

Alabama Left-Handed Golf Association Newsletter



ALleftygolf.org

November 2008

Cider Ridge Golf Course was in excellent condition for the 59th Annual State Left-handed golf tournament the third weekend in June this year. All players agreed the greens were in excellent condition and most of us learned that putting is crucial to scoring well along with keeping the ball in the fairway.

The Association would like to thank Lamar Carter and Andrew Brooks for the condition of the course and quality tournament services this year. Cider Ridge is owned by the City of Oxford and is a good course at a reasonable price, though definitely challenging.

Twenty-six lefties teed it up that weekend. Attendance was down this year possibly due to gasoline prices, general economic conditions, and possible scheduling conflicts with other tournaments.

Dante Graham won the State Left-handed Championship for the second year in a row. Dante was followed by Greg Payne in 2nd and Jason Glover in 3rd. Greg put himself in a slight hole the first round but shot solid rounds of 73 and 77 the second and third days but could not make up the difference. Dante shot a 70 the first day, 76 and 75 the second and third days.

The first day Jason Barrett and Jason Glover shot respectable rounds, showing early signs of making a challenge for the trophy.

Chad Hare from the Gadsden area won the B flight of the Championship division. Chad was followed by Ken Johnson in second and Mike Wesler in third.

The Open Division was won by Greg Mitchell. Greg shot consistent rounds in the 80s. Terry Marcus improved his scores each day to finish 2nd. He was followed by Bill Askew from Tuscaloosa in 3rd.

Ricky Bradford won the B flight of the Open division with Greg Garner in Second and Charley Booth in third.

Kendall Goodwin won the 60-69 year old division. This is the second year we have had this division. New comer Ken Koskodan from Tuscaloosa finished second and long time member Ben Crum took third.

Hubert Gilbert coasted to a win in the Super Senior Division.

The Association would like to thank our sponsors of the Tournament:

- **Charles M. Money Logging Company (Lindy Money)**
- **Calera Industrial Supply (Jack Kendrick)**
- **Fox Run Golf Association (Murphy Abernathy)**

During the business meeting, and a delicious lunch, (great banana pudding), there was substantive discussion of the future of the Association. Members spoke of previous years' attendance exceeding 100 players. This year's attendance and relative low numbers in the recent past sparked a lively discussion of efforts to increase attendance at our tournament and to increase our membership.

It was noted that the third weekend in June was the traditional date due to a large number of players being employed in steel mills. The mills tended to shut down to retool during this time of year. Others mentioned the fact that children were out of school during this time and some families were on vacation during this time. Further, it was mentioned a large number of tournaments are regularly scheduled on this same weekend. It was also discussed that we usually get good press coverage of our tournament. The coverage tends to focus on the fight for the trophy. This may discourage high handicappers from participating, thinking they don't have a chance to win the Championship.

We also discussed whether to return to Cider Ridge or move the tournament to a different location. It was agreed that most of our

members reside in the central and northern part of the state and a location in those regions would draw more participants. Over the next few months I will look to the membership for suggestions for increasing participation and the possible location of next year's tournament.

I would like mention a couple of our notable members. Joe Fuller was unable to make it to the tournament this year. That may not sound like much to a new member that may not be familiar with Joe. The reason it is notable to mention Joe is this is the first ALHGA state tournament Joe has missed in 48 straight years. No matter where the tournament was held, gas prices, or any other reasons Joe was there ready to play. Joe missed this year due to health reasons. We all hope that Joe gets better and can make next year's tournament. If you are at next year's tournament and if Joe is there be sure to talk with him and get to know him. He can give you his reasons he has been so committed to the Association.

Another notable member absent this year was Daryl Johnson. Daryl is a past president of the Association and has been a consistent participant in our annual tournament. Daryl's wife is fighting a battle with cancer. Daryl's father Ken discussed the situation during the business meeting and the Lori Johnson Foundation. We ask that you keep Daryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers. I would also like to mention we missed Randy Bryant this year. Randy tragically lost his son prior to the tournament. After this year's tournament word arrived that Jerry "Slingblade" Hinds passed away. Jerry always brought a laugh to all of us that saw him at our tournaments. Have a look at the newspaper article on our website about Jerry.

To help the Association share information about the Association with other left handed golfers you may know. Or if you see one on the practice range or on a course you are playing talk with them about it. Let high handicappers know it is three days

of fun and friendship with fellow lefties. Just look at my scores, they have great a chance to place in one of the flights.

If you have a change in contact information let me know so I can keep the membership list up to date. If you did not play in the 2008 tournament or if you have not sent in your \$15.00 annual membership dues they are **now past due**.

Please send to:

ALHGA
P.O. Box 3605
Hueytown, AL 35023

Send any changes in your contact information to the same address or email me at alhga@mindspring.com

**2009 ALHGA
State Tournament
June 19th, 20th, 21st
Point Mallard
Decatur AL
Entry Forms
Coming Soon**

2008 ALHGA State Tournament Results			
Dante	Graham	221	State Champion
Greg	Payne	229	Championship
Jason	Glover	236	Championship
Chad	Hare	238	Championship B
Ken	Johnson	247	Championship B
Michael	Wesler	256	Championship B
Greg	Mitchell	255	Open A
Terry	Marcus	260	Open A
Bill	Askew	263	Open A
Ricky	Bradford	276	Open B
Greg	Garner	283	Open B
Charley	Booth	289	Open B
Kendall	Goodwin	251	60-69
Ken	Koskodan	262	60-69
Ben	Crum	274	60-69
Hubert	Gilbert	193	Super Senior