

## Invitational Competitors:

The 79<sup>th</sup> Stamford Invitational will be here before we know it! The club's flagship singles event is one many of us look forward to each August. While we fully understand the value and importance of history and tradition, we also recognize that times have changed. Due to circumstances beyond our control (i.e. economy, lodging, pool of golfers in the area, etc.), the level of participation has been steadily declining over the past 20 years. Many of us remember the enormous popularity of this event, when it was an honor to be one of 128 competitors. As an Invitee, you immediately mailed in your entry fee upon receiving your invitation to avoid being shut out of the field! Sadly, we have not seen an Invitational like that for quite some time.

Fortunately, there are circumstances that we, as a Tournament Committee, can control. The Tournament Committee has worked long and hard this off-season to create an event for 2016 where competitors will once again feel excited and privileged to receive an Invitation and secure their spot as part of this competitive field. Please understand that change is often preceded by lengthy discussions and difficult decisions – and this was no exception. Not everyone will agree with each change, but rest assured we are forward thinking, have performed our due diligence, and are acting in the best interest of the club.

### The Changes:

Based off feedback gathered from numerous discussions the committee has had with participants, as well as valuable information received from last year's surveys, the changes to the 2016 Men's Invitational are as follows:

1. Entry fee for non-members will be \$150. While this is a \$20 increase from last year's \$130, we'll be providing much greater value.
2. The maximum amount of competitors will be reduced to 80 (details provided shortly).
3. Friday's Qualifying Round: 12:00pm Shotgun Start  
This accomplishes several goals:
  - a. Ensures a sizeable group for Friday evening's social events
  - b. Promotes camaraderie before and after the round (many of the players we only see once per year)
  - c. Reduces the time commitment of our valued volunteers on qualifying day
  - d. Reduces wait time for results and potential playoff participants
4. MASSIVE INCREASE IN FRIDAY'S PRIZE FUND (Over \$1,300 in Payouts)
  - a. Top 4 Gross & Top 4 Net Places get paid
  - b. Gross & Net Medalists Trophies

- c. Long Drive Contest on Holes #2 & #15 (\$50 cash each)
- d. Closest to the pin on each par 3 and #18 (\$100 cash each)

5. Hamburgers, hotdogs, & drinks served next to driving range before Friday's shotgun (included in entry-fee)

6. Italian buffett dinner following Friday's round (included in entry-fee, guests \$12/pp)

7. Live DJ Friday night

8. Parimutuel Betting for each flight

(Parimutuel betting is a betting system in which all bets on a particular player in a flight are placed together in a pool; and payoffs are calculated by sharing the pool among all winning bets.)

9. BOTH "Championship" & "A" Flights will play in two-somes Saturday & Sunday

10. Brooks BBQ dinner Saturday evening (included in entry-fee, guests \$12/pp)

Now, the rationale behind limiting the field to 80 competitors:

- a. We have just enough carts to accommodate 80 players without renting from an outside agency
- b. 80 players equals 20-foursomes - the max we'd want for a shotgun start to keep play smooth and manageable
- c. More than 80 participants would not be able to accommodate two-somes for the "A" flight comfortably, which was one of the most popular requests we received based on all feedback
- d. With a limited field, we anticipate the event to fill up early, which gives the tournament committee & staff plenty of time to organize and properly prepare a quality event

Please note, there will be an alternate's list for those who are not one of the first 80 entries received. We will not be adding an additional flight this year, even if we have 16 people on the list of alternates. For this reason, we encourage you to **send your Invitation in immediately when you receive it this April.**

We thank you all for your continued support of this wonderful tradition, and look forward to seeing you all again the second weekend in August for the 79<sup>th</sup> Stamford Invitational.

Regards,

The Tournament Committee