

Vintner's Golf and Social Club's Newsletter #18

The last VGSC event of the year was played on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th in 8:30 am shotguns. Both days started out frosty, but quickly warmed up and made it into the mid-sixties. The course was in great shape and the pace of play was the best of the year. The groups finished pretty close to four hours and thanks to the frost delay the Sunday groups finally got their buffet. This year was full of ups and downs for all of us. Some of our members became fathers for the first time and some of us lost loved ones. Our thoughts are with Loraine Fuqua who lost her husband and our friend Hank. Hank Fuqua was loved by everyone who met him and the Vintner's Golf Club loved every moment we had with him.

The last event of the year determined our 2017 VGSC Player of the Year, third trimester point winner and our top sixteen yearly point getters. Andy Tarap outlasted Jaime Ponce to win the 2017 VGSC Player of the Year with Brian Gardner, Randy McCullough, Warren Monroe and Bob Murio to follow. Andy had a great year advancing in an NCGA qualifier, then to sectional and almost was the first VGSC player to win a NCGA event championship. Our third trimester point winner was Warren Monroe who blew away the field with a short game that does not leak strokes. Enjoyed by all and teased by many he is a great guy to have around the clubhouse. The top sixteen point getters of the year qualify into the VGSC Net Match Play Championship. All year our members battle to get into this tournament and it usually comes down to the last event. Gordy Templeton got the sixteenth spot and Greg Winkle was first man out. If any of our qualifiers can't or do not want to play in the event let me know as soon as possible. This match play event is a true competition. I would like to congratulate our 2016 VGSC Net Match Play Champion Ken Leahy. Ken navigated his way into the top 16 and then won the four matches. Ken beat Tom Edwards, Nasser Alimusa, Larry Gomez and Joe Molina in the finals. Andy, Warren and Ken all win a free month of golf.

In the first flight Randy McCullough and Glenn Andrade tied for first place with net 65's. Randy has shot four 74's in a row and decided to do even better this week shooting a natural 70. This year has been one of his best VGSC scoring years, but whether he plays good or bad he is a pleasure to be around. Glenn shot a 64 for net 65 and putts the ball as well as anyone I have ever seen. Glenn is a great Dad, great friend and one of the toughest competitors out there. Ted Johnson has been riding a hot putter as of late shooting a 75 for net 66 coming in third place. Ted has been working his tail off this year and looks forward to chasing his remote control cart in the lake in two years. Andy Tarap, Travis Harty and Greg Wright shot net 67's coming in a tie for fourth place. Andy's 75 won him the VGSC Player of the Year even with a tough last hole. Travis shot even par on his back nine, while Greg's natural 72 was one of the best rounds of the day. Greg Winkle hung tough the whole day to make some money and looks to have his game in a good spot.

In first place in the second flight was Mike Hill who shot a 39 on his back nine in route to a net 64. His VGSC handicap will take a hit, but he looks like his game is improving pretty rapidly. In a tie for second place in the second flight was James Bristow, Dan Moore and Howard Mattfield with net 67's. James has paid his dues and I love see him making some VGSC gift card. Dan played solid and working at a golf course does improve your game. Howard played in our Night leagues this year and

has now ventured into our VGSC 18-hole competitions. Tom Parkinson, Rob Gulbransen and Joe Borden shot net 68's making some bar money for their troubles. Tom shot a well-rounded 40-40 = 80... singing Go Army Beat Navy the whole round. Rob had a big smile when he came in giving his comrades a race for their money. Joe beat good buddy Steve and will relish that well into next year. Warren got last place money and knows how to win without shaking the pot. Murrayism. Thanks for the good time in 2017 and we will send the 2018 VGSC schedule out in a couple weeks. Sign up for next year before the end of this year to avoid late fees that the NCGA passes on to us. The fee is \$75 for a VGSC membership of \$105 for both the VGSC and NCGA membership.