

Vintner's Golf & Social Club's Newsletter #3

Forty-five VGSC members dodged the rain drops to play VGSC Event #3 on Saturday, February 23rd and Sunday, February 24th. Many of us stay inside when we look out the window at these sort of conditions, but add golf, friends, libations and out we go. The individual low net format proved to be a challenge as many of our members struggled with blow up holes in the wet and cold conditions. How do you avoid blow up holes: First identify the tough holes...Second have a realistic plan...Finally hit the club/shot you most likely can count on. Play away from trouble, look one shot ahead and stay focused will also limit those wasteful strokes from adding up.

In first place in the first flight was Jim Duncan Jr shooting 71 for net 65 winning \$30 in gift cards. Jim is a competitor and has proven that he can close the deal whether it is a clutch putt for a skin or that last strike before his perfect games. In a tie for second place in the first flight were Jim Panek and Dannon Goetze shooting net 69. Jim and Dannon shot 75's and their game held up in the tough conditions because they have been there before. Jim birdied the par five both times avoiding the hole where big numbers come from. Dannon showed up in a winter sock cap and rain gear that screamed I'm more prepared than you. In a tie for fourth place were two of the final four in our Club Championship Drew Kuehl and Sean Murray. Drew shot 70 and Sean 71 and like two heavy weight fighters training together before their fight, they were trying to get used to what they might face in the epic battle to come.

In first place in the second flight was Dwight Jensen shooting a 92 for 65. Dwight has been playing in VGSC events for over fifteen years. I still remember his runner up finish in the VGSC Player of the Year somewhere back when I was in my early thirties! I am fifty now and Dwight you still got it. In a tie for second place in the second flight Tom Parkinson and Steve Payne shot net 69's. Tom braved the chill in the air to shoot an impressive 83 and has an uncanny ability to efficiently get the ball around the course. Steve parred the first and tenth hole highlighted by a five wood over the hazard onto the green after a wait at the turn. The beer kicked in. Brian, Paul and Joe Molina shot net 70's coming in a tie fourth place and earning \$10 in gift cards. Brian is in great condition and a little cold weather is not going to slow him down. Paul and Joe have both played a lot of golf and no matter what the weather or conditions they come to the course with patience and focus.

Our next two events will be NCGA qualifiers on the weekends of Saturday, March 9th/Sunday, March 10th and Saturday, March 23rd/Sunday, March 24th. They will both be two-person net better ball formats so find a partner and sign up now. The first one will be the qualifier for the NCGA Two-person Better Ball Championship and the second one will be the qualifier for the NCGA Senior Two-person Better Ball championship. The top two teams will qualify for the NCGA championships with their green fees paid for at the local and sectional championships. The weather should be better in March and we look forward to playing a dry course with some warmer conditions.