



February / March 2004

Blacklake Tournament

It's so nice to get over to the central coast in the winter and just get away from the foggy, cold, dull valley. Ah yes, into the warm, dry, fresh air of the central coast. Well, maybe not completely dry. Every year I look forward to our club's Blacklake tourney because for me it kicks off the beginning of the golf season. The weather starts to warm up and my annual golf-fever starts to kick in. This is really the first year that I can remember that adverse weather was a bit of a factor at Blacklake. Even then, it only sprinkled for about an hour or so at the start of the round.

It is also a great opportunity to get the ol' ball 'n chai..., excuse me, I mean the lovely wife over to the coast for a weekend away. It's one of the few times that she happily lets me go golfing with out giving me too much slack. This is because she knows that unbelievable coastal shopping is just moments away. Good thing she never reads these newsletters.

The 27 hole format in which we play 9 holes each of alternate shot, scramble, and best ball is always a favorite of our players, with the alternate shot normally being the most challenging and aggravating. That's what makes it so fun.

Winners in each format include:

*Alternate shot –Oaks 9 –1st @ net 34 - Daniel Cowherd/KC Dickie (what a turnaround for KC-last year his partner wouldn't even talk to him after the alternate shot)

2nd @ net 36 – Ray Hickok/Ray Goins; 3rd @ net 37 – Tony Monis/Joe Monis

*Scramble –Lakes 9 – 1st @ net 27 – Brad Fry/Mike Fry

2nd @ net 28- Steve Major/Randy Major; 3rd – Ron Gonzales/Christian Gonzales. Yes, it was indeed a family affair for these three winners.

*Best Ball –Canyon 9 – 1st @ net 29 – Doug Nelson/Norm Kruse

2nd – @ net 30 - Ron Nitz/John Aguiar; 3rd @ net 30 Barron Gage/Brian Wade.

Marriage must agree with Mr. newlywed John Aguiar, as he won both the accuracy drive and closest to the hole on #5 of the Oaks. Closest to the hole on the Lakes number 8 went to the steady Ron Kanzler.

During our Blacklake pre-tournament meeting, Ray Tarvin announced a very special praise in his own life. A few weeks back, Ray had what were the symptoms of a mild heart attack. Through various tests it was determined that his heart had suffered some damage from that heart attack. That's when Ray, his family, friends and church really went to praying for God's healing. At his next appointment with the doctors, and after some additional tests, Ray was given a clean bill of health, with the doctors stating that there is no damage from any heart attack and that his heart is now that of a young mans. How's that for answered prayer, and then some. Thanks Ray for sharing that with us.

For the last few months one of our long-time members, Graham Croot, has been undergoing a new kind of Prostate cancer treatment in Loma Linda, CA. Graham's wife, Jenni, who's also a CGCCC member, has been nice enough to keep many of us informed on a weekly basis of Graham's progress throughout this treatment. Through the entire ordeal they have both been so upbeat and positive, knowing that God is in control. Our club needs to be in prayer for Graham's full recovery so that they can both join us soon.

BF

Fig Garden Tournament

It's been awhile since our club last visited Fig Garden Golf Course along the bluffs at Van Ness extension in Fresno. We recently had our latest Christian Golf Club tourney at Fig on March 13. I'm not quite sure why it's been so long since we've visited Fig, probably because of all the new courses in the area. Fig Garden is a tough little trac, consisting of tight fairways, sharp doglegs and heavily bunkered greens (which could use a bit more sand-ask Curt Hamett), this a true shot makers course that offers much trouble if your spraying the little white ball, which me and my playing partners did plenty of.

And the chicken skin was out too, which always seems to happen when the weather starts to warm up. I saw shades of white on some of the players legs that should only be viewed through protective lenses with the warning, "Objects in lens' are whiter than they appear". Orlando Gonzales, while showing off his own God-given naturally golden dark brown legs, told me that my legs had a blue-ish, pink-ish hue that he had never seen before. I told him not to worry, they aught to have a little color by July.

The tournament format as well as the NCGA qualifier for our club was 4 man-2 best ball.

Winners of the qualifier were decided by draw and include: Roger Tarpin, Doug Nelson, and those fabulous Major Brothers, Steve and Randy. Is it my imagination or are these brothers in the winners circle an awful lot? I think they call that consistency. Anyway, good luck guys-do us proud.

