

were unable to attend. I heard among the reasons airification, vacation, cost, out of town, prepping for a tournament of our own, etc. They are all good reasons to not participate in an event such as this. But let's face it- 48 players is a pathetic number, especially in an association of our size.

When I first heard the number of attendees the day before, I must admit my heart kind of sank. We were working hard to prepare for the tournament, put out best foot forward and when I walked into the pro shop and said we only had around 40 participants, I felt like a complete idiot. We reserved an afternoon for 40? It wasn't said and our pro never would, but that is what I was feeling. I decided after walking out of the pro shop that the number didn't matter at that point. We were going to do what we could to make the course the best it could be and whoever showed up was going to get our best effort.

While it is clear more needs to be done to attract more attendees to the MGCSA events, or at least figure out why attendance is so low, that is not what I wanted to focus this column on. What I wanted to tell you is how much I appreciated the 48 who did attend.

I'm sure if you ask any superintendent who has hosted an MGCSA event they will all tell you

the same thing- what a great time it was hosting the event, and how proud they were to have their crew prepare the course, and how good it felt to help the MGCSA. I know I sure did.

It really didn't take that much extra effort either. We certainly spit shined a few tee plaques we otherwise would not have, and got a few long put off superficial projects done as a goal for the event, but otherwise business as usual. The pro shop certainly didn't have too much extra work with the smaller number, and heck they do tournaments all the time anyway.

So what I'm trying to get at is that if you were ever inclined to host an MGCSA event by all means go for it. The return on your effort is substantial. It doesn't really matter if you get 48 or 148 to attend, for the guy hosting the feeling is the same. I was humbled, I was proud, and I would do it again in an instant.

Thank you so very much to the MGCSA for allowing me, my staff and our course to host this year's championship. To all who came, especially the guys who came from a great distance, thank you for making the day very special for us and Prestwick Golf Club. I will never forget it.