

Club Championship Finals Weekend
Saturday September 3, 2011

Additional Tournament Summary

D Flight

The D Flight Finals was contested between two long time friends and regular foursome buddies, Alan Goldberg and Greg Schimoler. In getting to the finals Alan had defeated perennial favorite, Joe Wooley (5 & 4) in the semifinals. Ironically, Greg Schimoler had defeated Norm Fately (5 & 4) in their semi-final. And yes, you guessed it, Alan defeated Greg by that very same score, 5 & 4 in the final Match. Congratulations to Alan on his fine play and for his championship win. Not surprised if Alan is playing the lotto numbers this week....5454

C Flight

Charlie Horgan bested Jeff "The General" Shearman. I didn't get the hole by hole scorecard from the guys, but Charlie did get to a 2 or 3 up lead at one point. Jeff came battling back to one down after 16. With both players near the 17th green, Jeff kept the pressure on with a good chip, but missed the putt. Charlie did one better to clinch the match.

Charlie returns to the role of C flight Champion, repeating his victories from 2008 and 2009. Good job Charlie (and to Jeff for making it all the way to the Finals) in his title run.

B Flight – As previously reported, Joe Valenti triumphed over new member, Rob Herschenfeld. Rob did well to make it to the finals of the B Flight in his first year. Joe V proved to be too tough and too experienced and claimed the B Flight Championship for 2011.

A Flight

In this classic match for the ages, which has been the talk of the Club (or at least the bar) for this long holiday weekend, Woody Burrioni took on Eddie "Gunny" Ryan. Greg Horgan emailed a hole-by-hole breakdown which gave us all a look at how close it really was. This match exemplified the spirit of sportsmanship that has been a Saxony Club trademark throughout the years.

Just to give you a little more flavor of some of the match: there were at least 10 lead changes during the 18 holes; both players got to as much as 2 up at different points – it was tight. 10 out of the first 13 holes were won with pars or

birdie - it was well played. Then they hit Amen Corner where the pressure mounts and pars get scarcer.

Woody takes a hard fought 1 up lead on the par 5 13th and maintains it for 3 holes. He misses that tiny 16th green to the left and then it's Gunny's turn. Gunny sails one onto the back of the green and makes a slippery, twisty lag to 2 ft. All Square. It's all nerves now.

Both drives on 17 catch the left trees, but come back into play. Both players are on the green in 4, but Ed misses his 10 footer. Woody responds by sinking a super clutch 8 foot putt that breaks at least 18 inches and draws a classic fist pump from Burrioni – One Up Woody.

Woody has the the lead and honors on 18th tee. Woody hits a solid ball to the right rough, leaving 175 yds. Ed plays his patented high fade (okay, slice) – out over the Hutch and out of site – when it returns to view, it finds the fairway at 160 yds (whew). Woody nails his 2nd shot with a hybrid, high and soft, that carries squarely into the middle of the green, but unfortunately runs all the way through and off the back. Eddie, thinking he needs birdie for the win, goes for broke. He pulls a 6 iron and smokes it – a high fade towards the left trap. With the gallery biting their nails, Eddie's bold approach just clears the left bunker, bounces and spins right towards the hole. His ball actually hits the flagstick and glances off the pin before ending up about 7-8 feet away, setting up the potential winning birdie putt.

Woody, doing his best, deftly chips his 3rd shot pin high, about 2 ½ left of the hole. Pressure back on Ed. He makes a good stroke at his birdie putt, but it slips by a couple of inches wide. Ed taps in for par knowing that Woody's upcoming par putt will give Woody the half on the hole and the win. A major victory that has been eluding Woody for so many years is just a few feet away... Unfortunately, perhaps tasting the victory, Woody misses his putt. Everyone around the green, even Eddie was rooting for Woody to sink that putt and claim the title. That is the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that makes the Saxony Club so special. Along with the "spirits" that were flowing afterwards at the Saxon Grill

Open/ Championship flight Dan Hamerslough and Andy Eisenberg squared off in the first 18 holes of the 36 hole Club Championship final. Dan started fast with a tap in birdie on #1 to take an early 1 up lead. Over the next holes Dan lips out a few key putts that would have made a big difference and Andy gets into his patented par groove – running off 7 pars in 8 holes to take a 3 up lead.

On #9 Dan nails his drive 260 yards right down the middle and then puts his 2nd shot to about 6 feet for birdie. Dan hits a great putt on the right edge of the hole and somehow the putt defies gravity - it doesn't fall as expected and Andy maintains his 3 up lead at the turn. However, Dan has seized the momentum

and shots 1 under par over the next 5 holes. He goes from 3 down to 2 up with stellar play over a difficult stretch.

Andy was really feeling the heat (reportedly someone saw a bead of sweat on his forehead) and dig deep to pull it together on the last few holes. Two solid pars in regulation on 16 and 17 were enough for Andy get the match back to even. Dan and Andy both made pars on the 18th hole.

So after the dramatic 5 hole swing on the back nine, the match ends up where it started - dead even. Andy and Hammer will play the second round of the 26 hole final next week. Let's hope it's Saturday so we can follow some of the action live.