Winners of the regular tourney include:

1st - Terry Goulet, Dennis Bailey, and Steve and Randy Major at net 120.

2nd - Bill and Becky Horg, Laura Studt, Rick Stark at net 124.

3rd - Ron Hickock, Alwyn Stanford, Andy Bateson, Dennis Bailey at net 128.

Closest to the Hole winners include: Ron Gonzales on hole number 3 with a shot of 5' 2", and Ken Johnson on hole number 11 with a shot of 10'. Good shots, guys.

BF

How To Lower Your Golf Scores Now

Do you want to lower your scores? Silly question isn't it? Everyone wants to lower his or her scores. High handicappers and low handicappers alike want to shoot lower scores and it's the lifelong quest golfers search for. The search goes on to develop the ideal swing and lower scores.

Here are three keys to shooting lower scores and they are keys you can use to lower scores NOW!

#1 Play The Shot That Needs To Be Played... Not The One You Want To Play

The first way to lower your scores is to be honest with yourself. You need to know your game; wherever it is right now; you need to know what clubs to hit and when. There is no point in using what other golfers are using. If they hit an 8-iron from 155 and you should hit a 6-iron...hit the 6-iron. More scores balloon because players are playing what we call "EGO Golf" instead of "Scoring Golf". If you want to score well, you must put yourself into the best position to do that. Hitting an 8-iron because someone else is doing it won't get you what you want.

You will lower your scores when you begin playing the BEST shot instead of the shot you want to hit. Hitting the shot you want to hit is not always the BEST shot to hit at the time. Play the percentages. Play the correct shot even if you want to go for the risky or low percentage shot. Take a look at how many times playing the shot you want to hit has gotten you in trouble. Each time it has, you've added strokes to your round. Play the shot that needs to be played in every situation, not the one you want to play.

If you don't have the distance then lay-up and take a bogey if that's what it means. How many times have you "gone for it" only to add 2 or more strokes to the hole?

You must play the game you know how to play within that game. Take an honest look at how far you hit each club right now. As you improve your game, this will change but you must play the game you have RIGHT NOW!

#2 Keep It Simple: Process VS. Outcome

Simplify your round of golf. Each hole is presenting you with the exact information you need to make the right choices...for your game. The architect has laid out all the

obstructions for you so you know exactly where NOT to go and where TO go. FOCUS on WHERE TO go. Simplify your round by thinking simple. “Fairways and greens” is such a simple idea the players tend to either forget it or TOO caught up in it trying to be perfect.

Simplify your round by thinking fairways and greens. It doesn't matter whether you are a 30, 15 or 5 handicap. Hit the shots you are capable of hitting and no more! When you try to “outwit or outplay” the course or other golfers, you will get into trouble. How can you simplify your round? Easy. Focus on process versus outcome. Process thinking is focusing on what you have 100% control over; at all times. Focus on your routines, your breathing, your pace between shots, visualization, rhythm and balance in set up and swing. You have complete control over ALL of these things. You don't have control over things like conditions, course layout, playing partners attitudes, score or any other outcome or result type thought.

You'll find that when your focused on outcomes in the past, you probably didn't play as well and your scores reflect that. Keep it simple. Focus ONLY on what you have control over. These are PROCESS THOUGHTS.

#3 Practice Your Short Game!

It's important to spend time on your short game skills. The tendency is to go to the range, hit the driver and other irons, and then call it a day. Take a close look and you might find that chipping, pitching, and putting is where strokes add up during a round. Imagine what your scores would be like if you learned to chip and pitch the ball closer to the hole? The more you do it, the more confidence you gain as well. In addition, your putting can improve because of the confidence gained by getting closer to the hole more often. Great players spend a lot of time on this part of their game because they understand that this is where their strokes can add up.

There are golfers on the development tours who still don't work on their “weaknesses” in practice and it costs them dearly when they compete. While the long ball looks beautiful, it's the short ball that brings the numbers down on your scorecard.

You can lower your scores by acting on these 3Keys right away. Good Luck!

Great Golf Quotes

“Most golfers prepare for disaster. A good golfer prepares for success”.

“My game is so bad I gotta hire three caddies – one to walk the left rough, one for the right, and one for the middle. And the one in the middle doesn't have much to do”.