



# The Queen's Conquest

## Tournament Story

Queen's Harbour Yacht and Country Club

March 12, 2017

This past weekend's event should have been called "The Adventure at Queen's Harbour" with the way things turned out weather wise. The day started for the staff at 7:30 a.m. with preps to get things ready for the arriving players and spectators. In the process of set up one of the questions asked was, "*do you think we should put up the tent for registration?*" Forecast to our knowledge was 10-15 mph winds out of the northeast with temps in the high sixties. It would be a borderline decision. With the wind limp the TEAM made the decision not to use the tent as normal. I think it was golfer's intuition that led us to that decision or maybe not believing the forecast. Lucky for us we made the right decision. At 7:30 am a light jacket was needed and by the start of the tee times at 10:00 a.m. the jackets were off. Right around 12:30 pm a gust of wind blew in that never let up. The wind hounded and pounded the players for nearly five hours as temperatures steadily dropped into the fifties. The Pro-shop staff said they sold more jackets then they did all year. Man was it blowing! 30+ mph at times and temps dropping into the chilly 40 something with the wind chill. It looked like a lot of fun for the TOUR Players, but spectators just sitting or standing around payed a price to watch some pretty interesting golf.

On the par 3 7<sup>th</sup> hole Logan Neel said he hit a six iron from 130 (normally a 170 club) that stood straight up into the wind ending short of the green and it was more of the same for every ball that I saw struck into the greens. Most all were 20 and 30 yards short. Pitching and chipping were no bargains either. Same could be said for the putting as the ball was blown all over the place causing three footers to be

routinely missed. Maybe this was a God Send for those thinking about going to Scotland in July. Did I tell you, last week to work on that knockdown shot? Yes I did!

Patrick Tucker hit that knock down shot all day and scored the lowest round of the day with a nice 79. Seven over with gale winds, slick greens and pins tucked just over ridges is a pretty darn good score. Break 90 and you're in the top portion of the field. On days like today a wider stance and shorter swings with longer clubs is the adjustment. A little lean to the left will help also. Thank Mark McCumber for designing half of the holes down wind.

Ok, enough of that.

Patrick Tucker would lead the **Elite Tour Boys** with his fine play. He would triple bogey the par five 2<sup>nd</sup> hole (pin on the ridge), but bounced back with two birdies shortly thereafter to fend off hard ball striker Alexander Waller. Waller (80) would throw up a couple 40's on his nines and defeat Daniel Mazur in a card play-off to take the Runner up spot and Silver Medal. Mazur (80) playing in his first ELITE TOUR event would also bring in a pair of 40's. The Scorecard Play-off revealed Waller taking the edge he needed by scoring five pars on his last seven holes. Pretty steady play for 30+ winds!

The **Boys 16-18 Division** Champion Loan Underwood (80) would also post a pair of 40s' to take a three stroke victory over JP Garrido (83). Logan Neel, who seemed to have the most fun in the wind would claim a well-deserved Bronze Medal with an 84 for the round.

Our **Girls 13-18 Division** with 12 players in the field would gain some great tournament experience playing in the wind. Mackenzie McCormack would be the early leader with a 1-under par score through three holes, that is until she hit the dreaded par-4 fourth hole and the par-5 fifth hole where she encountered two triple bogeys.

Elizabeth Kondal however would be the leader at the turn. Her fine 41 would give her a one stroke lead over three time champion Lisa Colee. Lacey Tucker would be right there as well making for some interesting golf, but the shot heard around Queen's Harbour would be the DeLand deuce at the par-4 14<sup>th</sup> hole by Colee that would eventually give her another Gold Medal. The shot dead into the wind from 168 out would find the bottom of the jar. Colee used a #2 hybrid to join the EAGLE CLUB.

Kondal playing well would capture the Silver Medal and Tucker the Bronze.

Shout out to Alexandra Gazzoli as she was the leader in the birdie department with three on the day.

How about the **Rising TOUR Boys 13-15**. The group had the largest field of the day with 19. There were some high scores, but they were all in learning what it is to play in severe weather conditions. Top Ryder Cup player Lucas Slayden would be the man after nine holes of play with a nice 39 on the difficult front side. Right behind would be Connor Holcroft who has been working hard on his game. The Birdie Leader would card three tweeters on the day to come in with a fine score of 83 tying Slayden and winning the scorecard play-off to take the Silver Medal and his first medal on the NFJG TOUR. Holcroft would birdie the par-5 17<sup>th</sup> to edge out Slayden.

Slayden would be all smiles with the Bronze.

**Boys 10-12** found Reed Lotter, Andrew Davis and Brody Stevenson duking it out again. Stevenson would turn at 38 to take a lead over Davis by one shot. Each of the top three contenders would have nine pars

on the day in the powerful winds along with a birdie. Lotters birdie however would come at a good time. A deuce on the par-3 15<sup>th</sup> hole would give him an edge over Davis and Stevenson and the margin would needed to score a one stroke victory over Davis and Stevenson's who signed at 82. Davis would par holes 15-18 to take a one stroke advantage over Stevenson to secure the Silver Medal. Stevenson would receive the Bronze Medal for his first award of the season.

Our Foundation Boys would have nine in the field and our Girls would climb to five. These division would be at the back of the pack of tee times, playing in the worst of conditions, but they all held their own.

In the **Foundation Boys**, Matthew French would continue his fine and steady play by posting the low round at 42. French would take a four stroke advantage over "The Battle at North Hampton" Champion Keller Gray. Gray earning his second medal of the year fired a very nice 46. Seven time champion Richard Hayden Ruth would be the Bronze medal recipient this week, but this super star, with his fine play over the past few months can take credit for bring out the STARS of the Foundation Tour Boys. What was it? "Build it and they will come". Kind of fits!

Our **Foundation Girls** found seven time champion Alyzabeth Morgan back at the helm once again for her eighth win this season. Morgan's play gets better and better every week. I can't wait to see what the future holds for this bright shining star. Leah Shatley would be next in line looking for her first win of the season. Her Silver Medal would be her fourth top three in a row. Taking the Bronze Medal would be first time player Emma Wells.

Many thanks to the Staff at Queen's Harbour Yacht and Country Club for their outstanding service and support of junior golf. Don't forget to send a note of thanks.

Thanks again to all our players for enduring the weather.

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA

Executive Director

North Florida Junior Golf Foundation

(904) 868-9535