

“President’s Day Match Play Championship”

Deercreek Country Club

February 18 & 19, 2018

Things went well this past weekend as predicted for the “President’s Day Match Play Championship”. The weather was awesome, except for a little fog delay at the start of round two and the golf course was in fabulous condition. First off, many thanks to KW Godwin, the Head Professional at Deercreek Country Club and the wonderful staff headed by General Manager Nicola Fulford for arranging the full use of the golf course on Sunday and Monday. Please send them a note of thanks, address is always on the tournament page.

I mentioned many times in the past that Match Play is as much about endurance as it is about skill, decision making, strategy and a little luck. Endurance or lack thereof will certainly affect the latter factors as one gets fatigued. Deercreek Country Club certainly gives you the test of endurance. Walking this course for two days straight will add nearly 18 miles to your pedometer. I’m happy to report parents, grandparents and all players/caddies survived their travels as they meandered through the well designed and tough to play golf course.

Day one reduced the field in half in this win-or-go-home event. Many players battled back and forth to advance to the second round matches, but there is no doubt in my mind that all of our outstanding junior tour players learned a little bit more about the fine art of “Match Play” than they knew prior to play.

As mentioned earlier, round two started out with a little fog delay. Visibility was no more than 200 yards until shortly after 9:00 am, but by 9:30 am all players were on the course and working hard at outscoring their opponent. Obviously, like in most cases, those playing their best advanced to the second round where the competition got a little fiercer.

Champions of two divisions would be determined upon the conclusion of round two. In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** newcomer Ryan Sauer from Jacksonville would one up San Jose Country Clubs Adam Vermut in the back and forth battle. In the **Foundation Division** Eagle Harbors Ryan Houck would fire darts all day to quickly end his match over Runner-up Emma Wells of Queen’s Harbour Yacht and Country at 8 & 7.

The **Boys 13-18 Division** still has some work to do as that division is down to the semi-final tiers in the bracket. #1 Seed Campbell Kennedy will battle #5 Seed Jack Hardy at Eagle Harbor Golf Club and Sunday and #7 seed Andrew Riley will be taking on #3 seed Lucas Slayden at Julington Creek Golf Club. The winners will both advance to play their championship match at Pablo Creek Golf Club. Joining the Boys at Pablo Creek will be the **Girls 13-18 Division** finalist, #4 seed Marissa Cardenas and #2 seed Lisa Colee.

The **Boys 10-12 Division** finalist came down to #1 seed Phillip Dunham and #2 seed Jackson Klauk. The championship match was set at White Oak Plantation, but the top seed, given the option to play White Oak or another course of the players choosing decided to play another course, yet to be determined at the time of writing this report.

What was cool about this event was that everyone played two days of golf. The non-winners of round one advanced to the "**President's Day Stroke Play**" event. This event combined players of all divisions in a "**challenge of the divisions**". Ty Boston from the Elite Tour Boys Division, swinging well would bounce back from his loss to Charlie Kurtz in the match play and post up a round of 74 to clinch the top spot in the combined event. Trevor Humphries from the Boys 16-18 Division would grab three birdies on the day to capture the Runner-up silver medal while Ponte Vedra's Danny Erickson playing in his last Boys 10-12 Division would take the Third Spot. Erickson will move up to the Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division. I suspect he will not be there long before advancing to the Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division.

We'll keep you posted on the championship matches. Live scoring - hole by hole will be broadcasted where and when possible.

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA