

Lutz Finishes In Style, Wins SOS Ralph Bogart

Putting an exclamation point on a fantastic year, Chip Lutz went wire to wire at John's Island West to claim the Society of Seniors Ralph Bogart Tournament in Vero Beach, Fla. Lutz posted a 54-hole total of 3-under-par 213, five shots clear of runner-up Randy Elliott.

In somewhat benign conditions, Lutz opened with an eight-birdie, two-bogey 66 (6-under par), good enough for a four-shot lead. The second and third rounds saw the wind kick up, bringing with it higher scores. Lutz shot 40 on the back nine of the second round en route to a 4-over 76. "I drifted a bit on the back side," Lutz said. But he still had the lead going into the final round. He shot 1-under 71 in that round, and no one seriously challenged.

Lutz, clearly the senior player of the year, characterized 2011 as a tremen-

dous year "with one little hole." Trying to duplicate Paul Simson's 2010 feat of winning three national senior amateur titles in a single year, Lutz came up short in the U.S. Senior Amateur after winning the British Senior and the Canadian Senior. Lutz lost on the final hole of his semifinal match to Phillip Pleat when his six-foot birdie try slipped by the hole. "That's match play," observed Lutz.

Skip Snow posted an even-par final-round 72 to win the Super Senior flight by a shot over second-round leader Pat Vincelli. Dick McClear outlasted Bob Harris to win the Grand Masters flight by two shots. McClear shot 15-over 231.

RESULTS

NEWS AND NOTES

The Society of Seniors has acquired The Senior Masters, a long-standing se-

nior amateur fixture played in the Palm Springs, Calif., area. The 2012 tournament, scheduled for April 12-15, will be reduced to 54 holes, and a practice round will be added.

The Society has also agreed to assume operations of the Yeamans Hall Invitational, played in the fall at Yeamans Hall Club in Charleston, S.C. The 2012 event will be held Oct. 8-10, a week after the Senior Azalea Amateur, also in Charleston.

Steve Smyers, a three-year member of The Society, made his debut appearance at the Bogart, shooting 8-over-par 224 to finish T5. Smyers, a recent recipient of the USGA Ike Grainger Award recognizing 25 years of service to the organization (the last six of which were on the Executive Committee), will step down from his USGA responsibilities at the 2012 annual meeting in February. Look to see more of him on the senior circuit next year.

To a man, the field was complimentary of the **Tom Fazio**-designed John's Island West track, some going so far as to say it was the best tournament course they played all year. "What a fantastic course, what a first-rate operation," observed Lutz. It was suggested by some that the course would make a superb U.S. Senior Amateur site.

Staff and Wire Reports

SEA ISLAND DEBUTS 2012 JONES CUP SENIOR EVENT

Sea Island Golf Club announced the debut of the Jones Cup Senior Invitational, slated for March 4-7, 2012. Following in the footsteps of the annual Jones Cup Invitational and Jones Cup Junior Invitational, the event rounds out a collaborative effort to promote and support three different sectors of amateur golf.

The inaugural event will be held at Sea Island's Seaside Course and will feature the nation's top male senior golfers. The winner of the 54-hole, stroke-play competition will receive an exemption to participate in the prestigious Jones Cup Invitational to take place at Sea Island's Ocean Forest Course in February 2013. For more information, visit www.jonescupinvitational.com.

PRO/COLLEGE EVENT ANNOUNCED FOR NEXT YEAR

For the first time the PGA Tour and the world of college golf will collide in a made-for-TV PGA Tour Challenge event called "The Rivalry." This unique tournament will pair a top PGA Tour player with the current collegiate star of his alma mater in a two-man, best-ball event featuring 24 of the top college programs from around the country.

The three-day event, slated for the fall of 2012 in Southern California, is the brainchild of University of the Pacific head golf coach Brandon Goethals. Several top professionals have already voiced their support for the event and have

thrown their names in as participants, including Bubba Watson, Jamie Lovemark, D.A. Points, Chris DiMarco, Bill Haas, Todd Hamilton, J.B. Holmes and Ricky Barnes.



"We are excited about making The Rivalry a unique and fresh event," said Goethals. "With the introduction of mascots, marching bands, and a college game-day concept, this event will be quite different from the regular golf shown on television each week."

Tournament organizers anticipate a purse of \$720,000 for the pros and more than \$250,000 expected to go to charities of choice of the title sponsor, unnamed as of yet. ●

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Chip Lutz

