THRU THE GREEN

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SUPERINTENDENT/PRO TOURNAMENT

What a gathering! This golf tournament is the GCSANC's most prestigious event. The first Superintendent/ Professional tournament was conducted a decade ago with the intention of allowing the Superintendent to bring his club's Green Chairman, Club Manager, and Club Pro to a competitive team event with many of his peers.

This years host has been the Superintendent at Palo Alto Hills Country Club for six years, was the recipient of the Excellence in Golf Turf Management Award in 1987, and is currently the Vice President of GCSANC.

The scores this year were very competitive. There were many ties that were decided by comparing the highest handicap hole scores. The course was in extremely fine shape and the greens were lightning fast, literally...

Mother Nature wasn't sure if she wanted the tournament to begin or not. As the shotgun start, format rules and tee assignments were being announced, the skies were darkening, and a panoramic display of thunder and lightning began buffeting the surrounding hilltops. A somewhat rare display for the San Francisco bay area. The recommendation from our host was "if it gets any worse we may delay the tournament." Well just two holes after the start, the lightning, thunder, and a heavy down-pour harmonized directly overhead. The tournament was delayed by the unanimous consent of all golfers and gophers, as we all scrambled for safety and shelter amidst the frightening claps of thunder. I myself made several promises to the big boss upstairs that are typically made when one perceives being that near death.

The ensuing delay was carried out in the various shelters throughout the course and in the clubhouse. Many of us were lucky enough to take refuge in the shelter that had refreshments available. Sales were brisk as the delay lasted about 1-1/2 hours. Mother Nature supplied the entertainment. When the tournament resumed we were all delighted to see an absence of standing water, even in the sand traps, and the course was still receptive to tournament golf, undoubtedly the result of Mike Garvale's innovative turf management techniques. The skies cleared, mostly, and the rest of the day was perfect. When all the scores were turned in, our host, Mike Garvale, CGCS, who deserves a large debt of gratitude for all his efforts, went to work tabulating the scores to determine the winners so they could be announced at the dinner and awards ceremony. In the clubhouse dining room over an outstanding filet mignon dinner, Steve Good, presided over the awards presentations. Inspite of the weather delay, a lot of good competitive fun was had by all.

Pictures and article by Carey Krefft

Ayrshire Friendship Trophy Winner Ross Brownlie and Steve Good

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