

CCMGA NEWS

Edition 3

Part 2

June2010

Captain Denmark names Encanto Cup Team.

Carrying the CCMGA banner in the June 19 matches against teams from Encanto, Maryvale and Papago will be:

JUNIOR GROSS

Jacob Bushue

Rich Hodges

Peter Kness-Knezinskis

Brandon Russell

JUNIOR NET

Clay Denmark

Vern Hodge

Kyle Howard

Craig Smith

SENIOR GROSS

Jim Cope

Rick Marten

SENIOR NET

Dave Maddox

Craig Munsey

HONORARY CO-CAPTAIN

Chuck Hemann

We have the home course advantage, so let's use it. I'm sure the players would enjoy seeing as many members as possible out supporting their efforts. So would the co-captains who will be taking names. Our team will be wearing royal blue shirts, so put on anything blue you've got and come on out. And bring a friend or neighbor who may be interested in CCMGA.

Not known for his reticence when supporting CCMGA efforts, Captain Denmark notes, "Our junior golfers are big, strong and good golfers, and our senior players are smart, savvy and good golfers.....I think we have the potential to kick some butt this year."

It would be great to have the Encanto Cup trophy back in the pro shop after an absence of four years.

"Summer's near, the Rye has fled, Bermuda rises from the dead."

On the other hand, Course Superintendent, Jim Cope, would simply say the course is in transition. That means its aerating time. It will be underway at the Creek by the time you get this newsletter, and will include fairways, tees and greens. With that early start, Jim assures us that the course will be back in top shape for the Encanto Cup matches on June 19 and our Eclectic Tournament on June 26 and 27.

On June 7, Jim and his crew will begin the installation of new sprinkler heads for all the greens. He assures us that the efficiency provided by this system will benefit the greens while conserving water use.

For years, there have been bare spots on holes 1, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 18 that have defied all previous efforts to grow grass on them. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Jim is going to try seeding them with Bermuda grass this summer. No guarantees on the outcome. When this experiment begins, please avoid the areas under repair with carts, walking carts or even if you are carrying.

Another area to avoid is the needed repair work being done on the methane recovery system on number six.

Congratulations to the winning teams in the May ABCD Two BB's of the Foursome Tournament.

Topping the Gross Division with a 144 score was the Rick Marten, Tom McConnell, Jerald Potts, Robert Johan foursome. One shot back was the Vern Hodge, Ray Quinnell Gary Dugwyler, Bill Daniel group. Third place went to the quartet of Peter Kness-Knezinskis, John Torbenson, Dan Chervenka and Val Hummel with 147.

On the Net Division side, the foursome of Ted Swanick, Al Banister, James Doutit, and Thomas Krenke took the gonfalon (first place to medieval Italian princes) with a score of 117. Three shots off the pace at 120 were Jim Denmark, Donald Burnes, Dan Gomez and Charlie Coates.

In the show spot with a 121 were Brian Metheny, Ron Wallace, Michael Daniel and Tom Adams. As Tournament Co-Chairman, Dave Maddox, noted in his Forum posting, the turnout was considerably higher than in '09, and, remarkably, everyone who signed up, showed up. That's good for high fives all around.

Another hit on seventeen. And another no-seeum.

This time it was Ron Wallace who notched the first ace of his golfing career during the ABCD Two Man BB Tournament. His weapon of choice was an Adams five wood. "It was, he said, "a good shot, nice and high." But, as we've noted before, the bowl-like contours of the green make it impossible to know where your shot ends up. When his foursome reached the green, his ball wasn't in sight. Everyone began searching until one member said, "Look in the hole."

That discovery made the day one Ron will long remember. In addition to the hole -in-one, he broke 80, his team took third place in the Net Division, won a few skins and he had money left over after setting up for the drinks in the grill.

Ask any CCMGA member who the Cave Creek head pro is and they'll say "Buffy." They'll also tell you he's the guy who runs the best RAZZ anywhere, makes the Tournament Committee's job a lot easier and is **always** available when needed.

The feeling is mutual. Asked what's the best part of his job, Buffy, without hesitation, says "people." All of them that come to Cave Creek, especially our members. They are "so loyal" to the club, and "so supportive" of the course, he observed. "Really," he added, "I'm just like your local bartender. Bring your golf stories or whatever else is on your mind, no appointment necessary."

He emphasizes that his creed has always been, "We are here for the people." To reinforce that statement he has a veteran pro shop staff: Barry Bevec, Roger Emich, Alano "Flo" Flores, Robert Kreutzer and Aaron Smith.

Is there anything he doesn't like about his job? His quick response: people who abuse the staff, the course and our equipment.

As far as his golf is concerned, he says he gets a round in about once a year, but his goal is to play more in the future.

Buffy's path to Cave Creek began nearly 40 years ago when he became a caddie, and, later, an assistant pro, at Nashua CC in his hometown of Nashua, New Hampshire. Looking for a new challenge, he moved to the Hickory Hill Course in Massachusetts where he rose from assistant to head pro. Prior to leaving the East Coast, he returned to New Hampshire to the head pro's spot at Hood Kroft.

In 1980, Arizona beckoned. He signed on at Maryvale that year as an assistant in the days when the city leased their pro shops to the head pro. During his 25 years (20 as the first assistant) at Maryvale he served under the legendary Bill Farkas Sr., and later John Martin. In 2006, when the city decided to run its own pro shops, Winford Elie Labombarde III, aka "Buffy," was hired to manage the Cave Creek shop.

It's safe to say Cave Creek and CCMGA have benefited greatly from the city's foresight.

Mark your calendars. The deadline for entries in our very popular Eclectic Tournament is Sunday, June 20, 2010.

The tournament dates are Saturday, Sunday, June 26, 27, 2010. More details are available on the entry form on ccmga.net and in the CCMGA Box in the pro shop