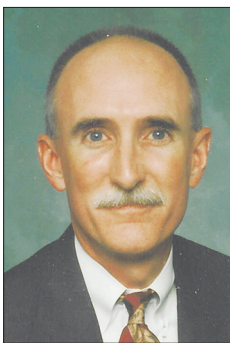


Board announces refund policy

BY CARR McCALLA

We were pleased to announce our 2007 Championship schedule in last month's column and will review those 2007 venues a bit more in-depth this month. We also have some exciting news from our recent LGA Board of Directors meeting that will no doubt please those considering participating in next year's LGA Amateur and Mid-Amateur Championships, as well as an idea for those of you trying to decide what to get, or to ask for, for Christmas.



McCalla

LGA BOARD ANNOUNCES REFUND TO NON-QUALIFIERS IN LGA AMATEUR AND MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2007

In 2007, individuals who attempt to qualify for the LGA Amateur and/or Mid-Amateur Championship(s) will receive a refund of \$100 if they do not qualify for championship rounds play. One of our board's goals is for the LGA to become more inclusive with respect to all of our programs and our hope is that instituting this refund policy will make it more attractive to individuals to enter these championships. Entry fees for these two events in 2007 will be \$200. Once the championship is complete, individuals not successful in qualifying for championship rounds play will receive a refund check in the amount of \$100. In effect, we are rolling back prices for non-qualifiers to what they were in 1995. Entry fees then were \$150 with a \$50 refund to non-qualifiers. In effect, it will cost our participants the same \$100 now as it did 12 years ago to tee it up for a chance to participate in these two state championships. Qualify for the Amateur Championship and it's still an unbelievable bargain — \$200 for a qualifying round and a practice round and four tournament rounds at the Amateur Championship venue, with cart and range fees also covered at the championship proper is a good deal in anybody's book. We sincerely hope that with two great venues (TPC Louisiana for the Amateur, and Squire Creek Country Club for the Mid-Am) and with this newly instituted refund policy for non-qualifiers, we'll set records for entries for these two championships in 2007.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS, ANYONE?

As we've mentioned on more than one occasion in this space, the LGA has partnered with Bushnell Performance Optics to bring significant discount pricing to Louisiana golfers who wish to purchase the Bushnell Tournament Edition rangefinder. With more and more events utilizing the local rule that allows the use of these devices, what better idea for a Christmas gift for the golfer who seemingly has everything?

The LGA allowed the use of electronic distance measuring devices in all of its championships this year. By the end of the year the number of Bushnell rangefinders in use had increased dramatically. The Bushnell Tournament Edition measures distance

only and, as a consequence, meets all of the guidelines required by the USGA when the local rule is in effect. It is also truly portable, using laser technology to measure exact distances to its target, not requiring a course to be 'mapped' for satellite technology. It also does not require a course to be fitted with reflectors in order to be effective.

The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the device is \$499.99. Through our partnership with Bushnell, anyone purchasing the Bushnell Tournament Edition rangefinder via our fulfillment website at www.Rangefindergolf.com will only pay \$399.99. And for all our LGA Handicap Network participants, you can get an additional \$50 off your purchase price simply by entering your eight-digit LGA Handicap Network number in the appropriate blank. In addition, if the golf professional at your club has a Bushnell account, they will receive a rebate as a result of your purchase. The LGA will also receive a rebate that we will invest back into our mission of growing the game in Louisiana. In short, everyone wins!!

If you've been contemplating the purchase of a rangefinder, perhaps this might be the time to drop a hint to Santa that a Bushnell Tournament Edition rangefinder would look mighty good stuck in your stocking on Christmas morning. Or if you're simply looking for a gift for one of your golfer buddies, you can go to our website at www.LGAgolf.org, click on the Bushnell logo on our homepage (which will take you to Rangefindergolf.com), and follow the prompts to make your purchase.



WONDERFUL VENUES HIGHLIGHT 2007 LGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

As we mentioned last month when unveiling our 2007 Championship schedule, we are extremely excited about the venues on tap for next year's events. Our two marquee events, the Amateur Championship and Mid-Amateur Championship, will be held at the TPC Louisiana and Squire Creek Country Club, respectively.

Pete Dye has been on-site at the TPC Louisiana about every three weeks over the course of the last few months, overseeing some additional renovations that will make this venue even more exciting for our Amateur Championship. It's unbelievable how well the facility has recovered from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. We're confident the course will be in great shape for our event as the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic will return, after a year's absence, to the TPC Louisiana in April, two months before we arrive in early June.

The Tom Fazio-designed Squire Creek Country Club in Choudrant (just east of Ruston) will host this year's Mid-Am. Only open a few years, this gorgeous course zoomed to the top of the current Golf Digest rankings for Louisiana last year. The parkland course in the rolling hills of north Louisiana has drawn rave reviews from all who've had the opportunity to play it. Generous fairways give way to challenging green complexes that will present an exciting test for our best Louisiana amateurs over 25 years of age the first weekend in August.

Other sites hosting LGA events for the first time ever include:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18