, but there's always someone who takes things to the extreme. My playing partner that day was Phil Henderson, my old church buddy from years back. This guy, at age 50 something, who still water ski's competitively, who takes pride staying in shape, came out all bundled up, looking like Bib, the Michelin man. I knew instinctively that he couldn't have, in such a short period of time, ballooned in weight into the incredible blob that now stood before me on the driving range, because I'd just seen him the month before.

My suspicions were validated, when the wind blew him over on the range and he bounced right back up! Early in the round, he was complaining that he couldn't get thru the ball; (well duh!!) Quite frankly I don't know how he even got *to* the ball.

Later in the round, as you recall, the weather turned for the better, and then it started! Phil began "*The Peel.*" If my memory serves me, it averaged three layers of clothes per hole. There were enough sets of long underwear, shirts, sweatshirts, etc. in the back of the cart to clothe a small community!!

Needless to say, we didn't fare well because I was distracted, and quite frankly too busy yanking shirts and such over his head, to pay any attention to **my** game. I would have clearly shot 72 or 73 instead of my pure @#*&% 83. **WHATEVER!!!!!!**

All kidding aside, we had a great time of fellowship and fun!! Phil actually played better than I did. He is determined to get to single digits, and there is no doubt he'll be there soon, because of his ability, and the time and effort he is putting into this great game. Each of us gets frustrated as we battle to master the game of golf, but it was put into perspective for me when Phil, who is a fabulous athlete, stated that golf is the toughest sport he's ever competed in.

Obviously, the team of **Roger Campbell** and **Royal Cash** didn't have the same struggles we did as they shot an impressive team net of **54** (*major adjustment coming!!!*) to take first place, followed closely by the team of **Ron Hickok** and **Alwyn Stanford** taking second with a net of 60. Sneaking into third place with a net of **61** was the team of **Christian Gonzales** and **Stephen Hamett**.

As you recall, this tournament was also an N.C.G.A 2 man qualifier and the winning team with a team low net of 60 was Riverbend's finest, **Ron Hickok** and **Alwyn Stanford**. **CONGRATULATIONS GUY'S**, now go do our club proud!!!

KC

Pheasant Run Tournament

May 5 was the date of our latest CGCCC tourney which was held at Pheasant Run Golf Course in Chowchilla. The course is still a baby, but is starting to mature nicely with growing trees beginning to shape the fairways. The greens are firming up too, and are cut tight, penalizing you for being too aggressive on those slippery downhill puts. Wind is usually a factor at Pheasant Run and Saturday was no exception. Two or so clubs with, or against was what you had to adjust to for the wind that day. I was trying to account for the wind on the par 3, 4th hole and promptly hit too much club over the green into the water. That's the beauty of golf, not only do you have to play the course, but the elements as well. What fun.

For those of you who attended the Wally Armstrong evening the night before, what a treat. He touched our hearts with his testimony and inspired our golf games with his "golf stuff". The next book you purchase should be Wally's "**In His Grip**"! We had several guests including the new Women's Golf Coach at Fresno State, Angie Cates! Wally's cool 70 was the low gross of the day.

The Pheasant Run tourney was our club's NCGA individual net score qualifier and Bill Horg shot a smokin' 73 with nine pops for a net score of 64. When Mr. Horg is on, like he obviously was on this day, he's a scoring machine. And that swing? It's pure as the wind driven snow. Bill will represent our club in the NCGA individual net championships later this summer. Good luck, Bill.

Top four individual net scores included:

- 1: Bill Horg – net 64
- 2: Ron Pack – net 66
- 3: Ron Nitz – net 67
- 4: Christian Gonzales, Alwyn Stanford, Don Witt – net 68

Great playing guys, and watch your back for that 13 year old up-and-coming Gonzales kid who has championship blood running through his veins. As his drives continue to get longer and longer, ours will only get shorter and shorter.

BF