

Alabama Left-Handed Golf Association Newsletter



ALleftygolf.org

November 2007

The 58th Annual State Left Handed Golf Association (ALHGA) State Tournament was held June 29th through July 1st this year at Robert Trent Jones Oxmoor Valley. Forty-four golfers entered the tournament by noon on Friday. The field included some new members, some former members returning after an absence, and the regulars. Those of you who could not make this year's tournament were missed.

The Tournament

The scores in the Championship flight on Friday put Dante Graham of Birmingham in the lead by 3 strokes over last years champion Rand Lipscomb of Gadsden. On Saturday Greg Payne from Leeds posted the best round with a one over 73. This round still put him 3 strokes behind Dante Graham. On Sunday Dante increased his lead to 10 strokes with a round of 74 and a "Tigeresque" win. Dante has assured us he will be back next year to defend his title of State Left Handed Champion.

Of note in the Championship flight were the dueling hole in ones of Ken Johnson and Johnny Brasher on Saturday. On the par 3 #16 Ken holed out from 165 yards. Johnny was playing in the foursome behind Ken's group. Johnny slammed it in the cup from the same distance. As rare as a hole in one is to have 2 on the same hole the same day in back to back

groups could only happen at the ALHGA tournament.

The second flight in the Championship division was won by a new comer, Zane Haymon in a scorecard playoff over long time consistent player Steve Phillips from Selma. Zane is from Rainesville and is only 16 years old. At the closing ceremonies of the tournament Zane had a concentrated stare focused on the Championship trophy and mentioned he thought it would look good in his house. Johnny Wood of Opp finished 3rd in this flight after a long absence from the tournament.

Paul Etheredge, a new member from Birmingham, won the Open Division. Paul shot rounds in the low 80s the last 2 days of the tournament to win over Aubrey Haynes in 2nd and Ricky Bradford in 3d. The second flight in the Open Division was won by Randy Bryant from Gadsden. Finishing in 2nd after a scorecard playoff with Greg Garner was Paul Tucker. Paul is a new member from Alabaster and Greg was playing in his first ALHGA tournament. Greg took the 3rd place trophy back to his hometown of Woodland.

This year a division for lefties ages 60 to 69 was offered. Marvin Lee of Montgomery won this division with consistent rounds in the 70s all three days. Coming in second in this division was Kendall Goodwin followed in 3rd by Frank Slapikas.

The super senior division for ages 70 and older played Saturday and Sunday of the tournament. Adding to his trophy shelf with consistent rounds in the low 80s was Herman Johnson. MJ Dennard made a run at Herman on Sunday but it was not enough so MJ had to settle for 2nd followed by Paul Williams in 3rd. The course was not in the best condition due to the drought and scheduled maintenance that resulted in aerification of the greens on the Valley course. I was assured by the director of golf and the course superintendent that the recovery period for the greens was 8 to 10 days. Further I was assured the first round on Friday would be 11 days since the aerification and the greens would be in good condition. Perhaps it was the lack of rain, but I think most tournament players felt the greens were not recovering in a normal fashion.

The Association

In regard to the course conditions, I will repeat a quote from a long time member of ALHGA that I mentioned at the closing ceremonies. While scouting courses back in January, I mentioned the pluses and minuses of the courses I was visiting to this member. He responded with some comments about the courses and went further to say "*...if you dig 18 holes in your backyard, and call it the ALHGA tournament, I will be there with my clubs ready to tee it up*".

While we all want to play on courses equivalent to Augusta National we all know we have to balance the quality of the course with the cost to us, the potential to draw golfers and other concerns such as raising sponsorship money from local businesses. However, the long time member that remains unnamed I mentioned, shows a commitment to ALHGA that has kept it alive since 1950. This type of commitment and recruitment of new members will hopefully guarantee the life of ALHGA long after those of us my age tee it for the last time. While talking about commitment I would like to mention Joe Fuller. Most of you know Joe and if you don't make sure you get to know him. Joe has not missed an ALHGA annual tournament for 47 years. Joe has gone above and beyond the call in his support of ALHGA. In my first round in my first ALHGA tournament I was paired with Joe. He made me feel welcome and tried to get me to relax. This tournament was in Birmingham and there were television news cameras on us as we teed off. Joe's efforts to calm me down did not work until we

played a few holes. Joe instilled in me that while the tournament was about serious golf and crowning a state left handed champion more than that it was about the camaraderie and fun of getting together with left handed golfers from around the state for 3 days of golf.

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Further thanks to Willie Dawson for the donated clubs and to all the other members that contributed items and labor for the tournament.

Things to Come

Some of you have provided great ideas to improve the association, have better tournaments, and improve the website. Just to mention a couple, a page on the website to allow members to buy/sell/trade clubs, a directory of

members possibly on the website so we can all get in touch with each other if we need to fill in a foursome. Courses suggested for next year are Musgrove in Jasper, Cider Ridge in Oxford, and Canebreak in Athens. Look for notice of a lefty/right tournament in the spring. Every effort will be made to have next year's tournament on the 3rd weekend in June. That would make it **June 20th, 21st, 22nd of 2008**. If you have any other suggestions for courses or any way to improve the association please let me know. 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 2007 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

ALHGA 2007 State Tournament, June 29, 30, July 1 st , 2007							
Division	Player Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Total	Place	
Championship							
1st flight	GRAHAM, DANTE	73	75	74	222	1st	State Champion
	PAYNE, GREG	78	73	81	232	2nd	
	LIPSCOMB, RANDY	76	78	79	233	3rd	
2nd Flight	HAYMON, ZANE	84	80	78	242	1st	Scorecard Playoff
	PHILLIPS, STEVE	83	80	79	242	2nd	
	WOOD, JOHNNY	83	82	81	246	3rd	
Open							
1st Flight	ETHERIDGE, PAUL	85	81	82	248	1st	
	HAYNES, AUBRY	82	81	86	249	2nd	
	BRADFORD, RICKY	79	91	82	252	3rd	
2nd Flight	BRYANT, RANDY	88	89	83	260	1st	Scorecard Playoff
	TUCKER, PAUL	93	89	96	278	2nd	
	GARNER, GREG	89	101	88	278	3rd	
Senior Age 60-69	LEE, MARVIN	79	76	74	229	1st	
	GOODWIN, KENDALL	80	80	76	236	2nd	
	SLAPIKAS, FRANK	84	84	78	246	3rd	
Super Senior 70 & up	JOHNSON, HERMAN		82	84	166	1st	
	DENNARD, MJ		89	83	172	2nd	
	WILLIAMS, PAUL		84	89	173	3rd	

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