

Inside the Ropes: English Turn to play host to Amateur Championship

BY CARR McCALLA

There's been a change in plans! Due to some ongoing renovation work at Carter Plantation, the 2009 Louisiana Golf Association Amateur Championship will be conducted at English Turn Golf and Country Club in New Orleans. Dates for the Championship will remain the same as originally scheduled (June 4-7). We are excited to be able to return to English Turn for the first time since the LGA Mid-Am was held there in 2002 and are much appreciative to Derek Sanders and the staff at English Turn for their willingness to host this Championship on such short notice.

REGISTRATION FOR 2009 LGA CHAMPIONSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Registration opened on Feb. 1 for the first three LGA Championships of the 2009 golf season. Entry forms for the Club Team (Tamahka Trails/Marksville), Net Amateur (Santa Maria/Baton Rouge), and Amateur (English Turn/New Orleans) Championships have been mailed to all LGA Member Clubs, 2008 LGA Championship participants, and LGA Gold and Silver Sponsors and may also be printed from the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org. To enter a LGA Championship, simply forward your completed application to our offices prior to the deadline date.

In addition to paper entries, the LGA will be offering online registration once again this year. For those of you that have not taken advantage of online registration in the past, we encourage you to give it a try in 2009. To register online, simply visit the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org and click on the link for "Online Tournament Registration." From there, follow the instructions to complete your entry. Online registration is currently available for the Net Amateur and Amateur Championships. Registration (online and paper entries) for the Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships will begin on April 1, while registration for the Senior Amateur and Senior Four-Ball Championships will be available on June 1.

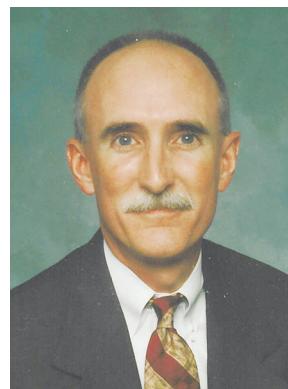
PROSPECTS FOR 2009

With all the concern regarding what 2009 will hold for the housing market, the stock market, the economy, etc., I thought it might be fun to share with you some things I hope 2009 brings, golf-wise. With tongue somewhat in cheek (you can be the judge as to when I'm serious and when I just might be poking a bit of fun) here are some things I'd like to see during the coming year:

A Winning Score at Augusta of at least 12-Under Par

I know that the 'powers-that-be' at Augusta National felt that they couldn't let the game pass them by and, as a result, went about the business of toughening up their venerable track over the past few years. The 'law of unintended consequences' being what it is, however, has created, as Hootie liked to say, a 'toonament' that has lost the wonderful excitement of the 'back nine on Sunday' that we so looked forward to in past years. Zach

Johnson's win two years ago at +1 may have been an aberration (the course, for the first time in a number of years, played firm and fast that year), but even with Trevor Immelman's three-shot victory last year at 8-under par, there were only two players to break 70 in the final round. Who can forget the 6-under-par 30 (including a bogey on No. 12) that Jack shot in 1986 to win his last green jacket? As recently as 2003 Len Mattiace shot 65 on Sunday to vault himself into a playoff that Mike Weir eventually won. And how about the 64 that our own David Toms fired on Sunday in 1998!



Carr McCalla

Based on reports from down Augusta way, it appears that the first hole has been shortened a hair for the 2009 event and additions to some other tees have been completed, allowing options for shorter distances on those holes. My hope is that there will be other modifications to the course and that we'll again see a 'toonament' that has us

on the edge of our seats watching our heroes roll in eagle putts on Nos. 13 and 15, and firing at the flagstick on No. 16. The 'Masters' will always be the 'Masters,' but I hope we can wind the clock back a bit and have a tad more excitement coming down the stretch than in recent years.

Someone tell Stevie to "Put a sock in it!"

I love to watch Tiger Woods play. His victory at Torrey Pines last summer has to go down as one of the most amazing accomplishments in the history of sports. Tiger's will to win is so strong that he was able to not only compete, but actually win against the best players in the world, when a normal human being wouldn't have even contemplated playing that week. However, I am getting a bit tired of Stevie Williams. His recent comments about Phil Mickelson were totally uncalled for (whether or not they were an accurate reflection on Mr. Mickelson is neither here nor there). He no doubt does a wonderful job on Tiger's bag, but it appears to me that his head's getting a bit big for his hat. I've never been too fond of the manner in which he 'asks' photographers to refrain from taking pictures. I'm sure we have no clue how uninformed some of the Tiger groupies are regarding proper etiquette....all that being said, there's no reason to resort to violence or intimidation to make a point, as Stevie so often does. Tiger indicated that he had 'handled' the Mickelson comment issue by speaking with Stevie. Here's hoping that the next time Stevie decides to open his mouth and insert his foot, or otherwise act in a manner that reflects negatively on the game or Tiger, that Tiger elects to suspend Stevie from the bag for an extended period of time. Maybe that will get his attention. I

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